

2008-2009

**WINTER STEELHEAD
HARVEST MANAGEMENT PLAN
for the
PORT ANGELES and SEQUIM – PORT TOWNSEND
MANAGEMENT UNITS
of the
EASTERN STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA**

DRAFT

Joint Report Prepared by:

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

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INTRODUCTION

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), the Point No Point Treaty Council (on behalf of the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe), and the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe agree on the following harvest management plan for the 2008-09 winter fishing seasons in the eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca. This plan outlines the management guidelines for the steelhead resources of two management units comprising several small independent streams between the Elwha River and Admiralty Inlet.

PREMISES AND FISHERY OBJECTIVES

The provisions of this plan cover all treaty and non-treaty fisheries for steelhead occurring in the Port Angeles and the Sequim – Port Townsend MU streams and nearshore 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 and non-treaty fishers, 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 co-managers 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 Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca watersheds, to achieve the goals and purposes of this plan.

MANAGEMENT UNITS

This Plan covers two Management Units (MUs) in the Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca, each composed of a number of sub populations. The MUs, and their components, along with available information, are described as follows:

Port Angeles Management Unit:

The Port Angeles MU includes the aggregate of sub populations in independent streams between the Elwha River and the Dungeness River. Most sub populations are presumed to be composed of wild steelhead aggregations. The sub populations in this unit are;

Morse Creek; Available information on this sub population is outlined in Table 1

Siebert Creek Available information is outlined in Table 2

McDonald Creek Available information is outlined in Table 2.

Table 1. Total Winter Steelhead Harvest, Wild Escapement Index and Hatchery – Reared Smolt Releases in Morse Creek.

Winter Return Year	Recreational Harvest a/	Treaty Harvest	Total Harvest	Index Escapement Estimate	Smolt Year	Smolts Stocked
1980-81	357	166	523		1979	12,826
1981-82	290	116	406		1980	12,325
1982-83	310	258	568		1981	18,014
1983-84	546	216	762		1982	15,420
1984-85	285	351	636	145	1983	16,388
1985-86	235	281	516	105	1984	15,460
1986-87	223	200	423	118	1985	15,852
1987-88	188	283	471	138	1986	18,819
1988-89	215	58	273	60	1987	15,227
1989-90	189	45	234	78	1988	15,034
1990-91	90	0	90	91	1989	15,514
1991-92	135	0	135	100	1990	10,034
1992-93	96	12	108		1991	14,655
1993-94	195	0	195		1992	10,058
1994-95b/	117	2	119	128	1993	15,438
1995-96	300	11	311	89	1994	15,338
1996-97	150	0	150	183	1995	15,029
1997-98	73	0	73	102	1996	5,076
1998-99	53	0	53	81	1997	5,000
1999-00	110	0	110	162	1998	5,000
2000-01	49	0	49	99	1999	5,010
2001-02	145	0	145	71	2000	5,000
2002-03	33	0	33	84	2001	5,000
2003-04	36	0	36	121	2002	5,000
2004-05	166	3	169		2003	5,000
2005-06	51	3	54	124	2004	5,000
2006-07	33	0	33	118	2005	0
2007-08	10	0	10		2006	0
10 year mean 1998-99 to 2007-08			69	108		

a/ Hatchery and wild steelhead recreational harvest numbers available since 1986-87 from WDFW Catch Record Cards.

b/ Wild steelhead release regulations in recreational fishery since 1994-95.

Table 2. Wild Winter Steelhead index escapement estimates and smolt production in streams of the Port Angeles Winter Steelhead MU.

Spawning Year	McDonald Creek Index Escapement	Smolt Emigration Year	McDonald Creek smolts	Siebert Creek smolts
1985		1985		
1986		1986		
1987		1987		
1988		1988		
1989		1989		
1990		1990		
1991		1991		
1992		1992		
1993		1993		
1994		1994		
1995		1995		
1996		1996		
1997		1997		
1998	308	1998		1,626
1999	217	1999	1,861	551
2000	251	2000	3,343	937
2001	143	2001		
2002	125	2002		513
2003	63	2003		758
2004	29	2004		975
2005	89	2005		769
2006	206	2006	1,125	235
2007	63	2007	1,424	558
2008		2008	1,170	793

Sequim – Port Townsend Management Unit

The Sequim – Port Townsend MU includes the aggregate of sub- populations in independent streams between the Dungeness River and Admiralty Inlet. In this MU, streams empty into distinct embayments (Sequim Bay, Discovery Bay, Port Townsend Bay) and all associated basins lie in the “rain shadow” of the Olympic mountains. All of the sub- populations are presumed to be composed of wild steelhead aggregations. The sub- populations in this unit are;

- Jimmycomelately (JCL) Creek (Sequim Bay)
- Salmon Creek (Discovery Bay)
- Snow Creek (Discovery Bay)
- Chimacum Creek (Port Townsend Bay)

Available information is summarized in Tables 3 – 5.

WILD STEELHEAD ESCAPEMENT and SMOLT PRODUCTION

In the Port Angeles Management Unit, estimates of natural spawners are limited to index counts, in Morse Creek and McDonald Creek and more recently, in Siebert Creek. (Table 2). It is anticipated that these index enumerations will continue; however, spawner surveys have been limited to periods after March 1 in most seasons and stream flows may often be high during the recommended spawner survey period and the amount of information collected will depend on suitable river conditions. Smolt production from these spawners is largely unavailable, so direct estimates of productivity and productive capacities have not been possible. For this reason, no specific escapement goals have been established for these MUs.

The best life history information available on wild steelhead in this region comes from the Snow Creek trap (Sequim – Port Townsend MU) near river mile 0.8. The numbers of wild steelhead adults and smolts including smolt-to-adult survival rates have been documented since the late 1970s (Table 3). The numbers of wild Snow Creek steelhead adults by age and percent age composition are summarized in Tables 4 and 5, respectively. Figure 1 shows the percentage of wild adult steelhead returning to the Snow Creek trap by month from 1978 to 1994