

Puget Sound Steelhead Advisory Group (PSSAG) Meeting Notes

November 5, 2018, noon - 7PM

Embassy Suites, Lynnwood, Washington, 98036

Drafted by Jim Scott

Agenda Items:

1) Introduction

2) Advisor Perspectives – Accomplishments & Pushing Forward

3) Confirm Puget Sound Portfolio

4) Discussion of PSSAG Habitat Recommendations

5) External Messages

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

6) Public Comment (maximum of 3 minutes per person)

7) Thoughts on Meeting (quick comment limited to a maximum of 30 seconds per person)

Advisors Attending

Jonathan Stumpf

Curt Kraemer

Al Senyohl

Roger Goodan

Mark Spada

David Yamashita

Andy Marks

Gary Butrim

Jamie Glasgow

Curt Wilson

Rob Masonis

Rich Simms

Derek Day

Public Attending

Nick Chambers

Staff Attending

Jim Scott (facilitator)

Jennifer Whitney

Edward Eleazer

Notes from the meeting per agenda item:

Introduction

- Jim distributed the agenda and draft notes from the Sept. 10 meeting. Advisors were asked to review the draft notes and provide Jim (via e-mail) with any proposed revisions.

Advisor Perspectives – Accomplishments & Pushing Forward

- The advisors discussed the substantial accomplishments of the PSSAG, the value of “being together”, the “give and take” that had occurred on multiple issues, and the importance of completing the PSSAG recommendations.
- The group identified multiple types of communications for a range of audiences, including a flyer highlighting PSSAG recommendations, a complete report, and a PowerPoint presentation.
- A draft outline was developed for the report (Attachment 1) and each advisor was asked to identify 3-5 themes for an Executive Summary (Attachment 2).
- Rob Masonis agreed to write a draft Forward for the report.

Discussion of PSSAG Habitat Recommendations

- The advisors discussed the draft Habitat Recommendations from June 25, 2018. Concerns were expressed that the identification of a limited number of specific actions implied that these were the only actions necessary. The group agreed to remove these specific actions.

The group deferred discussion of “Confirm Puget Sound Portfolio” until the next meeting.

Attachment 1. Draft outline for PSSAG report.

“Catchy Title”

Foreward

Executive Summary – Clearly identify “ask” and who is requested to implement (WDFW, comanagers, legislature, NOAA)

Purpose – How PSSAG started, who participated, and who they represent

Process – Education of staff and advisers, pulled to focal point of watershed-specific strategies within Puget Sound conservation framework

Habitat

Puget Sound Portfolio

Hood Canal and Strait of Juan de Fuca Major Population Group

Recommendations

Funding and Resource Needs

Central and South Puget Sound

Recommendations

Funding and Resource Needs

Northern Cascades

Recommendations

Funding and Resource Needs

References

Attachment 2. Potential Messages for Executive Summary.

Puget Sound Steelhead Advisory Group

- 1) Must speak with one voice
- 2) Comprised of passionate and diverse advisors
- 3) Committed to speaking to future, not reclaiming the past
- 4) Prepared to sell to Director, FWC, legislature, and NOAA

High Level – Vision

- 1) Objective
- 2) Don't forget steelhead
- 3) Portfolio to a) recover endangered species and b) provide fishing opportunity
- 4) Restore greatest gamefish and the Washington State fish from 5% of the historical abundance
- 5) Steelhead will face a difficult environment in the future (multiple advisors)
- 6) The portfolio and restoration of steelhead will be good for WDFW
- 7) Steelhead are the Washington State fish (multiple advisors)
- 8) Compare historical & current fisheries and hatchery programs
- 9) Portfolio protects steelhead and provides future fishing opportunities
- 10) Portfolio considers conservation, fishing opportunities, and economics
- 11) Need to take lead in driving recovery forward – no one else is
- 12) Identify how all sectors need to contribute

Conservation

- 1) The declining status of steelhead is a coastwide concern.
- 2) Need progress on habitat and predation
- 3) The portfolio designates some rivers for wild fish production
- 4) Must have fully functional habitat
- 5) Conservation is of paramount importance
- 6) It is not enough to just hold the line, must work to recovery steelhead
- 7) Consistent framework but tailor strategies to each watershed and population
- 8) The comanagers have limited control over the factors limiting steelhead populations, but are asked to sacrifice more than others
- 9) Describe how PSSAG portfolio relates to Puget Sound recovery plan
- 10) PSSAG defines recovery qualitatively and includes the full breadth of conservation, economic, and sustainable fishing opportunities described in the vision.
- 11) Build diverse wild steelhead populations where best able.
- 12) Critically important cultural indicator
- 13) Current status is about 5% of historical level
- 14) No other group is focused on restoring Puget Sound steelhead
- 15) We have done this – need to own it.
- 16) Seek to rebuild robust, self-sustaining populations that can support responsible fishing in the future.
- 17) With All-Hs contributing, build resiliency to climate change and invest in the future.

Fishing Opportunity

- 1) Portfolio seeks to increase fishing opportunity
- 2) Fishing is a legitimate activity with more benefits than impacts. It maintains support for recover and habitat protection
- 3) Portfolio seeks to provide diverse fishing opportunities
- 4) Fisheries need to reflect today's environment
- 5) Providing fishing opportunities is dependent on wild steelhead conservation
- 6) Anglers can adapt faster than steelhead
- 7) Comanagers have done their part by reducing fishery exploitation rates

Economics

- 1) Rebuilding steelhead and steelhead fisheries will bring in anglers from outside the state (destination fishery) and provide a significant economic boost (multiple advisors)
- 2) Sustainable fisheries are dependent on wild steelhead conservation
- 3) Steelhead should be used in the most economically beneficial manner
- 4) Steelhead should not be allowed to be transported or sold

Hatcheries

- 1) Hatcheries have role
- 2) Increase to maximum production where portfolio identifies that management is focused on hatchery-origin steelhead
- 3) Upgrade hatchery facilities
- 4) Hatchery management should be science-based with adaptive management
- 5) Must understand full costs of hatchery programs (i.e., include monitoring, management, hatchery culture)

Learning and Adaptive Management

- 1) Adaptive management essential
- 2) Hatchery management should be science-based with adaptive management
- 3) Commitment to learning with smart experiments to fill key knowledge gaps
- 4) Monitoring is critically important – must have good headlights