

# Cowlitz 2021 Annual Program Review

Cowlitz Annual Program Review and Science Conference

May 19, 2021



Matt Bleich, Interim Natural Resources Manager

# Agenda

- Welcome
- Cowlitz Fisheries Overview Status and Recent Trends
- Annual Program Review (APR) Process
- Fisheries and Hatchery Management Plan (FHMP) Transition Plans – Progress and Next Steps
- 2022 Strategies
- Feedback and Comments

Canada

Washington

Map Extent

Oregon

Mount Rainier

Packwood

Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery and Barrier Dam

Tilton River

Mayfield Lake

Mossyrock Hatchery

Morton

Mossyrock Dam

Randle

Mayfield Dam and Fish Collection Facility

Riffe Lake

Cowlitz Falls Dam and Fish Collection Facility

North Fork Cispus River

Friends of the Cowlitz Acclimation Pond

Cowlitz Trout Hatchery

North Fork Toutle River

South Fork Toutle River

Cowwamem River

Mount St. Helens

Mount Adams

Castle Rock









Delameter Creek

Ostrander Creek

Longview

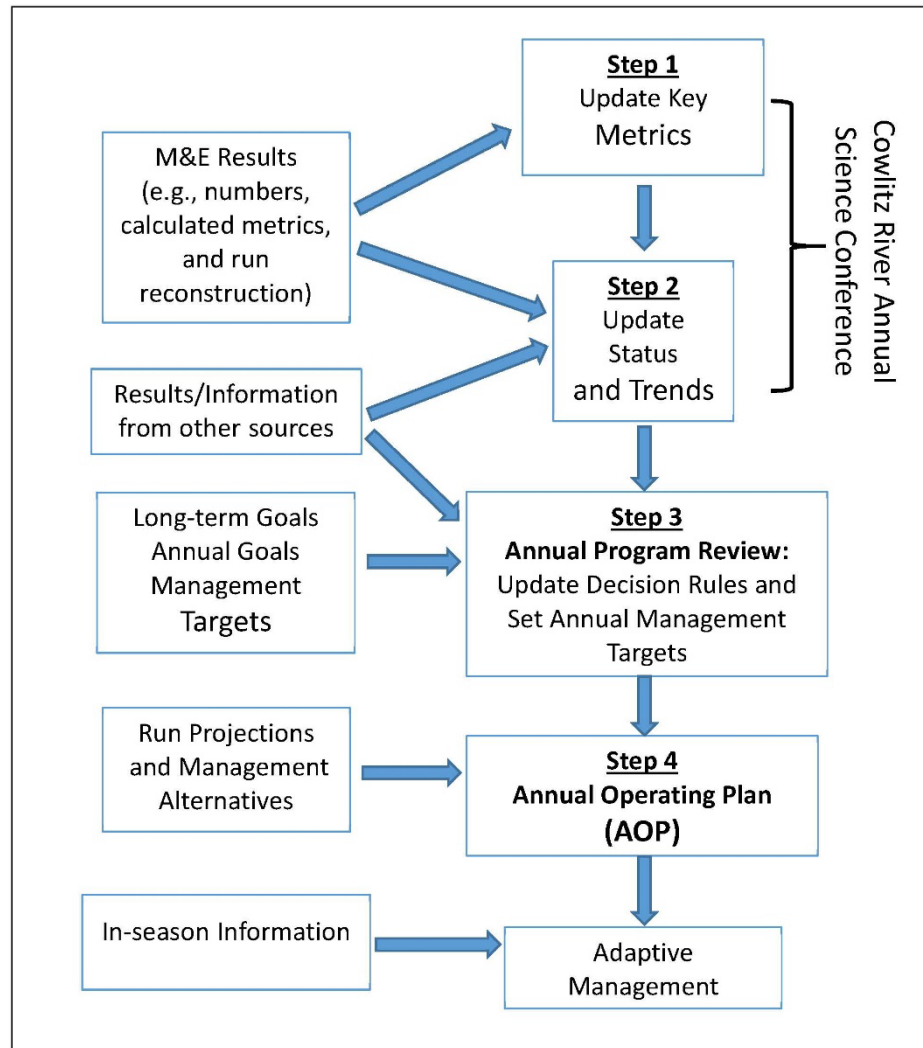
Kelso

Columbia River

-  Dam
-  Dam and Fish Collection Facility
-  Fish Hatchery
-  Acclimation Pond
-  Net Pens
-  Release Sites
-  Weirs
-  Peak



# Annual Program Review Process



# Annual Program Review (APR)

What is it?

- Fish Production Plan

Why should you care?

