

Puget Sound Steelhead Advisory Group (PSSAG) Meeting Notes

June 1, 2017, 12PM – 7PM

Hampton Inn, Lynnwood, Washington, 98036

Drafted by Jim Scott (June 21, 2017)

Key Messages to Stakeholders Agreed at Meeting Conclusion

- We have begun to dig into Hood Canal.
- We are looking for responsible fishing opportunities.
- We understand the importance of ensuring fishing opportunities are provided in a manner consistent with achieving our conservation objectives.
- One potential strategy that we are considering is the use of permit-based access/use systems to control fishing effort, ensure timely reporting of catches, and improve information collection.

Agenda Items discussed at the meeting:

1) Introduction

2) Review Updated Draft Objectives

- Have we captured the updated objectives discussed at our May meeting?

3) Foundational Information

NOAA Evaluation of Fisheries Affecting ESA-listed Species, Susan Bishop

4) Hood Canal Steelhead

- Review iterative approach to recovery scenarios and establishing fishery objectives.
- Review Hood Canal recovery scenarios from May meeting.
- What are our aspirational objectives for Hood Canal recreational fisheries?

Hood Canal Steelhead (continued)

- Would an artificial production program help achieve conservation or fishery objectives?
- What is the proposed portfolio for Hood Canal steelhead to meet conservation objectives while providing sustainable fishing opportunities?

5) External Messages

- What are the 3-5 messages regarding this meeting that we want to provide to other interested stakeholder?

6) Public Comment

7) Thoughts on Meeting

Advisors Attending

Al Senyohl

Rich Simms

Jonathan Stumpf

Rob Masonis

Andy Marks

Roger Goodan

Curt Kraemer

David Yamashita

Jamie Glasgow

Gary Butrim

Public Attending

Nick Chambers

Presenters

Susan Bishop, NOAA Fisheries

Staff Attending

Jim Scott (facilitator)

Jennifer Whitney

Notes from meeting #4 per agenda item:

1) Introduction

- Updated versions of all documents in the Status tab were distributed.
- The group discussed the potential use of an alternate when an advisory group member is not able to attend a meeting. The group agreed to have the facilitator incorporate the following points in the ground rules:
 - Maintaining consistent participation by advisory group members is important to build the collaborative relationships necessary for the group to be successful.
 - Meetings will be scheduled on dates when at least 11 advisors indicate that they are able to attend.
 - An advisor who is unable to attend a meeting will notify the facilitator as soon as feasible.
 - An alternate may participate in advisory group discussions if:
 - the alternate has regularly attended previous advisory group meetings; and
 - has received prior approval from the facilitator.
 - The facilitator will initiate a discussion regarding the importance of attendance with any advisory group member who has repeatedly missed meetings.

2) Review Updated Draft Objectives

- Introductory sentence: Add reference to ESA-listed steelhead.
- Objective 1: Replace “promoting” with “contributing” to recovery”
- Objective 1: Add “Preserve a legacy of Puget Sound wild steelhead for future generations by...promoting”
- Objective 2: Replace “review” with “feedback” and add concept of iterative engagement
- Objective 5: Add “preservation of cultural heritage”.
- Objective 10: Remove parenthetical statement
- Objective 14: Eliminate

3) Foundational Information Notes

- “Fishery Management and the ESA: Puget Sound Steelhead”, Susan Bishop, NOAA Fisheries
 - Listed as threatened – 2007
 - Primary limiting factor: present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of habitat
 - Elimination of direct harvest of wild steelhead in the mid-1990s has largely address this [harvest] threat
 - Harvest rates continue to decline
 - Current harvest has ESA authorization
 - Guiding Concepts
 - Listed unit is DPD; populations=building blocks
 - NMFS must assess distribution of risk across populations
 - Assess risk relative to survival and recovery of DPS
 - Recovery criteria, Viable Salmonid Populations (VSP)
 - Regulatory Options to Allow Take
 - Incidental
 - Section 7 (Federal actions)– resource management plans, construction, operation, and maintenance of a facility, hatchery-related actions, etc.

