

Puget Sound Steelhead Advisory Group (PSSAG) Meeting Notes

March 29, 2017, 10AM – 5PM

Lynnwood Embassy Suites, St. Helens Room (20610 44th Ave West, Lynnwood, Washington, 98036)

Draft Notes April 14, 2017 by Cole Caldwell and Jim Scott

Agenda Items discussed at the meeting:

- 1) **Introduction**
- 2) **Mission and Objectives**
 - What are we trying to achieve?
 - Six months from now, what would you like for us to have accomplished?
- 3) **Lunch - Provided**
- 4) **Ground Rules**
 - How do we make our group most effective?
- 5) **Sideboards**
 - What do we need to consider as we develop our plan?
- 6) **Information Needs**
 - What foundational information is it important for the entire group to receive?
- 7) **Future Meetings**
 - What should be the frequency of our meetings
 - What are the dates, times, and locations for our next two meetings?
- 8) **Public Comment**
- 9) **Thoughts on our First Meeting**

Notes from the first meeting per agenda item:

- **Common Themes from group introductions and stakeholder perspectives**
 - Provide steelhead and steelhead fishing opportunities for future generations
 - To be able to catch steelhead
 - To have health steelhead populations
 - Recover steelhead populations
 - Protect opportunities for wild and hatchery steelhead (recovery and existence) and for a diversity of people/user groups (recreation, commercial, economic, education, etc.)
- **Mission**
 - A sample mission statement was presented that stated: “Broadly supported vision and strategies for steelhead conservation and management in Puget Sound”
 - The group wants the mission to somehow related to the Statewide Steelhead Management Plan and Steelhead Recovery Plan
 - PSHAAC should also be used as a reference when creating the mission statement and for decisions
 - Many suggestions were captured that will need to be added to this sample mission statement and then reviewed by the PSSAG. Examples included: management and population language inclusions; the group would like to add the wording “over time” or “lasting”; opportunity type and how that opportunity works over time should be addressed in the statement; the statement should incorporate adaptability/flexibility (e.g. technology, time, environmental stochasticity, population changes, etc.) and incorporate experimentation to compare and measure success; the statement should have consistency with regulations, policy, management, Boldt decision, etc., and the statement should also acknowledge risk and uncertainty.

Next Step. Jim Scott was given permission to take the input and provide a revised draft mission statement for consideration by the group at the next meeting.

- **Specific Goals and Objectives**

- The group would like a definition of a Wild Steelhead Gene Bank defined.
- The group wants notes/minutes taken at each meeting and available for later review/use
- A white board would be helpful for future meetings.
- The group wants to identify specific rivers involved in this process and to have them documented in writing.
- The group wants web links to baseline data made available.
- The group suggested that an online discussion forum may be beneficial, but there was also recognition of the importance of face-to-face discussions.
- The PSSAG members are and should remain committed to the process.
- The group would like to mesh habitat, biology, management, and economics decisions together using this process.
- The PSSAG should seek to increase steelhead population abundance while minimizing negative impacts on populations.
- The PSSAG should develop adaptive management strategies for chosen rivers that get the most out of the season and experience.
- The PSSAG should produce a report (formal deliverables/product) that has specific chapters assigned for each watershed or river with bullet points highlighting work decisions, strategies, and state what the decision is trying to achieve.
- The PSSAG should identify and communicate action benchmarks/thresholds to guide decisions. An example of this is to tie decisions to current regulations, NOAA, management plans, etc.
- The PSSAG should identify and establish baseline data and trends from a given point in time for comparisons.
- The PSSAG should link developed requirements of the ESA into the process
- The PSSAG should incorporate and represent the anglers perspectives
- The PSSAG should recognize and promote different types of fishing strategies in different watersheds and consider effectiveness of different techniques on systems (e.g. catch efficiency).
- The PSSAG should use statistics to support decisions.
- The PSSAG should identify wild and hatchery river systems.
- The PSSAG should utilize new and/or different options to meet the objectives and mission.
- The PSSAG should identify tools that will help the process.
- The PSSAG should develop evaluation criteria for process success.
- The PSSAG should clarify, identify, and state what success will look like/be.
- The PSSAG should communicate and seek to gain commission, NOAA, and tribal support throughout the process.
- The PSSAG should communicate with members of their constituency throughout the process.
- The PSSAG should clarify, state, and identify failure and consequences.
- The PSSAG should meet budgetary constraints.
- The PSSAG should seek to be aspirational but realistic.
- The PSSAG should incorporate survivability at sea into decision making processes, but focus on the big picture resolution (i.e. mission, goals, objectives, common themes).
- The PSSAG should focus on what we can do, not what we cannot do.
- The PSSAG should identify problems and commonalities with each issue on a case by case basis/approach.
- The PSSAG should seek to formulate plans that better understand and adapt to changes across time, space, and human population growth.

