From subsistence to trade and exploitation

Slide 2
There were perhaps 100,000 Indigenous peoples living in the Pacific Northwest in the mid-1700s.

Slide 3
When European settlers began to settle in Washington in the early 1800s, they found that Native Americans relied heavily on **salmon**.

Slide 4
In the Columbia River alone, about 50,000 Indigenous peoples caught about 18 million pounds of salmon each year.

Slide 5
Salmon was also valued as a trade item among the various tribes and bands.

Slide 6
As European-Americans continued to settle in the Pacific Northwest, Indigenous populations declined significantly, mostly due to settler-introduced diseases.

Slide 7
Some tribal groups disappeared. In 1845 the settler population and the Indigenous peoples population were about equal in size at 10,000 each. By 1870, settler numbers reached over 100,000 while Native populations dipped below 10,000.

Slide 8
The settlers who came to the Pacific Northwest after 1800 were primarily farmers. In the 1860s, Columbia River salmon resources were adequate to serve the needs of both Indigenous peoples and European settlers.

Slide 9
Some settlers saw more than **subsistence** in the salmon. They envisioned riches that could be gained from trade and commerce. In 1864 when canning technology was invented, settlers' dreams of riches came true.

Slide 10
Salmon and salmon trade became the livelihood and riches to many. Biologists believe the Columbia River system alone supported yearly runs of 15 million wild salmon and steelhead at this time. Today, the total run is about 2.5 million fish, most of which are **hatchery** fish.

The hatchery idea

Slide 11
To the early settlers of the Pacific Northwest, the land provided many riches and the bounty of resources seemed endless. The largest annual harvest of salmon and steelhead from the Columbia River was in 1884. It has been lowering ever since then.

Slide 12
In order to address the decline in fish, fisheries managers decided that if not enough fish were being produced naturally, they would produce fish to make up for the decline.

Slide 13
In 1895 the first hatchery was finished along the Kalama river for $15,000 (approximately $430,000 today).

Slide 14
The hatchery's goal was to produce more fish for harvest.

Slide 15
By 1917, there were 26 salmon hatcheries and seven trout hatcheries throughout the state. Dams continued to be built; some had passage for migrating fish, and some did not. When the Grand Coulee Dam was finished in 1941, it reduced natural production of salmon and steelhead up to 65%. Fish hatcheries provided a way of supplementing this loss.

Old methods, old news

Slide 16
When hatcheries began operation in the late 1800s, operators used wild fish to serve as **stock**.

Slide 17
Early hatchery operators also released hatchery fish with little understanding of possible long-term impacts. Today, WDFW monitors to understand how hatcheries interact with wild species and ecosystems. The Department uses sound science to ensure we're releasing hatchery fish when and where they will be most valuable.

The roles of today's hatcheries

Slide 18
Today there are public hatcheries all throughout the state.

Slide 19
The modern public hatchery operates for four reasons.

Slide 20
Enhancement- experts say that 70 percent of all salmon in Washington comes from state-owned hatcheries. As long as public demand exceeds the ability of natural habitats to produce fish, we will need hatcheries.

Slide 21
Mitigation-hatchery fish allow wild fish to live out their lifecycle.

Slide 22
Education

Slide 23
Conservation

Slide 24
Gone are the days of using wild runs to supply hatcheries with stock. Today hatcheries serve as **stewards** for the protection the important **genetic** and cultural heritage of Washington's native fish.