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## Northwest Power and Conservation Council

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June 8, 2020

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

**FROM:** Kendall Farley

**SUBJECT:** Washington Statewide Salmon Strategy

### BACKGROUND:

**Presenter:** Erik Neatherlin, Executive Coordinator of the Washington Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO)

**Summary:** In 2019, Governor Inslee committed to updating the "Statewide Salmon Strategy – Extinction is not an Option" which was completed 20 years ago under former Washington Governor Gary Locke. The Strategy was formed at the time to address the listing of salmon under the federal Endangered Species Act. This unique strategy created a collaborative initiative to restore and protect salmon runs across Washington by convening a group rooted in local expertise, experience, partnerships, and on-the-ground leadership. Over the last 20 years, there have been significant advances in salmon recovery through regionally specific, scientifically rigorous, and locally produced recovery strategies. Partnerships have matured and Washington has seen some success with some species showing signs of recovery, yet some runs continue to decline. The goal of this effort is to bring statewide salmon strategy up to date while honoring the achievements and investments made over the last 20 years. Social, political, and physical landscapes have changed; rededicating energy toward this effort includes acknowledging necessary improvements, new approaches, and new perspectives to protect and restore this statewide legacy and to put all salmon runs on the road to recovery. The Governor's office, the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office and WDFW are currently

convening and gathering input from important stakeholders across the state to soon begin drafting recommendations to the Strategy Update. The Strategy Update will include a review from the Natural Resource Cabinet agencies and a public comment period. The final Statewide Salmon Strategy Update is expected to be completed in late 2020.

**Background:** The Washington Legislature has provided funding to identify gaps in the current strategy, based on the regional recovery plans, court decisions, National Marine Fisheries Service's five-year review and data needs, Treaty obligations, the Governor's Orca Task Force recommendations, and other emerging priorities

In May of 1997, Governor Gary Locke and agency heads signed a memorandum agreeing to establish a forum to serve as the "...formal and ongoing institutional framework to promote interagency communication, coordination and policy direction on environmental and natural resource issues." This Joint Natural Resources Cabinet included both Washington members of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, Ken Casavant and Mike Kreidler.

**Relevance:** This presentation is relevant to our Fish and Wildlife Program Implementation (2014 Program and 2020 addendum) and to our High-Level Indicators, recognizing that other entities are invested in mitigating, protecting and enhancing the Columbia Basin's focal species and habitat.

**More Info:** <https://rco.wa.gov/salmon-recovery/salmon-recovery-strategy-update/>  
<https://rco.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/GSRO-ExtinctionNotOption-1999.pdf>

# Northwest Power and Conservation Council

## Fish and Wildlife Committee Meeting

June 16, 2020

### Briefing: Washington State Salmon Recovery Strategy Update

Erik Neatherlin

Washington Governor's Salmon Recovery Office



# Outline

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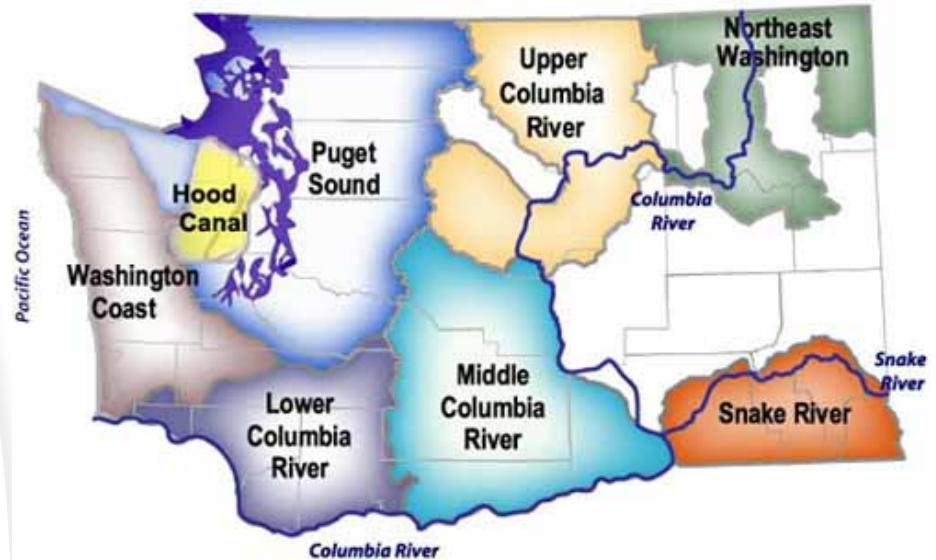
- Background
- Overview of Statewide Strategy
- Update Process
- Next Steps



# Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

Washington Salmon Recovery Act (1998)

- Salmon Recovery Funding Board
- Regional Recovery Organizations
- Lead Entity Watersheds
- Governor's Salmon Recovery Office



