

SRKW Recovery Update

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GOVERNOR'S
SOUTHERN RESIDENT

ORCA

TASK FORCE





WHAT IS WASHINGTON DOING TO HELP ORCAS?

Over the past several years, Washington state has been working to protect the ecosystem that supports orcas. Saving our southern resident killer whales requires us to tackle many challenges, both in the short-term and over the coming decades.

Governor Inslee takes action



4 Priorities for Task Force

More
Prey

Fewer
Contaminants

Less Noise
and
Disturbance



Funding



Recommendation to Action

36 recommendations

Prey - 16 recommendations

Vessels - 10 recommendations

Contaminants - 10 recommendations



**4 Governor Bills
Budget Requests**



Highlights from the Leg Session

Funding provided for all priorities

Prey

Vessel

Contaminants

Policy improvements for all priorities



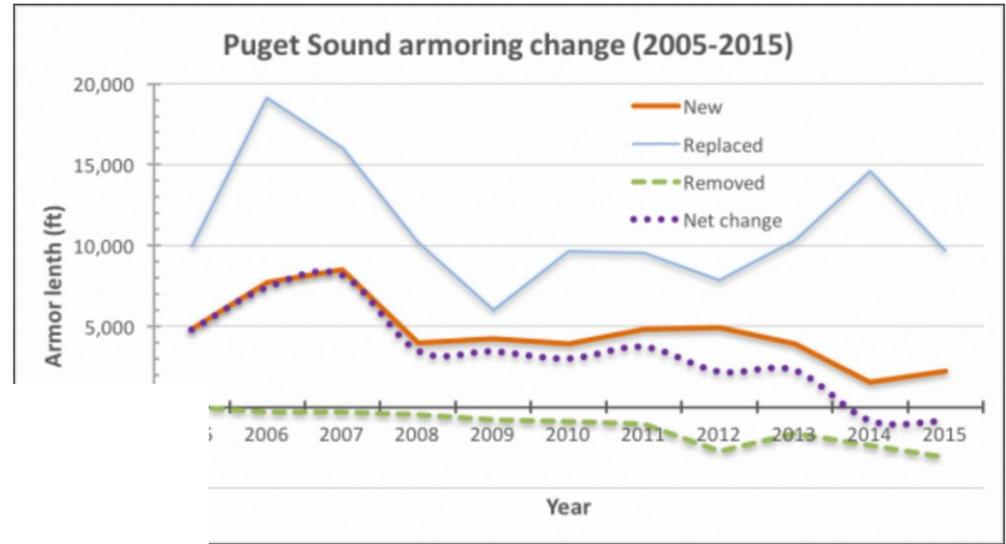
Restore Habitat – Budget and Policy



*Leque
Island*



Protect Habitat – Policy and Budget

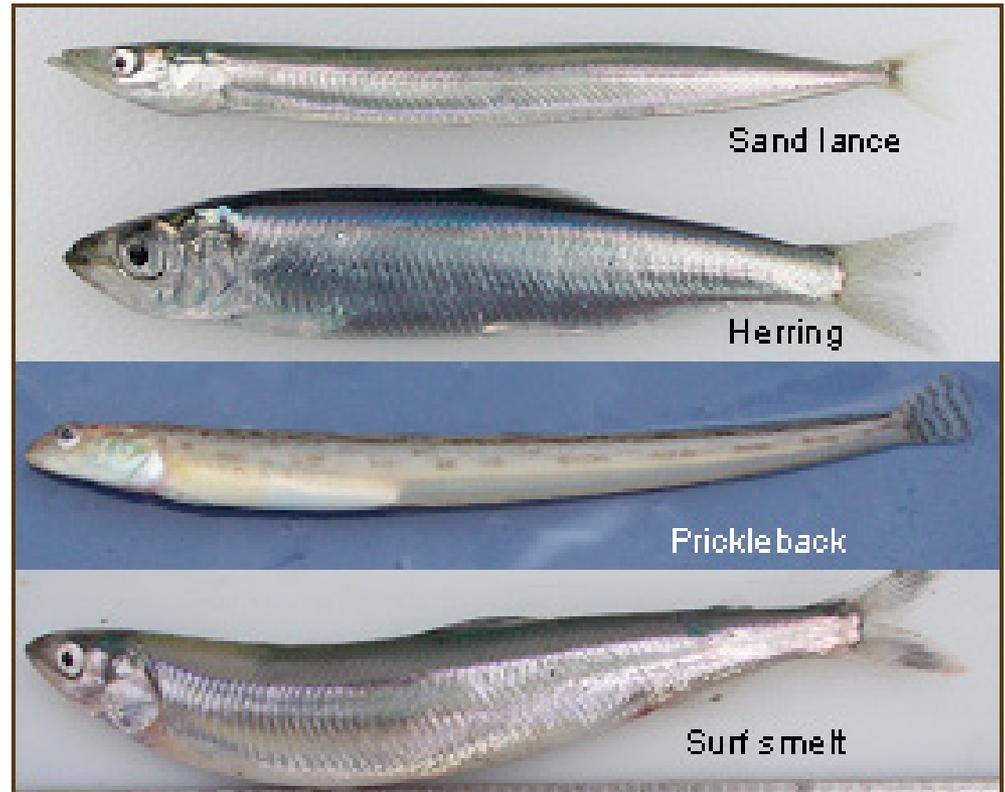


Hydraulic Permit
Authority
Improvements



Food Chain Protection

- Increased monitoring of forage fish
- Licensing for smelt fishery

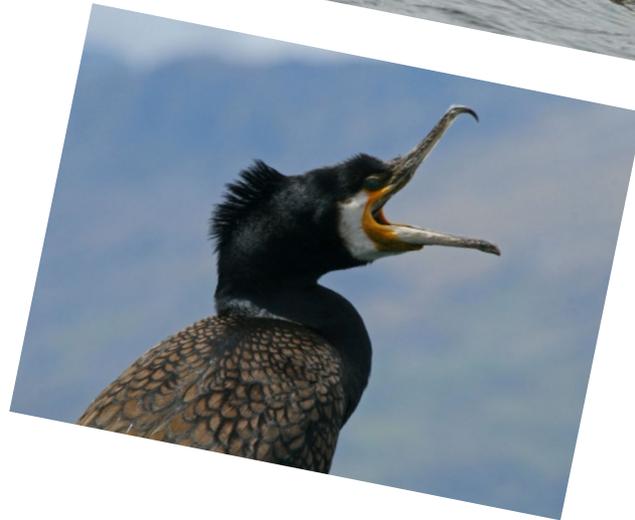


Dams and Barriers

- Funding for barrier rulemaking
- Funding for barrier prioritization
- Funding for Snake River conversation



Decrease Predation



Decrease Vessel Noise

- Slow down within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of SRKW
- Increase buffer to 400 yards/300 yards
- Establish Whale Watching License for Commercial Vessels and Kayaks



- Increase enforcement capacity and fully enforce regulations on small vessels – additional funding provided
- Increase Boater Education



