

Fish and Wildlife Fish Committee: Coastal Steelhead

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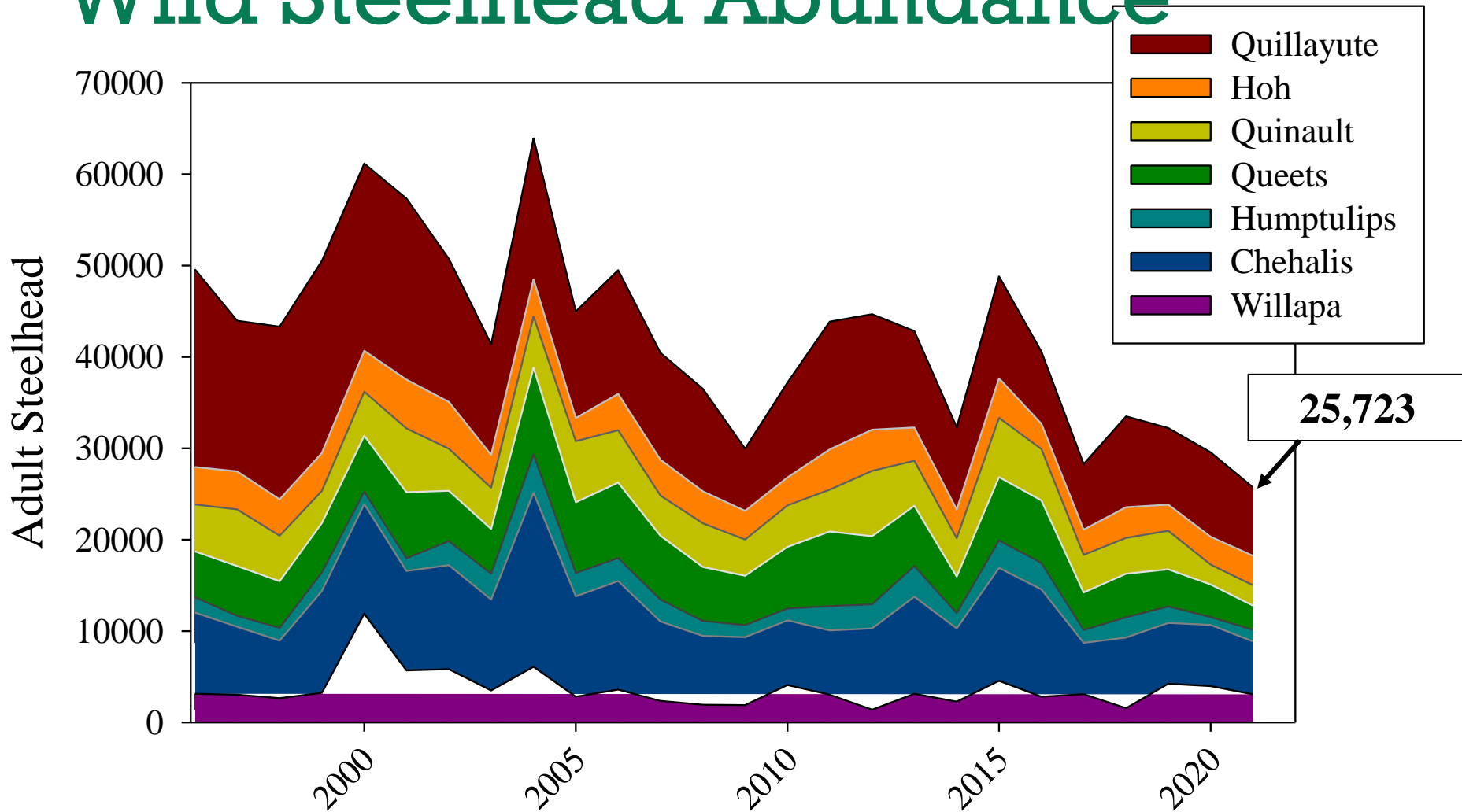