- The PSSAG should identify impacts on different user groups (or at a minimum appeal to different user groups)
- The PSSAG should promote consistent opportunities.

Next Step. Jim Scott was given permission to take the input and provide a first cut at objectives (“We would be successful if...”) for consideration by the group at the next meeting.

- **Ground Rules**

- No projectiles
- Be civil, respectful, patient, tolerant and understanding
- Try to see both sides
- Do your homework
- Stay on topic/agenda
- Show up and start on time
- Explore and identify compromise
- Don’t be judgmental and avoid bias
- Stay focused and concise on discussion/idea opinions
- Avoid blame
- Commit to understanding science information and understanding
- Be part of the team
- Focus on the mission not a person
- Listen and let others finish speaking before speaking
- Anyone can call for a break
- Information/data will be presented to Jim from the group before being added online
- At least 11 people should be in attendance at every meeting
- Jim will interrupt the process if these ground rules are broken

Next Step. Jim Scott was given permission to take the input and provide a first cut at ground rules for consideration by the group at the next meeting.

- **Sideboards**

- Budget constraints
- U.S. vs Washington State
- ESA, PSHAAC, Statutes
- State Steelhead Plan
- C-3619 Hatchery reform policy
- Human population pressure
- The WDFW/State mandate to enable legislation
- Catch accounting
- Litigation/settlement agreements

Next Step. Jim Scott was given permission to take the input and provide a first cut at sidenboards for consideration by the group at the next meeting.

- **Information Needs**

- Spawners and goals
- Hatchery effects by river
- Steelhead Science Paper
- Economics analysis
- Web links
- Staff summarization of key points related to major information sources
- Technical Recovery Team (TRT) populations

- Hatchery Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs)
- What's relevant from the ESA (4d criteria)
- Skagit Steelhead Fishery Plan
- Skagit Saltonstall-Kennedy report
- NOAA 5-year status reviews
- Marine Survival Study
- NOAA early winter B-OP
- Berijikian study on Hood Canal hatchery conservation programs
- Licenses sold and catch information
- Hatchery programs in Puget Sound
- Annual co-managers fishery plans
- Key science papers
- Steelhead recovery plans
- Wild Steelhead Gene Bank information (distributed and received)

Next Step: WDFW will begin to compile this information on a web page accessible to the advisory group.

- **Future PSSAG Meetings**

- All weekday meetings will occur from 1200-1900
- All weekend meeting will occur from 0930-1630
- Meetings will occur in two week intervals
- Meetings will occur on weekdays and weekends, with an effort to schedule the next meeting on a weekend.
- April 24th will be the next PSSAG meeting
- Meetings will generally occur at the Lynnwood Embassy Suites, St. Helens Room 20610 44th Ave West, Lynnwood, Washington, 98036

Next Step: WDFW will initiate a Doodle poll for the next two meetings.

- **Public Comment**

- None noted/All members of the public passed on providing public comment at this time.

- **Thoughts on our First Meeting**

- The group should record and communicate any meeting accomplishments to others (it was suggested that we keep this concise, possibly five bullet points or less)
- The group would like the next meeting discussion topics/agenda sent out ASAP and well before the next meeting.)
- Help and discussion on sideboard information is helpful and appreciated
- Consider nominating people to consult with between meetings
- Very happy with the outcome of the first meeting and confident in the process
- Concerns were expressed about sharing information openly
- Consider providing everyone with a binder (with dividers) to track the process, log ideas/conclusions, and for information sharing.
- The group should focus on common themes to guide progress and make decisions
- The group should be used to form policy – we need to think big!!!
- The process is bound by reality and money. We should not lose sight of that fact.
- The group is impressive (very smart and very important!)
- Group members are thankful for being included and willing to work with others
- This group and process is good for learning from others
- Small wins will amount to something bigger

- Put a picture up at each meeting of a steelhead and put this same picture on the binder so that everyone can see and be reminded about why they are here and the mission.
- Create a one-liner (suggested items included: make steelhead great again, or keep steelhead great)