



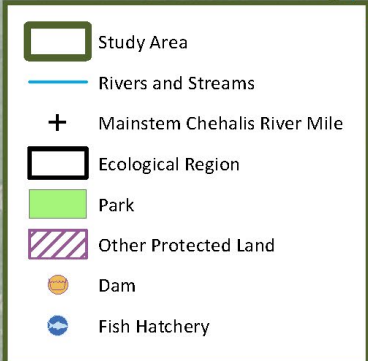
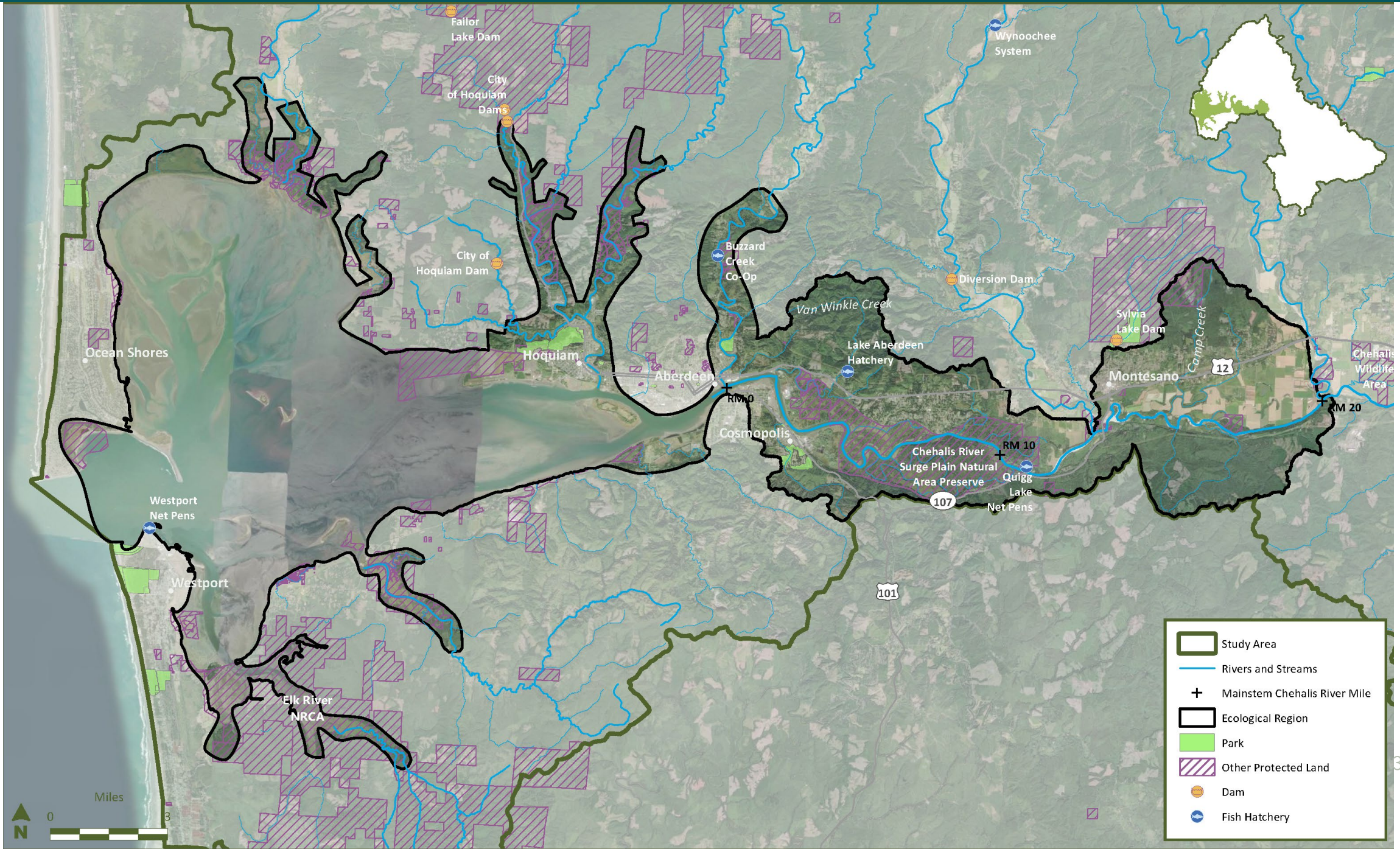
*ASRP Symposium, April 17, 2024*

## **Estuary Panel Discussion**



# DOOR IN, DOOR OUT, IMPORTANCE OF THE ESTUARY

- Estuary was not specifically included in the 2019 ASRP
  - Tidal reaches of tributaries were included
  - Plan to supplement later (now)
- All anadromous fish in the basin pass through the estuary as juveniles and adults
- Species that only or primarily occur in this region that are indicator species for ASRP - eulachon, green sturgeon, white sturgeon, surf smelt, herring, sand lance, Barrow's goldeneye



# CHANGES FROM HISTORICAL CONDITIONS

- Chehalis River distributary channels into the harbor were blocked or modified
- Creation of the navigation channel
- Development of Aberdeen, Hoquiam, Cosmopolis, and port
- Loss of over 2,000 acres of marsh and ~1,000 acres of forested swamp habitats
- Conversion of mudflats to deeper water
- Legacy of contamination
- Removal of wood

# KEY ISSUES

- Cumulative estuarine habitat loss
- Water and sediment quality
- Invasive species
- Shoreline armoring
- Changes in sediment delivery and transport
- Isolation of habitat and fish barriers
- Removal of wood
- Climate change and sea level rise

# DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Protect high-quality habitats in the Chehalis and other tributary surge plain/tidal reaches
- Restore forested riparian/floodplain upstream of existing forested tidal surge plain to prepare for effects of sea-level rise
- Protect and restore sufficient patches of habitat and cold-water refugia to enhance foraging for salmonids on their entire route through the estuary
- Restore shoreline riparian and wood as appropriate
- Remove creosote piles/piers
- Restore connectivity through removing/replacing tide gates, removing or opening up dikes/levees (roads)
- Remove hard armoring and fill to restore soft shorelines and intertidal habitats
- Support invasive species management and eelgrass restoration/resilience

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# ESTUARY PANEL