Reduce toxics and likelihood of oil spill

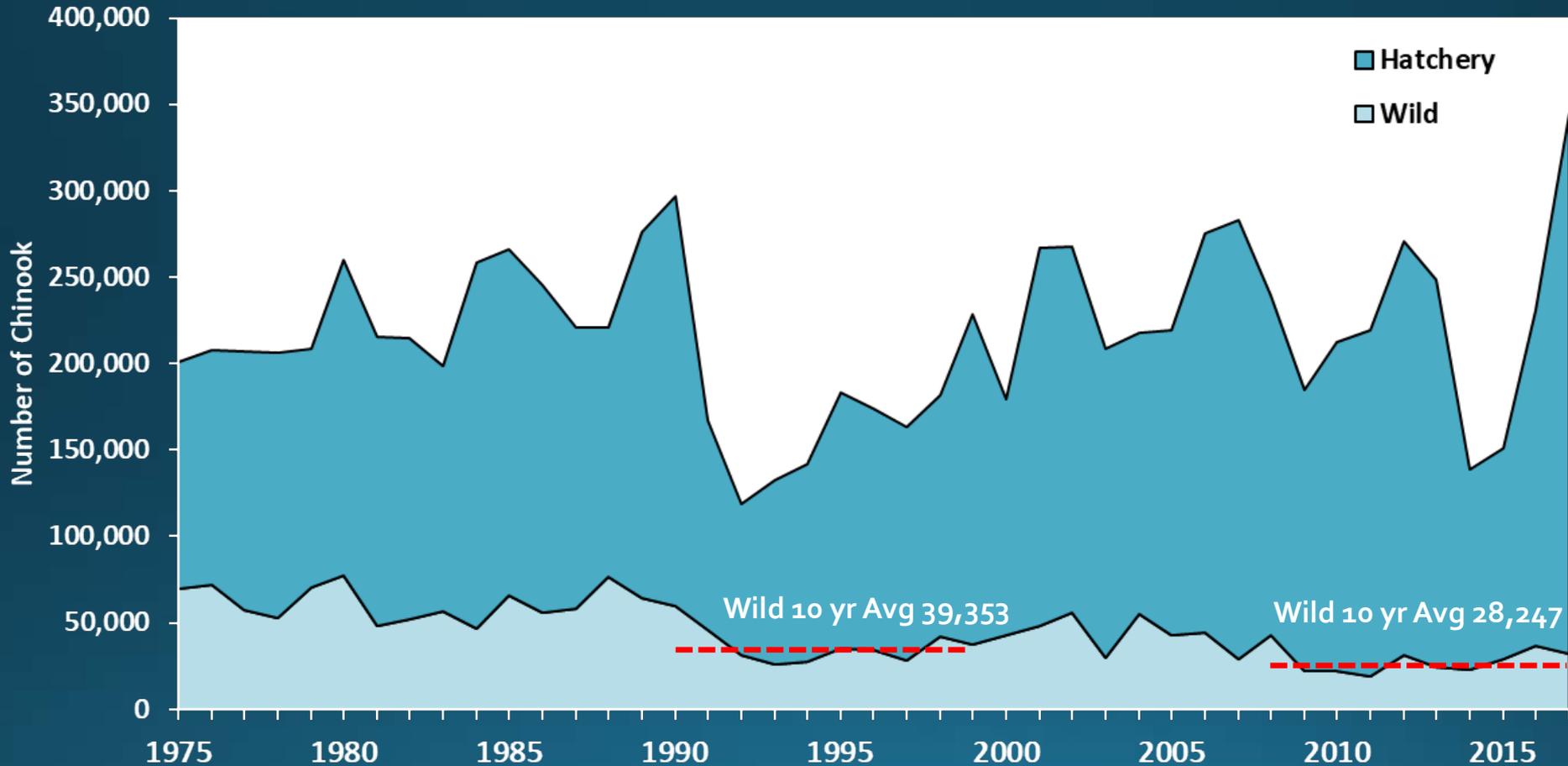
- Improves our ability to prevent oil spills - specially in the north sound around the San Juan's.
- Legislation that accelerates the process by which Ecology phases certain toxic chemicals out of certain products.



