

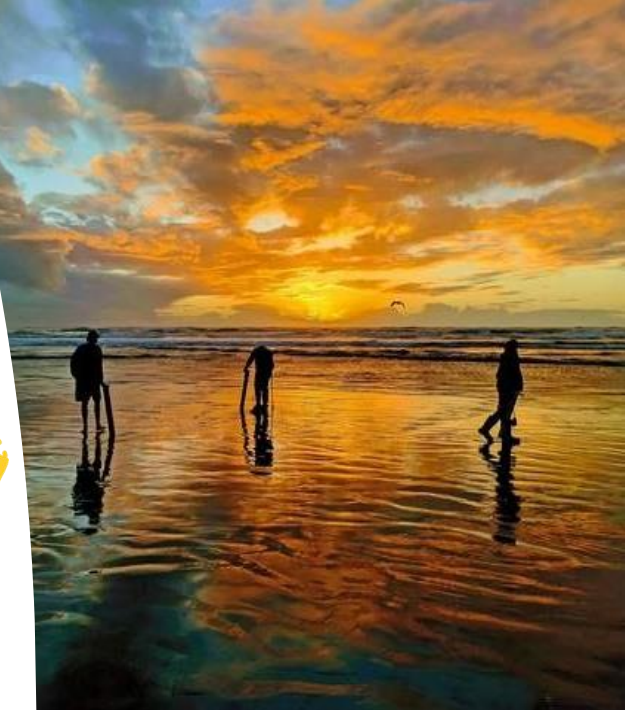
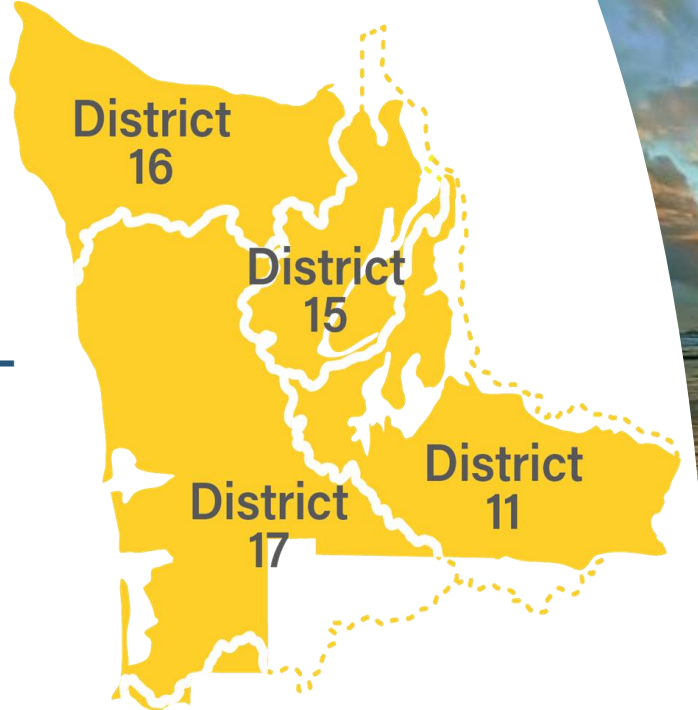
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Region 6 Overview

Heather Hall
Region 6 Director, Coastal
Aug. 9, 2024



Region 6 Overview

- **Region 6 Headquarters** – Montesano
- **District Offices** – Port Townsend, Port Angeles, Shelton, and Long Beach
- **Counties Served** – (8)
Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, and Thurston
- **Overlapping tribal, federal, and state jurisdictions** – including 13 Treaty Tribes and 2 Executive Order Tribes





Fish Program

Region 6 Fish Program Priorities

Fish Management covers 15 major watersheds discharging into South Puget Sound, Hood Canal, Straits and Pacific Ocean.

- 85 permanent and seasonal staff
 - Safety
 - Fishery management
 - Endangered Species Act
 - Stock assessment
 - Data management
 - Climate change
 - Fishery opportunity and conservation





Region 6 has 26 state hatcheries with 121 staff. Annual fish release goals:

Chinook	34M
Chum	33.5M
Coho	14M
Pink	600K
Steelhead	1.6M
Rainbows	238K
Kokanee	500K

Region 6 fish hatchery future and current major projects:

- Minter Creek Hatchery
- Eells Springs Hatchery
- Deschutes Watershed Center
- Hurd Creek Hatchery
- Tumwater Falls Facility
- Naselle Hatchery
- Sol Duc Hatchery