- Sets number of fish reared and released and other important actions



Chinook



Steelhead



Coho

# Recent History

- Since 2016:
  - Little to no change in Artificial Production Programs
  - Preparation and development of new FHMP and Transition Plans

# Annual Program Review

- Intent – develop population management strategy for the coming season
- Steps
  - Update Key Metrics
  - Update Status and Trends
  - Annual Program Review – Set Annual Management Targets
  - Annual Operating Plan

# Hatchery Program Production

**Maximize hatchery production within limits established by the:**

- Cowlitz River Hydroelectric Project Settlement Agreement
- FHMP
- WDFW Anadromous Salmon and Steelhead Hatchery Policy (C-3624)
- Lower Columbia Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Plan



# 2020 Hatchery Production Plan

Species	Before 2011 FHMP Update	2017 APR Goal	2018 APR Goal	2019 APR Goal	2020 APR Goal
Fall Chinook	4,800,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000
Spring Chinook	959,800	1,738,529	1,738,529	1,738,529	1,738,529
Coho	2,835,000	2,178,000	2,178,000	2,178,000	2,178,000
Winter Steelhead	690,000	647,000	647,000	647,000	647,000
Summer Steelhead	550,000	625,000	650,000	650,000	650,000
Cutthroat	160,000	100,599	100,599	100,599	100,599

# APR Thoughts Today – From 2020 FHMP

Population	Recommended Considerations from FHMP	Recommendation	Reason for Recommendation
Fall Chinook	Increase max transport to Tilton above 1,600	Do not proceed in 2021	Control hatchery influence on NORs
Fall Chinook	Evaluate Current Net Pen Strategy in Mayfield	Bioprogram and evaluate benefit of shift to Coho	Potential benefits to capacity and fish health
Spring Chinook, Coho, Winter Steelhead	Modify Adult Hatchery Release Strategy upstream from Cowlitz Falls	<b>Spring Chinook and Coho</b> – 25% Cispus; 25% Upper Cowlitz; 50% Scanewa <b>Winter Steelhead</b> – 50% Cispus; 50% Upper Cowlitz	Distribution across tributaries for opportunity and seeding. Lake plant for opportunity and self sorting
Coho	Increase max HORs transported above 25K	Proceed up to 40K	Increased opportunity and abundance building
Coho	Increase max HORs to Tilton above 6K	Proceed up to 12K	Increased opportunity and abundance building
Winter Steelhead	Consider moving to a segregated program in Lower Cowlitz Subbasin	Being addressed in Transition Plan to also include early run timing.	Increased opportunity
Winter Steelhead	pHOS management strategy at Blue Creek including harvest management or barriers	Continue to provide harvest opportunity; split Blue Creek from pHOS calc.	Blue Creek pHOS drives increases in estimates of hatchery influence
Summer Steelhead	Consider increased recycling in Lower Cowlitz	Up to 6,600 and earlier in 2021	Increased opportunity

# Public Comment



# FHMP Transition Plan Schedule

Workplan Task	Responsible	Date
Develop Transition Plan Template	Tacoma/WDFW	12/8/20
Draft Fall Chinook Transition Plan Development Workshops	Tacoma/FTC	Dec – Feb 2021
Fall Chinook Draft Final Review	FTC	Feb 2021
Winter Steelhead Transition Plan Development Workshops	Tacoma/FTC	Feb – May 2021
Winter Steelhead Draft Final Review	FTC	June 2021
Spring Chinook Transition Plan Development Workshops	Tacoma/FTC	May – July 2021
Spring Chinook Draft Final Review	FTC	July 2021
Coho Transition Plan Development Workshops	Tacoma/FTC	Aug – Sept 2021
Coho Draft Final Review	FTC	Oct 2021
Public Outreach	Tacoma/FTC	Oct 2021
Full Fish Production Bioprogramming	Tacoma/WDFW	Oct – Nov 2021
Public Review and Comment	Public	Nov – Dec 2021
Modify Transition Plans as Necessary	Tacoma/FTC	Dec 2021
Finalize Transition Plans	Tacoma	Jan 2022

# FHMP Transition Plans So Far

- Fall Chinook
  - Single Integrated program – abundance building
  - Maintain 3.5M smolt
  - Primary Brood Source – Tilton River NOR from Separator
  - CWT Chinook at Mayfield beginning in 2022
  - Develop seeding capacity estimates
  - Evaluate Local Adaptation Phase for Tilton and Lower River
  - Improved Monitoring and Evaluation
    - Marking Strategies
    - Adult Abundance

# FHMP Transition Plans So Far

- Winter Steelhead
  - Lower Cowlitz
    - Change to Segregated Program
    - Establish earlier run timing
  - Tilton and Upper Cowlitz
    - Increase integrated program sizes
    - Increase abundance

# FHMP Transition Plans So Far

- Spring Chinook
  - Maintain program sizes
  - Focus on improved survival and increased abundance
    - SAR analysis complete/standardized

# FHMP Transition Plans So Far

- Coho
  - Have not yet begun working on this plan



# Next Steps

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# Wrap-Up

- Any additional questions?
- Send your feedback to **[cowlitz@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:cowlitz@cityoftacoma.org)**

