

Cabinet Agencies' Performance Audit Action Item(s) & Status

Department of Fish and Wildlife Delayed-Release Chinook Salmon

(See also [cabinet agency response](#) for full context to Washington State Auditor's Office (SAO) [report](#), April 2010)

Agencies included in the performance audit: Department of Fish and Wildlife

SAO Issues Summary:

1. The Department does not meet the statutory goal to release three million delayed-release Chinook salmon annually. However, the goal does not align with hatchery management best practice, and the low contribution rate and high cost per contributed fish make it an ineffective and inefficient strategy for restoring the Puget Sound recreational fishery.

The table below shows the current status of action items the agency initiated to address issues identified in the performance audit report. Please see the [cabinet agency response](#) for additional context and any additional steps already taken.

For an explanation of the columns below, [see the legend](#).

Issue	Status	Action Steps	Lead Agency	Due Date	Current Resources?	Budget Impact?	Legislation Required?	Notes
1	Completed	The Department will develop and formalize by December 31, 2010 a definition for delayed-release Chinook as it relates to which yearlings to count in the Program.	DFW	12/10	Yes	No	No	A delayed released Chinook is retained in the hatchery for about 15 months, then released into freshwater. Whereas a Chinook not delayed is released from the hatchery into freshwater in one to three months.