Marine Fish Science

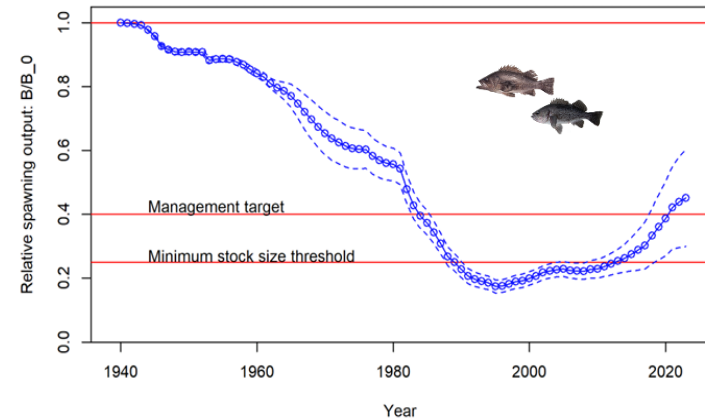
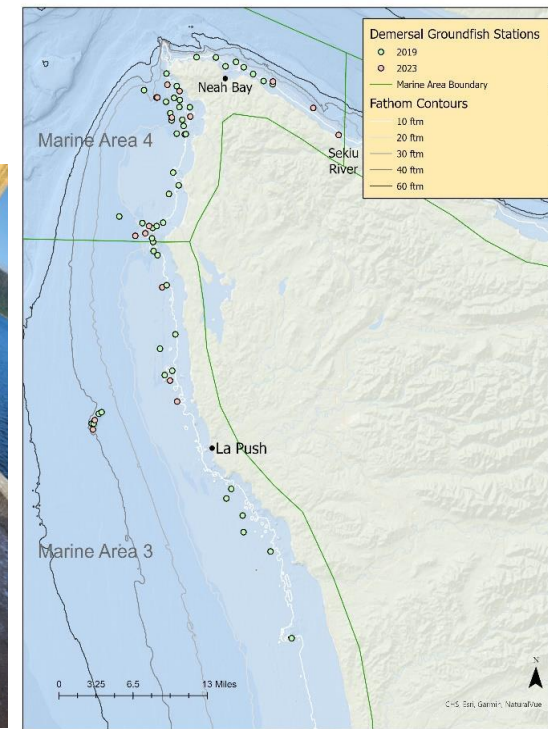
■ Sampling

1. Monitoring 7 commercial ports and 3 recreational ports
2. Providing biological and fishery data to support stock assessments and fishery management
3. Collaborating with NOAA projects

■ Research

1. Rod and reel surveys (spring and fall)
2. CPS surveys
3. Yelloweye rockfish surveys
4. Pacific spiny dogfish ageing
5. Providing estimates of index of abundance (black and yelloweye rockfish)

WDFW representatives on the SSC of the PFM and NPFMC



Ocean Sampling Program

Staff:

- 5 permanent and 28 field staff

Data:

- Catch, effort, and biological data for salmon, halibut, bottomfish, tuna, sturgeon, and recreational salmon and albacore tuna

Management:

- Critical data allows fishery managers to provide opportunity and maximize economic benefit without exceeding state and federal limits.



Coastal and Puget Sound Shellfish

Coastal Shellfish

Management: commercial and recreational shellfisheries: Dungeness crab, razor clam, pink shrimp, spot shrimp, Willapa Bay oyster reserves

Co-managed with 4 treaty tribes north of Point Chehalis

Coastal Shellfish Team is comprised of 17 staff members, including 6 biologists and 11 technicians.

2023-24 highlights – New recreational sampling program, fully implemented electronic monitoring program

Puget Sound Shellfish

Management teams: Shellfish & Seaweed Health and Biosecurity, Crustacean Fisheries Management, Intertidal Bivalves and Squid, Subtidal “Dive” Fisheries

Co-managed with 16 treaty tribes

Puget Sound Shellfish Team includes 47 staff members: 33 full-time staff and 14 seasonal technicians.

2023-24 highlights – recreational squid and crab creels; biodiversity decision package dollars – Pinto abalone and Olympia oysters



Inland Fish Management

Angler trips and economic value:

- Each year, more than 2 million angler trips target trout and kokanee
- An additional 1 million targeting warmwater species
- In total, inland fisheries account for more than \$360 million in economic value.

Region 6 manages thousands of miles of rivers and stream habitat, more than 100 lowland lakes, and dozens of high lakes.

- Conservation focus on ESA-listed Bull Trout/Dolly Varden (char), resident native trout (no ESA-listed populations), and Pacific salmon
- Use of hatchery trout in proper places – maximize recreation, minimize ecological impact
- Managing for warmwater fish species where appropriate

