

Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (SRC)
Meeting Summary March 28, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Port Gamble S’Klallam Longhouse, Kingston WA 98346

ATTENDEES

Representing

In Attendance

ENVIRONMENT Long Live the Kings	Jacques White
ENVIRONMENT League of Women's Voters	Ann Aagaard
FEDERAL EPA	Peter Murchie
FEDERAL NOAA	Elizabeth Babcock
TRIBAL Lummi Nation	GI James
TRIBAL Nisqually Tribe	David Troutt
TRIBAL Point No Point Treaty Council	Cynthia Rossi
TRIBAL Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe	Paul McCollum
TRIBAL Skokomish Tribe	Dave Herrera
TRIBAL Suquamish Tribe	Rob Purser
TRIBAL Swinomish & Sauk-Suiattle	Amy Trainer
STATE WDNR	Kirsten Feifel
STATE Ecology	Tom Buroker
STATE WDFW	Julie Watson
STATE WSCC	Ron Schultz
STATE PSP	Laura Blackmore
STATE PSP	Tristan Contesse
STATE PSP	Amber Moore
STATE PSP	Dan Calvert
STATE PSP	Debb Hagen
WATERSHEDS Cities	Chance Berthiaume
WATERSHEDS Hood Canal Coordinating Council WRIA 16 &17	Scott Brewer, Alicia Olivas
WATERSHEDS Island WRIA 6	Dawn Pucci
WATERSHEDS Nisqually WRIA 11	Chris Ellings
WATERSHEDS NOPLD Dungeness & Elwha WRIA 18 & 19	Hansi Hals
WATERSHEDS Puyallup/Chambers WRIA 10 & 12	Tom Kantz
WATERSHEDS San Juan WRIA 2	Byron Rot
WATERSHEDS Skagit WRIA 3 & 4	Richard Brocksmith
WATERSHEDS Snohomish WRIA 7	Rodney Pond, Keith Binkley
WATERSHEDS South Sound WRIA 13 & 14	Amy Hatch-Winecka, Evan Bauder, Tye Menser
WATERSHEDS Stillaguamish WRIA 5	Bill Blake
WATERSHEDS West Sound WRIA 15	Tom Ostrom, Kathy Peters
WATERSHEDS Green/Duwamish WRIA 9	Dennis Robertson, Doug Osterman, Suzanna Smith
Others	Keith Dublanica

Presenters

TRIBAL Skokomish Tribe
STATE PSP
UW
ESA
STATE PSP

Joseph Pavel, Alex Gouley
Stephanie Suter
Mary Ramirez
Abby Hook
Scott Redman

Absent

BUSINESS & AGRICULTURE WA Policy Center
BUSINESS & AGRICULTURE WA Forest Protection Association
ENVIRONMENT WA Environmental Council
FEDERAL USFWS
FEDERAL USACOE
FEDERAL USDA/NRCS
RECREATIONAL FISHING
TRIBAL Makah Tribe
TRIBAL Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
TRIBAL Stillaguamish Tribe
TRIBAL Tulalip Tribe
STATE Department of Agriculture
WATERSHEDS Counties
WATERSHEDS Nooksack WRIA 1
WATERSHEDS Lake WA/Cedar/Sammamish WRIA 8

Todd Myers
Jason Callahan
Mindy Roberts
Vacant
Laura Boerner
Vacant
Ryley Fee
Stephanie Martin
Randy Lumper
Pat Stevenson
Terry Williams
Evan Sheffels
Ken Dahlstedt
Vacant
Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz

Decisions:

MEETING SUMMARY [January 17, 2019 Meeting Summary](#)

- Dennis Robertson **MOTIONED** to approve the January 17, 2019 meeting summary, Paul McCollum **SECONDED** the motion and the SRC members in attendance **APPROVED** the January 17, 2019 meeting summary as presented.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND UPDATES

- David Troutt, Dave Herrera, Ryley Fee and Jay Manning were featured on KBTC Northwest Now TV program to share how the Tribes/anglers/environmental NGOs coalition came together to advocate for common goals around salmon habitat protection and restoration.
<https://www.pbs.org/video/salmon-recovery-fphllf/>
- Each spring the Snohomish Conservation District acknowledges the leadership of individuals and organizations who exemplify stewardship of natural resources. On April 25, 2019, Pat Stevenson – Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians Environmental Program Manager and SRC member – will be presented the Lifetime Achievement Award for his career in environmental protection. [RSVP here.](#)
- Fish sampling this week verified that salmon are using newly-accessible habitat at Smith Island; scientists caught a chum more than ½ mile up the east tidal channel.

