

Willapa Bay Salmon Policy (C-3622) Review, Continued

Marlene Wagner
South Coast
Policy Lead

Chad Herring
Anadromous Policy
Analyst

Dr. Ken Warheit
Director of Molecular
Genetics and Fish
Health



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Meeting Purpose

- Continue to review & discuss Commissioner's questions/answers
 - Willapa Bay Chinook Salmon Genetics
 - Fisheries Management
- Timeline for moving forward





WB Chinook Salmon Genetics

Washington Coast ESU - Genetics

- Washington Coast Chinook ESU is not listed by the US ESA.
- Willapa Bay Chinook are part of the Washington Coast ESU.
- Willapa Bay Chinook populations genetically similar to other Washington Coast ESU populations and clearly differentiated from other Chinook ESUs.
- Washington Coast ESU populations divided into three genetic groups: North Coast, populations draining into Grays Harbor, and Willapa Bay.
- North/Smith population somewhat intermediate between Grays Harbor group and other Willapa Bay populations.
- Naselle and Nemah populations with little genetic differentiation; Forks Creek (Willapa River) slightly more differentiated.



Genetic Data Conclusions

- Despite repeated releases of out-of-basin populations into Willapa Bay, **Willapa Bay Chinook have maintained their Washington Coast ESU genetic identity.**
- Willapa Bay populations show a unique genetic signature within the Washington Coast ESU.
- Data suggest that the Willapa Bay environment may exert a different selective pressure than the other Washington Coast ESU population environments, or the environments associated with the out-of-basin populations released into Willapa Bay.





Fisheries Management

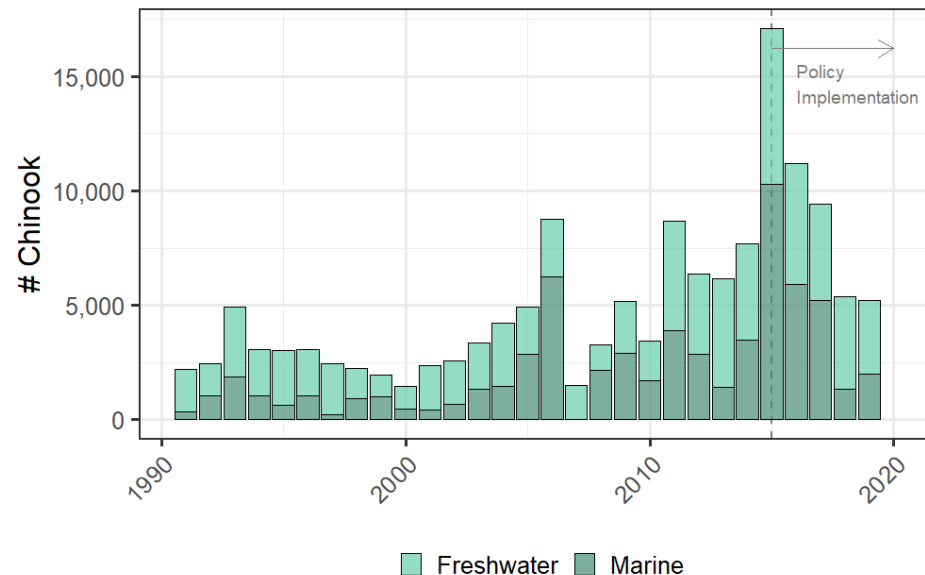
Somewhere I noticed a suggestion that the sport fishery be managed (conservation actions shared equally-- 50/50?) between freshwater and saltwater. Is that the intent and why would that enhance the future plan?

This is currently in the WB Salmon Management Policy C-3622 under Fall Chinook Salmon Fishery Management Objectives and staff are not recommending any changes

“Conservation actions, as necessary, shall be shared equally between marine and freshwater fisheries.” (Page 5)

- 5-yr pre-policy
Freshwater: 59%
Marine: 41%
- 5-yr post-policy
Freshwater: 49%
Marine: 51%

Recreational Chinook Catch 1991 to 2019



Chinook management—“Management will be flexible for stocks achieving spawner objectives consistently over time and coupled with positive preseason forecasts.” The metric is 3 of 5 years. Why this metric and not some other more conservative or less conservative?

- This is a general brood cycle
- Allows for conservation actions to occur if spawner goals are not met for more years than not in a brood cycle
- Aligns with Gray’s Harbor Basin Salmon Management Plan C-3621
- Maintains consistency in fisheries management across the neighboring basins
- Provides managers and the public with easy-to-understand objectives



If the above metric is not met, then the impact rate on Willapa and Naselle river natural origin fall Chinook should not exceed 20%. Why continue to use the in-bay impact rate and not utilize the more conventional total impact rate?