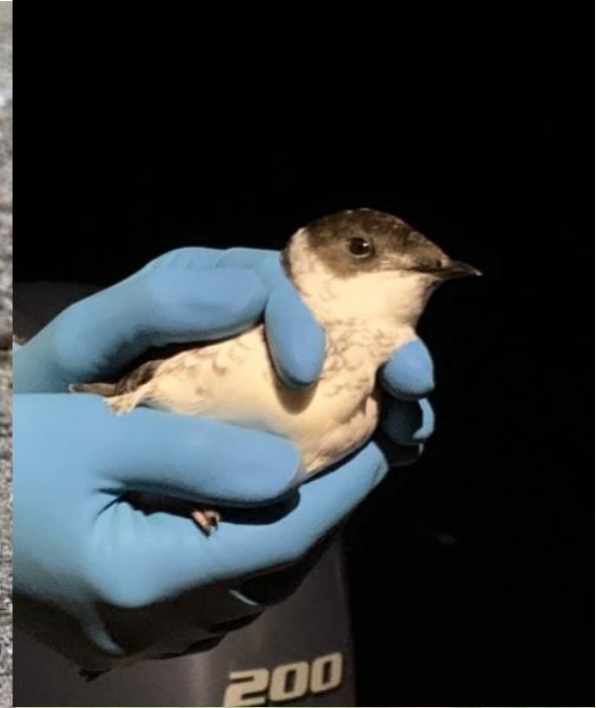




Wildlife Program

Wildlife Program Highlights

- **New Capacity!**
 - Wildlife Diversity Biologist
 - Wildlife Conflict Specialist
 - Private Lands Biologist
- **Co-management agreements**
 - Puyallup (new)
 - Nisqually (new)
 - Skokomish
 - Squaxin
 - Lower Elwha
- **Highlight Projects**
 - Taylor's checkerspot reintroduction
 - Oregon spotted frog habitat
 - Band-tailed pigeon research
 - Elk fencing
 - Bear/cougar outreach



Wildlife Program Highlights (Lands)

Completed Acquisitions after 2020

- Violet Prairie (1,040 acres in Thurston County)
- Theler Wetlands (Union River Unit - Belfair)
- Nemah Tidelands (103 acres on South Willapa Bay)
- Elk River Unit (1,990 acres near Westport)

Water Access Redevelopments

- Leyendecker Park (Sol Duc River)
- Tahuya Lake
- Nisqually ADA Access
- Boston Harbor (Olympia)
- Johns River

Projects

- Oregon silverspot butterfly habitat
- Prairie/oak restoration
- Violet Prairie grazing and restoration
- Estuary restoration (Duckabush & McNeil Island)





Habitat Program

Habitat Program Regional Priorities

- Administration of Hydraulic Code for the protection of fish life
- Growth and shoreline management assistance to local governments
- Forest practices technical assistance to DNR
- Restoration and salmon recovery technical assistance

Habitat Program

HQ Highlights

- **Headquarters' Divisions**

- Protection, Science, Compliance, Energy/Water/Major Projects, Ecosystem Services, Restoration, Fish Passage and Screening, Admin Operations

- **Regional Implementation Highlights**

- Aligning upcoming GMA/SMA updates with best available science
- Rolling out the Civil Compliance Program
- Climate change on water resources
- Federal court injunction for fish passage

- **Project Highlight: Duckabush**

Project Highlight – Duckabush Estuary Restoration Project



Improve habitat for fish and wildlife, including Hood Canal summer chum and Chinook salmon, a main food source for endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales.



Reduce seasonal flooding in the area, benefitting both public and private property.



Create approximately 1,300 jobs and support the local economy.



Provide a modernized highway design that meets current safety standards.



Establish a wildlife corridor under the highway to improve habitat connectivity and reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions.



PROJECT 65% DESIGN OVERVIEW:

US 101 will be elevated over the Duckabush Estuary on a new 1,613-foot-long estuary-spanning bridge. This will allow the Duckabush River to reconnect with its historic floodplain resulting in more channel area to support salmon and other local species. Allowing the river room to flow reduces backwater flooding impacts and improves the estuary's natural resilience to rising sea levels and high-tide events. Elevating the highway creates habitat connectivity and wildlife passage underneath the roadway for animals such as elk and bear. The modernized highway design will meet current safety standards.

PROJECT TIMELINE

- ✓ Feasibility (2016)
- Design (2019-2025)
- Contract Award (TBD)
- Construction
- Complete



MORE PROJECT INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT:

- pnwsalmoncenter.org/duckabush-restoration-project
- wdfw.wa.gov/duckabush





Enforcement, Communications, and Safety

Enforcement

Region 6 Enforcement Staff

- Captain
- Lieutenant
- 7 Sergeants/Detachments
- 33 Officers, currently 5 vacancies

Challenges

- Arguably the most challenging region in the state for enforcement
- Support for co-management – investment in Forks (e.g., housing, shop)
- Without effective natural resource law enforcement, everything talked about above is all for naught.



Communications and Public Engagement (CAPE)

- **R6 Communications Specialist: Bridget Mire**
 - Outreach campaigns: Safeguard Our Shellfish, black bears
 - Newsletters: coastal Dungeness crab and pink shrimp
- **R6 Hunter Education Coordinator: Bill Montgomery**
 - Training tribe members as hunter education instructors
 - Mentored pheasant hunt
- Outreach events (e.g., Washington Sports Show in Puyallup, Ocean Shores and Long Beach razor clam festivals)
- Support for RMT, regional staff projects



Safety

- New Regional Safety Officer for Region 6: Laura Moriset!
- Laura is a member of the Region 6 Regional Management Team
- Her focus is gaining a thorough understanding of the region's unique characteristics and challenges by working closely with staff and the WDFW Safety Team.
- She will be assessing current practices and bridging gaps in existing safety protocols and training programs through policy recommendations and improved communication strategies.



Questions?

Heather Hall