Salmon Recovery  
Funding Board

WASHINGTON STATE  
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE



# Washington Statewide Salmon Strategy (1999)

**STATEWIDE  
STRATEGY TO  
RECOVER SALMON**  
**EXTINCTION  
IS NOT AN OPTION**  
September 1999

## Governor Locke

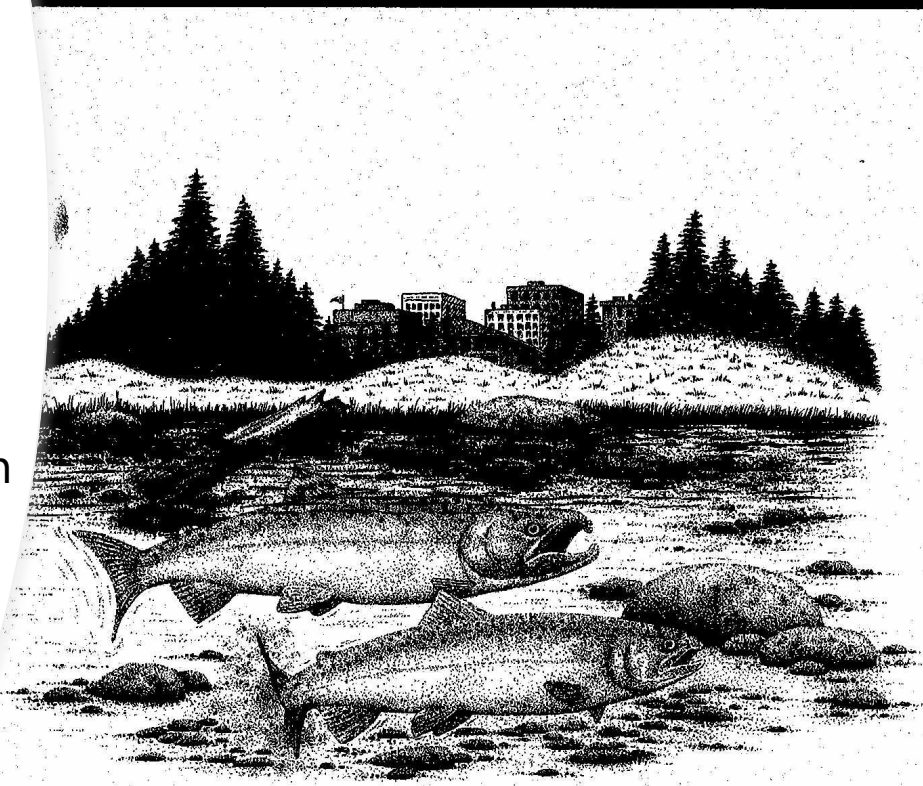
- 1999 – Statewide Strategy to Recover Salmon: *Extinction is Not an Option*

## Governor Gregoire

- 2006 – Strategy Status Update
- 2008 – Recovery Implementation Plan

## Governor Inslee

- 2019 – Begin Statewide Strategy Salmon Update Process





# Why update the Strategy

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# Current Strategy's Goal and Key Elements

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## Goal

- Statewide
- All salmon, steelhead, and trout
- Healthy and harvestable

## Key Elements

- Habitat
  - Agriculture, Forest and Fish, Land Use, Stormwater, Water Quantity, Water Quality, Fish Passage
- Harvest
- Hatcheries
- Hydropower





# State and Federal Commitments

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- **Governor Locke MOA**  
**Established the Joint Natural Resources Cabinet**
    - Natural Resource Agencies, Commerce, Health
    - Public Lands Commissioner (DNR)
    - Tribal Representation
    - Washington NPCC Members
  - **Federal Agency MOA**
    - NOAA, USFWS, EPA, NRCS
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# Strategy Update

## Steering Committee and Stakeholder Engagement

- **Steering Committee**
  - JT Austin, Governor's Office
  - Leslie Connelly, OFM
  - Jeff Davis, WDFW
  - Kaleen Cottingham, RCO
  - Erik Neatherlin, GSRO
- **Consultant**
  - Triangle Associates, Inc
  - ECONorthwest
  - Confluence Environmental
- **Staff Support**
  - Jeannie Abbott, GSRO

- What's Working
- What's Not Working
- What's Missing

# Tribal Engagement

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- Governor Letter inviting Government-to-Government
    - JT Austin designated lead
  - Meetings with Tribal Organizations
  - Meetings with Individual Tribes
  - Requested Written Feedback and Engagement in Process
- How Do Tribes Want to Engage
  - Share Experience, Knowledge, and Expertise
  - What's Working, What's Not Working, What's Missing



## **SUMMER/FALL 2019**

- Convene Steering Committee
  - Invite Tribal Engagement
  - Securing Consultants and Collaborative and Inclusive Process
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## **WINTER 2019/2020**

- Workshops, Webinars, and Surveys with Stakeholders
  - Meetings with Tribes
  - Briefings with Natural Resource Agencies
  - Analyze and Synthesize Input
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## **SPRING/SUMMER 2020**

- Prepare Draft Materials and Recommendations
  - Washington State Academy of Sciences
  - Natural Resources Subcabinet and Governor's Office
  - Tribes
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## **FALL 2020**

- Incorporate Feedback from Governor's Office, Natural Resource Agencies, and Tribes
- Public Comment
- Finalize Strategy Update

# Next Steps

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- Convene Natural Resource Agency Subcabinet
  - NPCC engagement
- Prepare Proposed Strategy Updates with Agencies and Tribe Review
- Continue Meeting with Tribes Individually and Incorporating Feedback



# Questions