2021/22 Pre-season schedule

- Mid July: Survey data exchange with tribal comanagers
- **July 28th Town Hall #1:** Coastal Steelhead Town Hall and Workshop
- Mid August: Spawning Escapement Estimates Finalized
- Early September: Exchange pre-season forecasts with Tribal Co-Managers
- Early October: Pre-season Forecasts Agreement with Tribal Co-Managers
- Mid October: Comanager policy meetings to develop Management Plans
- **October Town Hall #2:** Final escapements and preliminary forecasts
- **November Town Hall #3:** Final pre-season planning
- Mid November: Finalize Management Plans with tribal comanagers
- **November 17th: Briefing FWC Fish Committee**
- November 19th: Briefing of Fish and Wildlife Commission
- **Late November Town Hall #4:** Communicate Director's decision on agreed to fishing plans
- December 1: Announce winter fishing rules



Wild Steelhead Abundance



2021 total returns to the Washington Coast were the lowest on record.



2020/21 Review

River/Area	Predicted Runsize	Actual Runsize	Escapement	Escapement Goal
Willapa	3,862	3,004	2,989	4,206
Chehalis	6,600	5,793	5634	8,600
Humptulips	1,066	1,273	1238	1,600
Upper Quinault	1,725	1,538	1262	1,600
Queets/Clearwater	3,563	2,646	2044	4,200
Hoh	2,903	3,222	2820	2,400
Quillayute	9,276	7,494	6,675	5,900



Overforecasted in 2020/21 by ~14% and escapement goals not met in 5 of 7 rivers.



2021/22 Forecasts

System	Run-to-River Forecast	Escapement Goal	Wild Steelhead Relative to Goal	Sport Impact Limit
Willapa	3,188	4,206	-1018	319
Chehalis	5,681	8,600	-2919	141
Humptulips	1,343	1,600	-257	67
Upper Quinault	1,128	1,600	-472	56
Queets/Clearwater	3,203	4,200	-997	160
Hoh	3,141	2,400	741	371
Quillayute	8,516	5,900	2,616	1,308



Sport Fishery Modeling- Considerations/Constraints

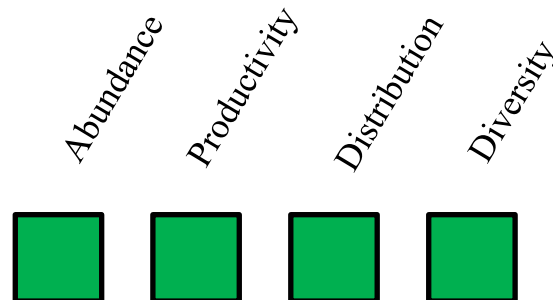
- Limited in-season tools
- Effort shift uncertainty
- Recent history of over-forecasting
- Tribal comanagement
- No estimates of mortality associated with poaching
- No unbiased estimate of total sport impact



2021/22 Fishery Proposals

1. Coastwide closure
2. Status Quo
3. Last year's regulations
4. Fishing from a boat with reduced days
5. Fishing from a boat in select waters
6. Fishing from boat reduced hours
7. No Fishing from a boat with reduced days

Other ideas/tools: Bag limit reduction, open during hatchery run only (close early), bait restrictions.



WDFW Web Portal

Full Closure
48%

Share feedback with WDFW fishery managers:

 Translate

Please provide any general comments you may have regarding **coastal steelhead management**.