Increase hatchery production of salmon



Chinook Historical Run Size – Puget Sound



Wild Chinook ↓ ~28% since 10yr avg. prior to listing under ESA in 1999

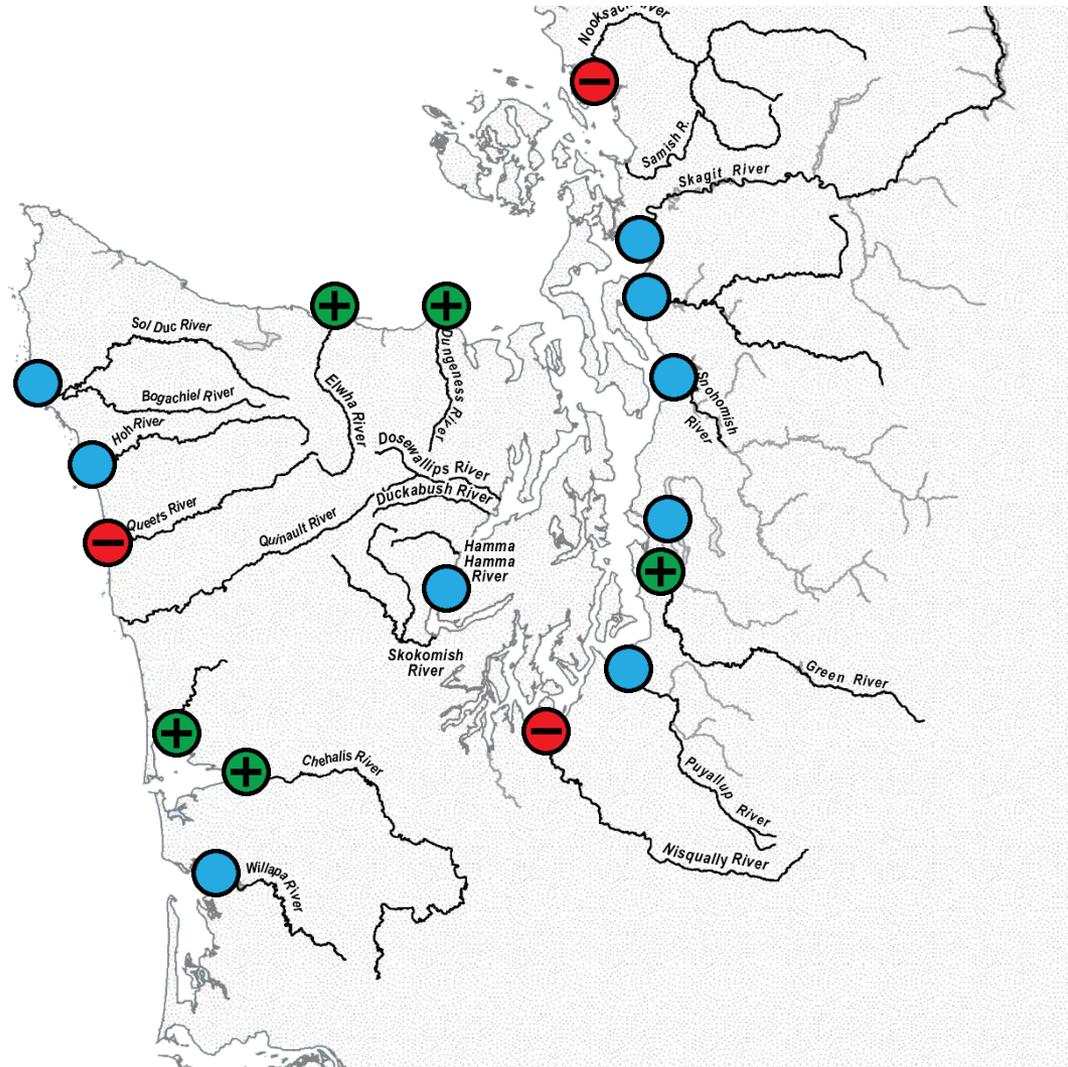
2019 Wild Chinook Forecast



- Forecasts range from **Poor** to **Good** for both Puget Sound and Coast
- Both Puget Sound and Coast wild forecasts **↑ 6%**