- Section 10(a)(1)(B) (non-Federal action) – State sportfishing programs, nonlisted fish stocks programs, and other instream or watershed activities which may affect listed species
 - Incidental or Directed
 - 4(d) Limits 4/6 (State/Co-manager) – harvest-related actions (co-manager, state, and tribal fishery plans; state fisheries; tribal fisheries)
 - Directed
 - Section 10(a)(1)(A)(non-Federal actions)- Scientific purposes or to enhance the propagation or survival of the affected species, e.g., surveys, genetic research, hatchery recovery operations
- 4(d) Plans Must Address:
 - What action is proposed, how it will be done, and where the action will be conducted
 - Population structure and status
 - Magnitude and distribution of impacts
 - Criteria for how we will know if it is working
- Steps and General Times – expect ESA and NEPA processes to require at least 12-18 months
- Plan for Success
 - Develop plan with map and recovery criteria in mind
 - Choose a regulatory option consistent with action
 - Make sure plan addresses all the criteria
 - Transparent assumption, account for uncertainty
 - Larger scope increases complexity but allow more control, increases flexibility in how to draw the map
 - Describe how harvest in other areas/other managers fit into picture
 - Work with NOAA Fisheries in develop plan
 - More detail, fewer assumptions, more efficient process

4) Hood Canal Steelhead Notes

- The group reviewed the iterative process that would be used to develop the portfolios:
 - Part A. Develop recovery scenario
 - Part B. Develop aspirational fishery objectives
 - Part C. Identify potential hatchery programs
 - Part D. Construct draft portfolio
 - Evaluate for alignment with conservation objectives
- Subgroups developed draft portfolios that are summarized in the attached tables.
- The Department will convene technical folks to assess how to provide an initial, coarse-scale assessment of the internal consistency of the draft portfolios.
- As the portfolios are developed, we should consider the protection provided to resident fish and ensuring that the diversity of steelhead is maintained. For example, even though a summer population may not have been identified by the Technical Recovery Team, the diversity of run timing should be protected and restored.

5) External Messages

- We have begun to dig into Hood Canal.
- We are looking for responsible fishing opportunities.
- We understand the importance of ensuring fishing opportunities are provided in a manner consistent with achieving our conservation objectives.
- One potential strategy that we are considering is the use of permit-based access/use systems to control fishing effort, ensure timely reporting of catches, and improve information collection.

6) Public Comment

- Pleased to be able to be participating.

7) Thoughts on Meeting

- Additional information that would be useful:
 - Map of critical habitat
 - Maps of the presence of other ESA-listed species
 - Map with locations of all hatcheries
 - Annual state-tribal management plans
 - Access for recreational anglers

Hood Canal Planning Template
Draft Proposed Portfolio, Option 1 V1.1

Source: June 1, 2017 Meeting of Puget Sound Steelhead Advisory Group

Population	Contribution to Recovery	Conservation Program (Y or N)	Fishery			Hatchery Program		
			Directed at Wild Fish (Y or N)	Type	Aspirational Objective	Strategy (size)	PNI Criteria	Effective pHOS or Gene Flow Limit
East Hood Canal Tributaries Winter Run	Stabilizing	N	N	Catch & Keep		Segregated		Less restrictive than for Contributing designation.
South Hood Canal Tributaries Winter Run	Contributing							
Skokomish River Winter Run	Primary		Yes	Catch & Release Individual Permit	Feb. – April 360 angler days			
West Hood Canal Tributaries Winter Run	Primary							

Hood Canal Planning Template
Draft Proposed Portfolio, Option 2 V1.1

Source: June 1, 2017 Meeting of Puget Sound Steelhead Advisory Group

Population	Contribution to Recovery	Conservation Program (Y or N)	Fishery			Hatchery Program		
			Directed at Wild Fish (Y or N)	Type	Aspirational Objective	Strategy (size)	PNI Criteria	Effective pHOS or Gene Flow Limit
East Hood Canal Tributaries Winter Run	Stabilizing							
South Hood Canal Tributaries Winter Run	Contributing	N	No	Tahuya Only Catch & Release	Dec. – Jan. 1,000 angler days	Segregated 10,000 smolts		Gene Flow < 0.04
Skokomish River Winter Run	Contributing	N	No	Catch & Keep	Dec. – Jan. 300 catch 2,000 angler days	Segregated 100,000 smolts		Gene Flow < 0.04
			Yes	Catch & Release ¹	Feb. – April 800 encounters 3,200 angler days			
West Hood Canal Tributaries Winter Run	Primary	N	No	Quilcene Only Catch & Keep	Dec. – Jan. 100 catch 1,000 angler days	Segregated 130,000 smolts		Gene Flow < 0.02

