

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

AD-HOC COASTAL STEELHEAD ADVISORY GROUP



WDFW



November 15th, 2022

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Thank you!

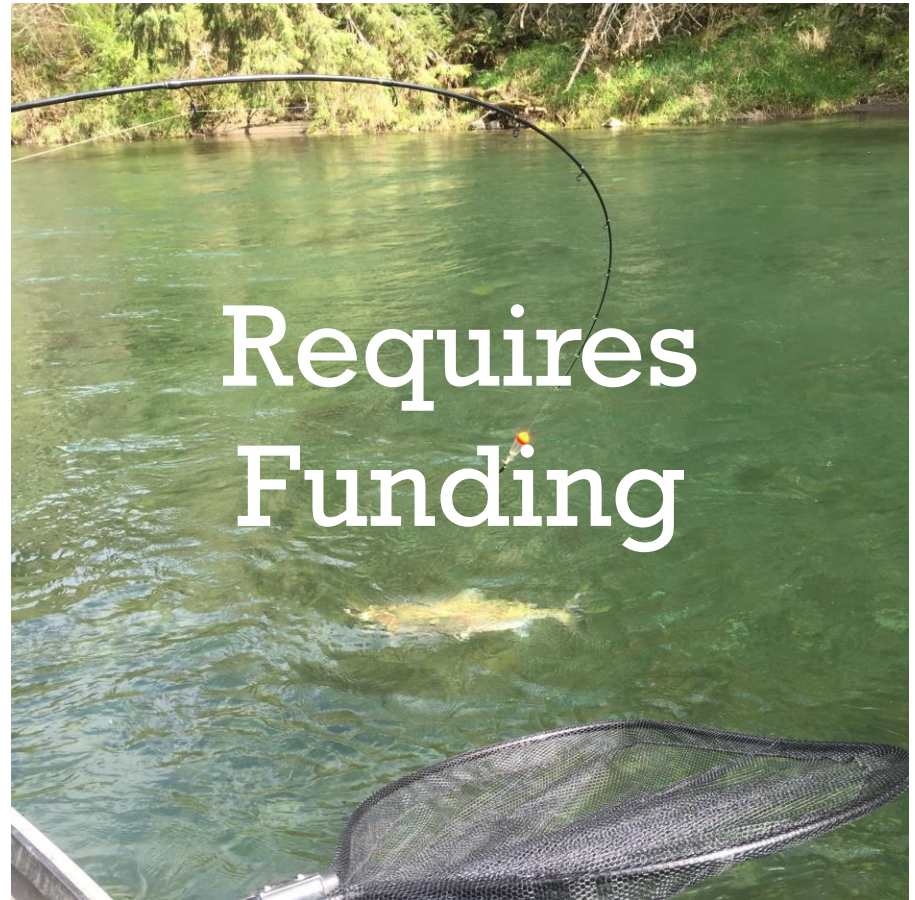
Final Meeting Overview

- Critical Research
- Budget
- Implementation Timeline
- Regional Management Plans
- Next Steps
- Reflections



Critical Research

- Data gaps limit managers
- Better information means more accurate and precise decision making
- Research is critical to gathering better info
- Without research and monitoring, continued uncertainty
- Uncertainty could lead to unintended impacts and/or fishery closures



Critical Research: In CSPIP

Full-text

- Sport Fishery Monitoring
- Marine Survival
- Juvenile Monitoring
- SONAR Monitoring
- Connecting Habitat Restoration to Steelhead Population Metrics
- Summer Steelhead
- Coastal Steelhead Fishery Human Dimensions

Additional

- Resident and Anadromous *O. mykiss* Interactions
- Catch and release mortality
- Impact of Fisheries Regulations on CPUE
- Redds per Spawner Estimates in Redd-Based Escapement Calculations
- Evaluation of the March 15th Cutoff Date for Identifying Hatchery vs. Wild Redds
- Effectiveness of Conservation Hatchery Programs



Critical Research (Examples)

