

**2008-2009**

**WINTER STEELHEAD  
HARVEST MANAGEMENT PLAN  
for the DUNGENESS MANAGEMENT UNIT**

**in  
DUNGENESS BAY (AREA 6D)  
DUNGENESS RIVER (AREA 76A)**

**DRAFT**

**Joint Report Prepared by:**

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Point No Point Treaty Council  
(for the Port Gamble and Jamestown S'Klallam Tribes)  
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe**

**October 2008**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), the Point No Point Treaty Council (PNPTC) (on behalf of the Jamestown S'Klallam and Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribes), and the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe agree on the following strategy for the 2008-09 winter steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) season. This plan establishes management guidelines for the steelhead resources of the Dungeness Management Unit, in the Dungeness River (Area 76A) and Dungeness Bay (Area 6D).

## **PREMISES AND FISHERY OBJECTIVES**

The provisions of this plan cover all treaty and non-treaty fisheries for steelhead in the Dungeness River system or nearby marine areas. The co-managers agree to a philosophy of cooperation in implementing management programs to maintain, perpetuate and enhance the steelhead resource and the natural ecosystem that supports it.

This plan is intended to ensure that treaty fishermen and non-treaty fishermen, subject to their respective regulatory authorities, shall be afforded the opportunities to harvest their shares as determined in *United States v. Washington*, 384 F. Supp. 312, aff'd 520 F.2d 676 (9th Cir. 1975), cert. denied 423 U.S. 1086, aff'd sub nom *Washington v. Washington State Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel Association*, 443 U.S. 658 (1979) and other orders under the court's continuing jurisdiction.

The parties agree to enact and recommend for enactment by the Pacific Fishery Management Council and the Pacific Salmon Commission, appropriate regulations for marine salmonid fisheries that will provide for adequate escapement of steelhead into the Dungeness River watershed to achieve the goals and purposes of this plan.

## **MANAGEMENT UNIT(S)**

This Plan covers a single Management Unit (MU), the Dungeness watershed winter run steelhead. No component sub populations have been identified in this MU. Available information for the Dungeness MU is outlined in Table 1.

## **MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTING PERIODS**

The management periods, indicated in this Plan, define the time interval during which regulatory actions are directed to meeting conservation and allocation needs of steelhead runs while taking into account incidental steelhead catches (actual or expected) of steelhead that may occur outside the management periods. Since many runs extend over lengthy periods of time and only a small portion of the population of each run is available at the extremes of its run timing, it is impractical to exercise directed management for non-selective fisheries on these portions of runs while continuing harvests of other species or stocks. However, fisheries should be spread throughout the management periods in order to achieve escapement and harvest from all segments of the run

Management periods for Dungeness River winter steelhead, in each catch reporting area, were estimated on the basis of historical harvest patterns of the recreational fishery and have been adjusted to minimize overlaps with the management periods of other species.

2008 – 2009 Winter Steelhead Management Periods:

Area 6D: November 30, 2008 – March 31, 2009

Area 76A: December 14, 2008 – April 15, 2009

The Winter Steelhead Harvest Accounting period for all treaty Indian and nonTreaty recreational fisheries in the Dungeness River is November 1 to April 30.

### **WILD WINTER STEELHEAD BACKGROUND**

Dungeness wild winter steelhead are managed as a separate Management Unit (MU) based on their relative spawning isolation provided by the Dungeness and Gray Wolf rivers and their tributaries (WDF et al. 1993). Most spawning occurs from mid February through early June. The stock is largely supported by naturally spawning fish of native origin. However, it is unknown whether significant genetic introgression from hatchery plants of earlier timed steelhead derived from Chambers Creek stock has occurred. Allozyme analysis of 68 juvenile steelhead sampled from the Dungeness River in 1994 clustered with Hood Canal winter stocks (Phelps et al. 1997). The parental origin of the sampled individuals is uncertain and may have been influenced by hatchery reared steelhead, introduced summer run steelhead, or even conspecific rainbow trout..

### **HATCHERY PRODUCTION**

Currently, approximately 10,000 hatchery reared steelhead are released annually in the Dungeness watershed (Table 1). The hatchery stock is derived from the early timed Bogachiel River stock, and for many years was transferred from the Bogachiel Hatchery, but in recent years has come from a stock of similar origins in the Elwha River. An agreement to explore localizing the source to the Dungeness River has recently been reached, and will require developing a means of capturing broodstock from the river since few steelhead voluntarily return to the hatchery. Currently, green eggs are transferred from the Elwha Hatchery to the Hurd Creek Hatchery facility, located on a tributary in the lower Dungeness watershed, for accelerated hatching and rearing in warmer spring water, then transferred to the Dungeness Hatchery at river mile 10.5 in March prior to release in early June. All hatchery-produced steelhead are marked with an adipose fin clip to enable mark selective fishing opportunities, as well as enable monitoring of stray rates, should funding to perform this task become available.

Steelhead smolts are released on or after June 1 to avoid any deleterious impacts to listed Dungeness Chinook sub-yearlings migrating seaward. This strategy will be re-evaluated, using the known Chinook emigration pattern from three years of screw trap data. The June 1 release date limit for hatchery reared steelhead and coho salmon may be adjusted to further reduce interspecific competition and predation risks.

**Table 1. Dungeness Winter Steelhead Harvest and Hatchery Smolts Released.**

Return Season	Harvest			Smolts Released	
	Recreational	Treaty	Total	Year	Number
61-62	1,296		1,296	1961	
62-63	1,081		1,081	1962	19,456
63-64	2,897		2,897	1963	18,092
64-65	1,526		1,526	1964	
65-66	1,546		1,546	1965	12,535
66-67	2,227		2,227	1966	15,017
67-68	1,987		1,987	1967	14,125
68-69	1,141		1,141	1968	14,934
69-70	781		781	1969	25,841
70-71	1,668		1,668	1970	24,300
71-72	2,139		2,139	1971	20,355
72-73	670		670	1972	17,680
73-74	647		647	1973	13,942
74-75	526		526	1974	25,137
75-76	359		359	1975	20,050
76-77	386		386	1976	30,004
77-78	1,094		1,094	1977	40,067
78-79	308	67	375	1978	30,319
79-80	411	181	592	1979	24,751
80-81	629	67	696	1980	20,012
81-82	518	158	676	1981	20,070
82-83	376	61	437	1982	17,013
83-84	448	142	590	1983	18,561
84-85	388	106	494	1984	14,828
85-86	226	48	274	1985	15,877
86-87	400	9	409	1986	15,433
87-88	409	44	453	1987	15,545
88-89	143	6	149	1988	20,077
89-90	169	0	169	1989	20,123
90-91	116	14	130	1990	20,256
91-92	115	4	119	1991	15,000
92-93	73	0	73	1992	15,100
93-94	148	8	156	1993	15,264
94-95	215	0	215	1994	18,850
95-96	168	0	168	1995	9,900
96-97	126	0	126	1996	10,008
97-98	22	1	23	1997	9,800
98-99	79	5	84	1998	9,000
99-00	51	0	51	1999	11,000
00-01	44	2	46	2000	10,465
01-02	200	26	226	2001	12,199
02-03	66	3	69	2002	10,250
03-04	53	0	53	2003	13,715
04-05	40	33	73	2004	10,500
05-06	35	1	36	2005	9,825
06-07	33	67	100	2006	10,900
07-08	23	14	37	2007	16,700

Note: Hatchery winter steelhead smolts released into the Dungeness River at age 1 (1.) in 2007 will return as age 3 (1.1+) adults in 2008-09 and age 4 (1.2+) adults in 2009-2010.