^{1/} Trigger point of 2,000 spawners

Hood Canal Planning Template
Draft Proposed Portfolio, Option 3 V1.1

Source: June 1, 2017 Meeting of Puget Sound Steelhead Advisory Group

Population	Contribution to Recovery	Conservation Program (Y or N)	Fishery			Hatchery Program		
			Directed at Wild Fish (Y or N)	Type	Aspirational Objective	Strategy (size)	PNI Criteria	Effective pHOS or Gene Flow Limit
East Hood Canal Tributaries Winter Run	Contributing	Yes ¹		Catch & Keep		Segregated ²		Gene Flow < 0.04
South Hood Canal Tributaries Winter Run	Contributing							
Skokomish River Winter Run	Primary	Yes ¹	Yes	Catch & Release ³	Feb. – April 1,875 angler days			
West Hood Canal Tributaries Winter Run	Primary	Yes ¹						

¹ Complete current research study with evaluation of conservation program extending through 2022 in the Dewatto, Skokomish, and Duckabush rivers. Manage West Hood Canal Tributaries for natural production absent a compelling science-based reason to continue the conservation hatchery program in one of more these rivers beyond 2022.

² Smolt releases would not be initiated prior to 2021 to ensure that adult did not return prior to the conclusion of the research study in 2022. Location may be in the Dewatto River or other location.

³ Fishery would not be initiated prior to the conclusion of the research study in 2022.

Hood Canal Planning Template
Draft Proposed Portfolio, Option 4 V1.1

Source: June 1, 2017 Meeting of Puget Sound Steelhead Advisory Group

Population	Contribution to Recovery	Conservation Program (Y or N)	Fishery			Hatchery Program		
			Directed at Wild Fish (Y or N)	Type	Aspirational Objective	Strategy (size)	PNI Criteria	Effective pHOS or Gene Flow Limit
East Hood Canal Tributaries Winter Run	Contributing							
South Hood Canal Tributaries Winter Run	Stabilizing							
Skokomish River Winter Run	Primary		Yes	Catch & Release Individual Permit	Feb. – April			
West Hood Canal Tributaries Winter Run	Contributing							

Hood Canal Planning Template
Draft Proposed Portfolio, Option 5 V1.1

Source: June 1, 2017 Meeting of Puget Sound Steelhead Advisory Group

Habitat

- Continue to fund habitat restoration and protection projects in the watersheds, with an emphasis on fish passage restoration at barrier culverts within and above anadromy. NOAA's Puget Sound Steelhead Viability Criteria (2013) states "The goal of recovery is to restore or repair ecological processes that lead to long-term sustainability of natural resources."

Fisheries

- Encourage the transition of non-selective tribal gears to alternatives that improve survival of non-target bycatch.
- Allow limited C&R fisheries on wild steelhead in the Hood Canal DIPs where we have determined that the target populations are healthy enough (via a VSP metric that addresses risk and uncertainty, TBD) to sustain an acceptable rate of mortality. Limited catch and kill fisheries on wild steelhead may come later when a second, higher, VSP metric threshold is crossed or the MPG is deemed viable. No Chambers Creek / segregated programs in the foreseeable future with wild abundance as low as it is and segregation as imperfect as it is.

Conservation Hatchery Programs

- Complete NOAA's conservation hatchery experiment in Hood Canal, and consider continuing or expanding that program pending the results and conclusions of the research.

Population	Contribution to Recovery	Conservation Program (Y or N)	Fishery			Hatchery Program		
			Directed at Wild Fish (Y or N)	Type	Aspirational Objective	Strategy (size)	PNI Criteria	Effective pHOS or Gene Flow Limit
East Hood Canal Tributaries Winter Run	Contributing							
South Hood Canal Tributaries Winter Run	Contributing							
Skokomish River Winter Run	Primary		Yes ¹	Catch & Release ¹	Feb. – April ¹			
West Hood Canal Tributaries Winter Run	Primary							

^{1/} Trigger point to be determined.