- Allows for greater flexibility in the terminal area

- Current base-period for the Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) is 2007 to 2013

- WB did not have the robust monitoring put in place since the 2015 policy implementation



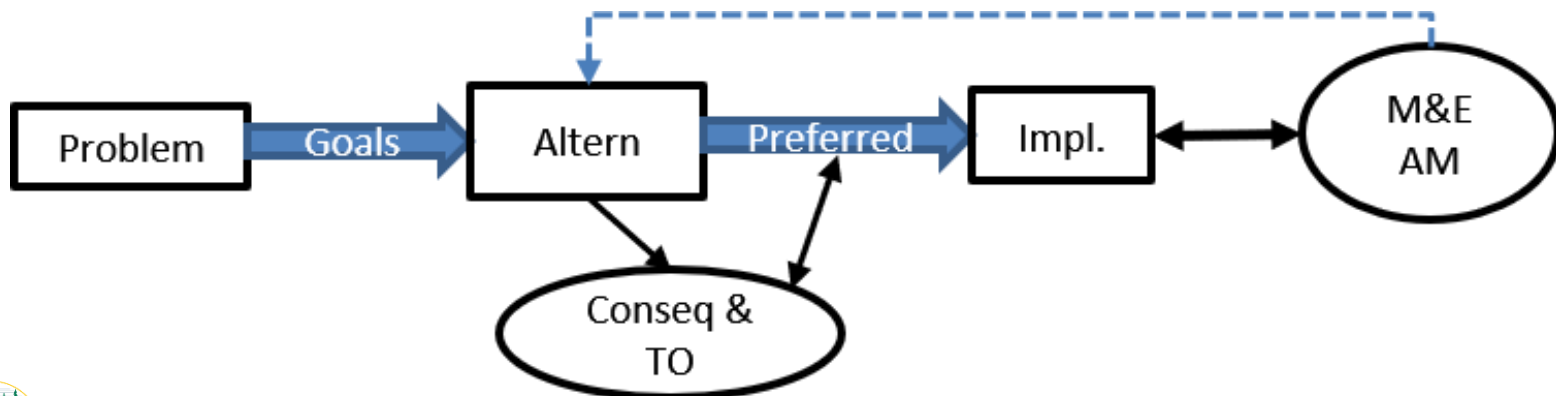
Does the plan as suggested allow for an August commercial fishery that helps update the Chinook run size?

- Staff proposal is to open South Bay (Areas 2M, 2N, 2P, and 2R) before Labor Day
- Allows catch of excess SRO-designated hatchery fish
- Provides data to inform in-season update models
- Occurred this year under Commission guidance with successful outcomes for both recreational and commercial fisheries



The fall “Chinook rebuilding/broodstock management will be consistent with HMPs formulated from science-based risk management described in the Technical Procedures Document.” Does this wording preclude the policy/legal, and social issues that will be a part of decision making?

Policy, legal, and social issues that will be a part of the decision making are included in the science-based risk management framework





Schedule

Original Schedule

Date	Event	Purpose
November 2, 2021	Fish Committee	Provide markup draft of revisions to Policy
November 19, 2021	Fish Committee	Hear Fish Committee feedback on markup version
December 2-4, 2021	Fish Committee & FWC Commission	Briefing for Fish Committee meeting and full Commission (if approved-send out for public comment)
Mid-December 2021	Public Meeting	Take public comments on draft revisions
January 2022	FWC Commission	Brief Commission on public comment and ask for decision



Policy Revision Timeline

December 5, 2020: Commission finalized the WB Comprehensive Review Document and asked for a timeline of policy revisions

January 30, 2021: Satisfied the Commission's request for a timeline of policy revisions and provided background information on key policy issues that warranted interim guidance in 2021 preseason fishery planning process

March 12, 2021: Reviewed Commission Briefings on Policy C-3622, recent year interim guidance, and staff recommendations for policy revisions

May 20, 2021: Reviewed key policy issues/revisions

June 25, 2021: Provided Commissioners with Willapa Bay hatchery/fishery backgrounds and proposed options for moving forward with revisions for Policy C-3622

September 16, 2021: Outlined policy successes and challenges. Reviewed items for policy revisions

November 2, 2021: Reviewed items for policy revision

December 2, 2021: Presented answers to Commissioner's questions on policy revisions

January 13, 2022: Continue presenting answers to Commissioner's questions on policy revisions



Near-term Timeline

- January-April:** North of Falcon Process
Regional Public Meetings
Forecasting
Co-manager Meetings
- February:** Meet with Commission to review fisheries and get interim guidance
- May:** Rule Making and Pamphlet Building
- June:** Revisit Willapa Bay Policy



QUESTIONS