

## Summary Sheet

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**Meeting dates:** January 11-12, 2019

**Agenda item:** Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Management Plan – Update

**Presenter(s):** Kyle Adicks, Intergovernmental Salmon Manager

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### **Background summary:**

This briefing is to provide an update on the status of development of the Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Management Plan. That Plan defines limits to impacts of fishing activities on Puget Sound Chinook salmon listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). A federally-approved joint state-tribal resource management plan exempts tribal and state-managed salmon fisheries from take prohibitions of ESA consistent with limit six of the salmon 4(d) rule. The previous multi-year limit 6 plan expired in the spring of 2014. The state and tribes have received ESA coverage via annual Section 7 consultations through the Bureau of Indian Affairs each year since the previous multi-year plan expired.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) and the Puget Sound tribes submitted a new multi-year plan to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on December 1, 2017, with a proposed duration of 10 years, to begin in May 2019. NOAA provided initial comments on the plan in December 2017 and January 2018, and indicated that the plan needed to contain additional information before they begin their evaluation. The scope of NOAA's evaluation will include all marine and freshwater salmon and trout fisheries that take listed Puget Sound Chinook. In addition to the evaluation of risk to Puget Sound Chinook, NOAA's biological opinion will assess the effects of the plan on other listed species, most notable southern resident killer whales (SRKW). Because of the recent decline in abundance of SRKW, the effect of the plan on their prey abundance will be a focus of the review.

The Commission received two briefings in January 2018 on the plan's contents and NOAA's initial comments. Since January 2018, WDFW has worked with tribal comanagers and NOAA to address outstanding issues with the plan. This includes working to resolve differences in exploitation rate estimates produced by the comanagers' and NOAA's analyses, providing better explanations for how the plan meets 4(d) rule criteria, updating data, re-evaluating conservation objectives, and further analysis of potential effects on prey for SRKW. Significant progress has been made on most of the watershed sections, although there are issues left to resolve. The comanagers are currently working towards the goal of resolving all management objectives for 2019 prior to the start of the North of Falcon process. The schedule for resubmission of a long-term plan to NOAA is still to be determined.

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### **Staff recommendation:**

N/A

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### **Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:**

Briefing the Commission on the status of the Puget Sound Chinook plan and ESA coverage for future fisheries.

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### **Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:**

N/A

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**Public involvement process used and what you learned:**

Much public input was received and considered prior to the January 2018 updates provided to the Commission. The Department has provided periodic updates to Puget Sound sport fishing advisors and interested public on developments concerning the Plan, including posting drafts of revised sections of the plan to the Department website, since last January.

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**Action requested and/or proposed next steps:**

N/A

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**Draft motion language:**

N/A

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**Post decision communications plan:**

N/A