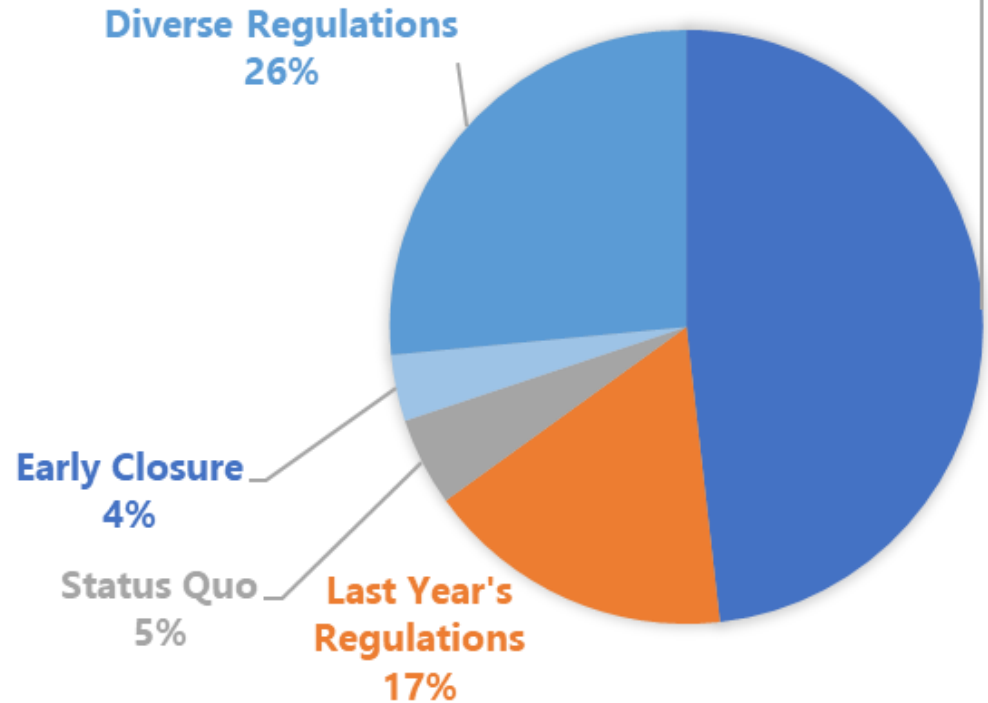
Your name (optional)

Name

Comment

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303 total comments

- Other themes
 - Conservation
 - Value of fishing guides
 - Value of current fisheries management
 - Value of hatcheries
 - Enforcement and inclusion of poaching in estimate of catch
 - Improve sport fishery monitoring, research and technology
 - Include poaching in estimates of catch
 - Control marine mammals
 - Long term plans for recovery



Analysis of Options

System	Sport Impact Limit	Full Closure	Status Quo	Last Year's Regulation	Fish from boat reduced days	Fish from boat in select waters	Last Year's reduced hours
Willapa	319	Closed	Closed	Open	Open	Closed	Closed
Chehalis	141	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Humptulips	67	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open
Upper Quinault	56	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open
Queets/Clearwater	160	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open
Hoh	371	Closed	Concern for shifts in effort	Open	Open	Closed	Closed
Quillayute	1308	Closed	Concern for shifts in effort Not accounting for tributary specific goals (diversity/distribution)	Open	Open	Open	Open

↗ Concern for shifts in effort

🌀 Not accounting for tributary specific goals (diversity/distribution)

* Final regulations require comanager agreement

** Does not account for illegal catch

*** Does not account for overforecasting

Open to Fishing
Closed to Fishing



Analysis of Options-Full Closure

System	Sport Impact Limit	Full Closure	Status Quo	Last Year's Regulation	Fish from boat reduced days	Fish from boat in select waters	Last Year's reduced hours
Willapa	319	Closed	Closed	Open	Open	Closed	Closed
Chehalis	141	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Humptulips	67	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open
Upper Quinault	56	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open
Queets/Clearwater	160	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open
Hoh	371	Closed	Concern for shifts in effort	Open	Open	Closed	Closed
Quillayute	1308	Closed	Concern for shifts in effort Not accounting for tributary specific goals (diversity/distribution)	Open	Open	Open	Open

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⌘ Not accounting for tributary specific goals (diversity/distribution)

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** Does not account for illegal catch

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Open to Fishing
Closed to Fishing



