Subject: Rule changes to capture roles and responsibilities of local and regional salmon recovery partners

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board recently adopted changes to the salmon recovery rules found in Title 420 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). The amended rules clarify the roles of partners in salmon recovery intended by the Salmon Recovery Act.¹ Below are the details of the updated rules.

Questions? Contact Katie Pruit, RCO rules coordinator

Why the Rule Change?

Salmon recovery in Washington State includes a multitude of partners working together to recover salmon populations at risk of extinction. In 1998, the Salmon Recovery Act established the local process that led to a complex framework, which is not easily communicated to grant applicants or those new to the process.

In 2018, the Washington State Legislature directed the board to conduct a Lean Study to address process confusion and achieve greater results in salmon recovery. One recommended change of the study was to amend the rules to clarify and standardize the local and regional salmon recovery process.

What’s New?

Please visit the Washington State Legislature for the permanent rules, begin January 16, 2020. The changes to Title 420 WAC formalize the foundational work that has been in place since 1998 and provide a framework for the future. A new chapter is added to capture the roles and responsibilities of local and regional recovery organizations (Chapter 420-08 WAC). A new section is added to reference the duties of The Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office (Chapter 420-04-065 WAC). There are also two new definitions, as well as two definition amendments to provide technical clarity (Chapter 420-04-010 WAC).

¹Chapter 77.85 Revised Code of Washington