Topic	Why we need more information
Summer steelhead	Run timing variation is critical to population viability. Don't know how many summer steelhead there are nor where they are → thwarts management
Redds per female expansions	Essential for redd-based escapement estimation. One-size fits all #s aren't realistic
Marine survival	Changing ocean conditions add complexity to traditional spawner-recruit relationships. Models w/covariates
SONAR	Escapement estimation possible in low-visibility + additional info (size, behavior, timing, speed etc.). In-season tool?
Fishery human dimensions	People-steelhead interactions: economic and cultural significance, regulatory preferences, stewardship, etc.
Sport fishery monitoring	More accurate and precise impact estimates. Encounter rates, CPUE, run timing, etc. Informed fisheries



Critical Research: Discussion

- *What do you see as the highest priority research needs? Why? How should we address those needs? Where will the funding (for personnel, equipment, etc.) come from?*
- *What role can stakeholders and external partners play in supporting and collaborating on coastal steelhead research?*
- *Are there additional research topics that should be mentioned in the CSPIP?*



Budget

- **Jobs:** 2.24 million per year for 21.3 full-time equivalents (FTEs); includes indirect costs
 - Spawner abundance estimates
 - Sport fishery monitoring
 - SONAR
 - Research
 - Implementation and RMP development
- **Goods and services:** \$801K first year, \$647K per year thereafter
 - Biological sampling
 - Equipment and maintenance



Budget

- **Total biennial budget: 5.9 million**
- **Failure to fund CSPIP could:**
 - Continue or increase uncertainty regarding coastal steelhead fishery impacts, which could limit fishery sustainability and opportunity
 - Hinder the development of Regional Management Plans, including long-term coastal steelhead conservation objectives and Management Strategy Evaluations
 - Slow the pace of critical scientific research needed to inform steelhead fishery management



Strategic Plan Strategy

Aligns with the **WDFW 25-Year Strategic Plan** (2020): *A Path to an Improved Era for Fish, Wildlife and People*

- Proactively address conservation challenges,
- Engage communities through recreation and stewardship,
- Deliver science that informs Washington's most pressing fish and wildlife questions, and
- Model operational and environmental excellence.



Implementation Timeline

- **Funding request for 2023-2025 biennium**; starts July 2023
- **Implement strategy for 2023/24 steelhead season** (not this upcoming season)
- **Includes immediate and multi-year processes**
 - Spawner abundance estimates and fishery monitoring
 - Research projects
 - RMP development w/comanagers (~3 years)
 - Hatchery operations
- **Systematic re-evaluation** of successes, failures, implementation progress every **5 years** → accountability



Budget and Timeline: Discussion

- *What should be the contingency plan if the CSPIP budget is not funded? What would be the associated ramifications?*
- *How can we collaboratively implement the CSPIP? What role should stakeholders and partner organizations play?*
- *What hurdles must we jump over or remove in the path to implementation?*





5 Minute Break

Regional Management Plans

- CSPIP steppingstone
- CSPIP: \$300K; budget request: \$5.9M
- RMP as “next step” according to SSMP
 - Inclusive of FMEP info
 - Comprehensive MSEs
 - Long-term conservation objectives



Adaptive Management

	Ideal	Maintenance	Transitional	Emergency
Regime Thresholds <i>(Multiple VSP Parameters)</i>				
Monitoring and Evaluation		<i>This is a potential conceptual framework. Cells are intentionally left blank.</i>		
Fisheries Regulations				
Hatchery Operations				



RMP: Discussion

- *What would an adaptive management framework that includes long-term conservation objectives look like? What do you think of adding an “Ideal” regime?*
- *How can the inclusion of future RMPs in the CSPIP facilitate our vision for next steps?*
- *How can WDFW best include the public, stakeholders, and external partners in the RMP development process?*





***Reflections, Next Steps, and
Wrap-Up***

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Thank you again!

Zoom reminders for public comments

- You can type a question through the Q&A function or ask a question by “raising your hand.” If you’re calling in you can raise a hand by dialing *9 on your phone, or if you’re calling from a computer, you can find the hand icon at the bottom of your screen.
- To speak you will need to unmute yourself by using the mute button on your computer or mobile device or enter *6 if you’re calling from a land line.
- If you have a technical issue, please drop us a note in the Q&A and we will help you through it.
- You can also submit general feedback on coastal steelhead management at wdfw.wa.gov/coastal-steelhead