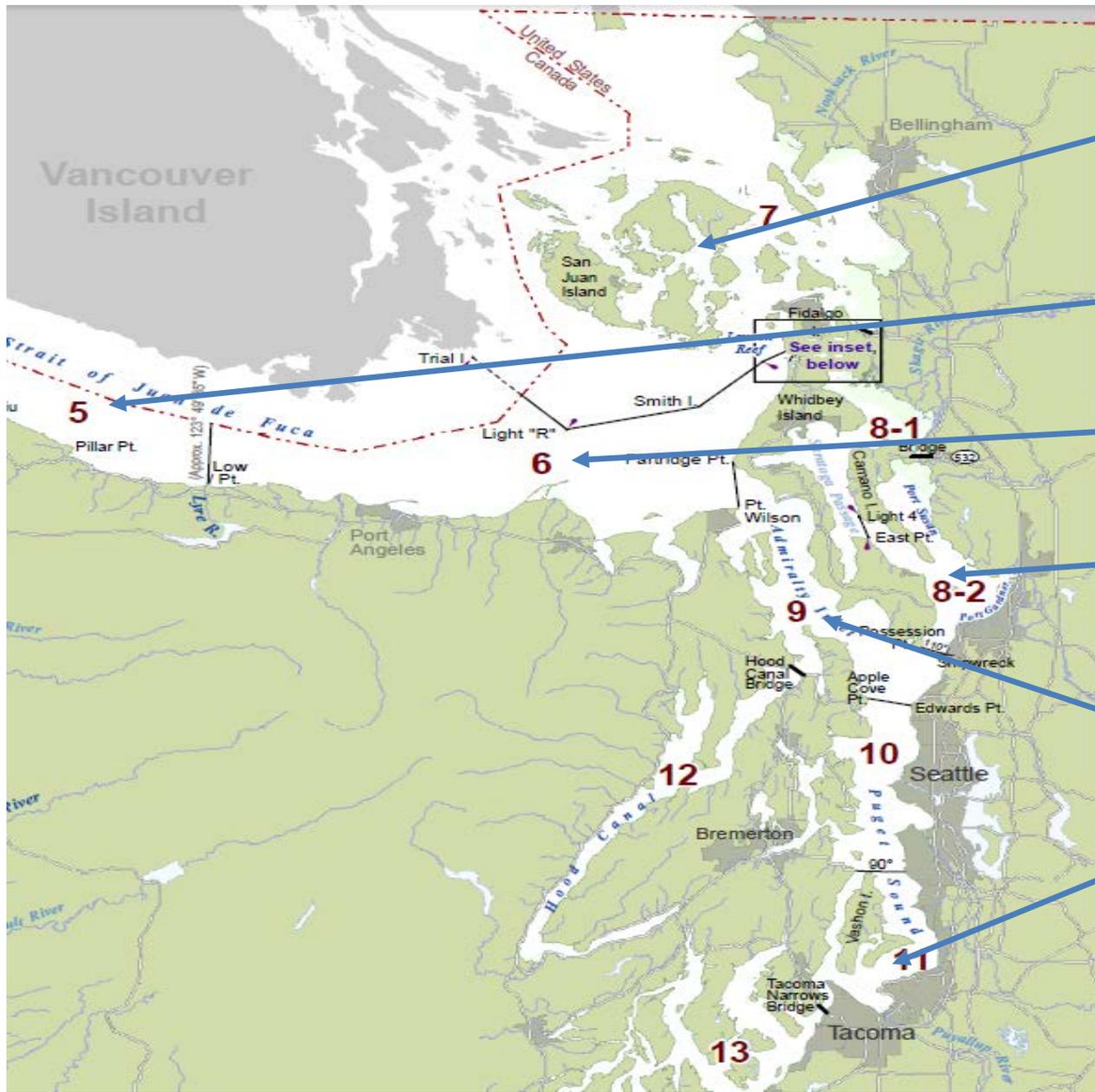
Relative to Recent 10yr Avg. Runsize

-  Good > 125%
-  Neutral 75-125%
-  Poor < 75%



North of Falcon and SRKW





Area 7 – Closed August and January

Area 5 – Closed 2 weeks in February

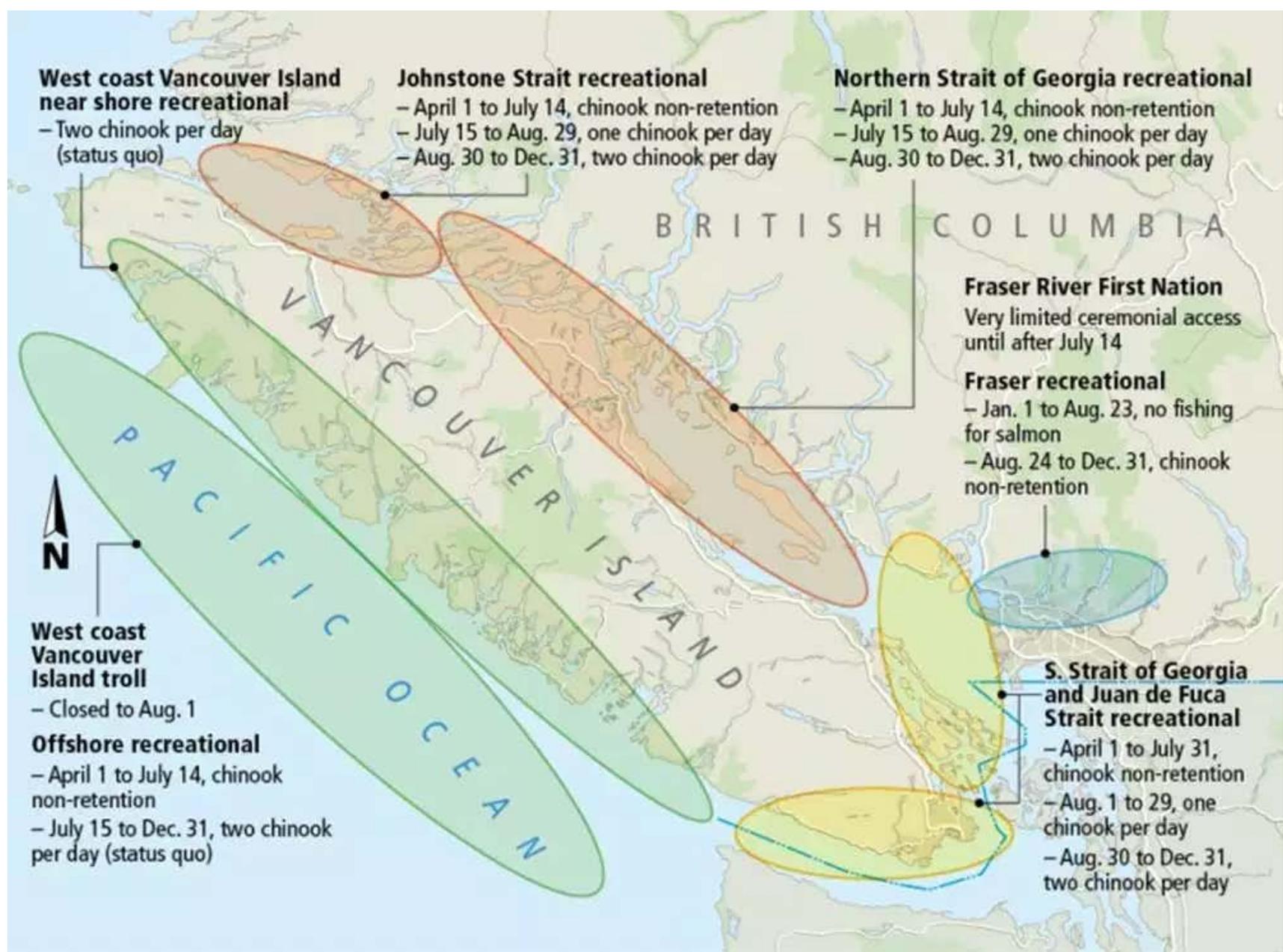
Area 6 – Closed February

Areas 8.1 & 8.2 – Closed December and January

Area 9 – Closed July 16-25 and January

Area 11 – Closed June, October-December





Take Home

1. Excellent policy changes that will result in immediate improvements for SRKW
2. Funding for prey, noise and contaminants good – need more for habitat
3. Upcoming fishing season should result in more access to fish for SRKW



Questions?