Analysis of Options-Last Year's Rule

System	Sport Impact Limit	Full Closure	Status Quo	Last Year's Regulation	Fish from boat reduced days	Fish from boat in select waters	Last Year's reduced hours
Willapa	319	Closed	Closed	Open	Open	Closed	Closed
Chehalis	141	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Humptulips	67	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open
Upper Quinault	56	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open
Queets/Clearwater	160	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open
Hoh	371	Closed	Concern	Open	Open	Closed	Open
Quillayute	1308	Closed	Concern & Goals	Open	Open	Open	Open

↗ Concern for shifts in effort

⌘ Not accounting for tributary specific goals (diversity/distribution)

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** Does not account for illegal catch

*** Does not account for overforecasting

Open to Fishing
Closed to Fishing



Analysis of Options-Fish from boat reduced days

System	Sport Impact Limit	Full Closure	Status Quo	Last Year's Regulation	Fish from boat reduced days	Fish from boat in select waters	Last Year's reduced hours
Willapa	319	Closed	Closed	Open	Open	Closed	Open
Chehalis	141	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Humptulips	67	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open
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Open to Fishing
Closed to Fishing



Analysis of Options-Hybrid

System	Sport Impact Limit	Full Closure	Status Quo	Last Year's Regulation	Fish from boat reduced days	Fish from boat in select waters	Last Year's reduced hours
Willapa	319	Closed	Closed	Open	Open	Closed	Closed
Chehalis	141	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Humtulpis	67	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open
Upper Quinault	56	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open
Queets/Clearwater	160	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open
Hoh	371	Closed	Concern for shifts in effort	Open	Open	Closed	Closed
Quillayute	1308	Closed	Concern for shifts in effort Not accounting for tributary specific goals (diversity/distribution)	Open	Open	Open	Open

↗ Concern for shifts in effort

⌘ Not accounting for tributary specific goals (diversity/distribution)

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** Does not account for illegal catch

*** Does not account for overforecasting

Open to Fishing
Closed to Fishing



Questions? Feedback?



Draft Fish Committee Recommendation

General overview of precautionary approach for the 2021-22 season and regulations

The Director should exercise an appropriate precautionary approach to the use of mid-point scientific estimates for key fishery management parameters such as run size forecasts and potential effort shifts in final season and regulation design.

River by River, from the South to North

The Director should strongly consider the following guidance in finalizing seasons and regulations for the 2021-2022 season.

In the Willapa Bay basin

- A basin-wide closure, except in an area adjacent to the hatchery if the staff feels comfortable with there is a good likelihood of a hatchery surplus

In the Grays Harbor basin

- A basin-wide closure, except in areas adjacent to hatchery areas with high concentrations of hatchery fish and only during times of relatively high hatchery fish abundance

In the Quinault River system

- A closure in Upper Quinault River system
- Elsewhere, only open when and where hatchery fish have reasonably high concentrations and only during times of relatively high hatchery fish abundance

In the Queets/Clearwater basin

- A basin-wide closure, except in areas with reasonably high concentrations of hatchery fish and only during times of relatively high hatchery fish abundance

In the Hoh River basin and the Quillayute River system

- A conservative fishery is appropriate, not a complete closure.
- After proper precautionary measures that take into effect possible run forecast error and what was learned on effort shifts last season, the available fishery should be spread out over the various recreational fishery sectors, including the boat-fishing sector, without significant change from the distribution of fishery benefits between sectors in the 2019-2020 season.
 - Boat fishing should be allowed, unlike the 2020-21 season.
 - Reduction in season duration, number of days per week, areas open to fishing, or hours per day applied to boat fishing should be considered that might not be identical to reductions for the non-boat sector, but should not result in a significant shift of the conservation burden between the boat fishing sector and the non-boat fishing sectors in years prior to 2019-20.
- Changes in the traditional sector impacts paradigm within the overall recreational should be a decision topic in the development of the coastal steelhead management plan, in an open and transparent public process.