SALMON RECOVERY MANAGER'S REPORT – Amber Moore

- Carrie Byron will join the Partnership on April 1, as the new PSAR Program Manager.
- This year Puget Sound Day on the Hill (PSDOTH) is May 14-16 in Washington, D.C. For the first time, it will occur in combination with Salmon Days on the Hill (SDOTH). Amber Moore is the lead for SDOTH, and the PSDOTH Steering Committee is meeting both on April 16 and May 1 to discuss the content of a fact sheet, supporting documents, and strategic meetings.
- NOAA, Long Live the Kings, WDFW, and tribes have begun meeting to discuss modeling for several recommendations from the Orca Task Force around hatchery, harvest and habitat. The proposed project will evaluate the potential for increased production and diversification of hatchery Chinook salmon, and possible fishing closures to increase prey availability for Southern Resident orcas.
- Amber walked the SRC through a table comparing the different budget proposals for the Partnership's budget priorities: [Comparison of Capital and Operating Budget Proposals](#). The Senate Operating Budget is expected today, March 28, or tomorrow.

Discussion:

- The SRC expressed disappointment in emerging budget figures for Puget Sound, as well as the fact that the Senate's proposed Capital Budget skips over the #2 PSAR Large Capital project and instead funds the #3 project.
- At the February 21, 2019 ECB meeting, the Board considered its 2019 work plan and there was strong interest in supporting local governments to make land use decisions that are consistent with Puget Sound recovery. It was noted that this could be a good cross-boards topic.

Decision

- Byron Rot **MOTIONED** for the SRC to communicate to decision-makers the consequences of skipping over projects on the PSAR Large Capital Projects list, Hansi Hals **SECONDED** the motion and the SRC members in attendance **APPROVED** the motion.

STEELHEAD RECOVERY PLAN

- Elizabeth Babcock noted the public comment period for the draft Steelhead Recovery Plan is ending today, March 28. NOAA will communicate in the coming months the timeline and process for responding to comments and finalizing the Recovery Plan.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Chair David Troutt asked to move the decision on the allocation formula for the 2019 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) to the May SRC meeting, so the SRC Executive Committee could form a recommendation to present to the SRC.

Decision:

- The SRC agreed to hold the decision on the allocation formula for the 2019 SRFB grant round until the May SRC meeting.

SKOKOMISH CHINOOK RECOVERY PLAN UPDATE [Key to Skokomish Recovery Plan Presentation](#)

Presenters: Dave Herrera, Joseph Pavel and Alex Gouley of the Skokomish Tribe

Highlights:

- Dave Herrera noted the final plan, approved by NOAA, was highly adaptive and years in the making. The keys to developing the hypotheses which led to the final recovery plan were the historic timing of Skokomish Chinook runs; existing conditions; and the Cushman Settlement in 2010.

- Joseph Pavel outlined the high level of emphasis that was placed on Chinook habitat restoration on the Skokomish, which was greatly altered through:
 - The Cushman Hydro Project that dewatered much of the Skokomish North Fork for over 75 years, vastly changing the flow regime and promoting aggradation downstream.
 - Historic land use practices on the South Fork led to a highly erosive sub basin and aggradation downstream.
 - Diking and filling the Skokomish valley to convert it to agricultural land resulted in a loss of tidal and channel complexity.
- The Cushman Settlement should restore flow regime on the North Fork over time and combined with more than 900 acres and 26 miles of watershed restoration actions in the valley, normative habitat functions will be restored for chinook populations.
- Wild, spring- and fall-timed Chinook ceased to exist after 1982, and the new hatchery fall stock has gradually become a summer/fall stock that struggles with dry river conditions. There is now a mismatch between existing life histories and habitat characteristics. Population recovery will require restoring life histories that are adapted to the range of environmental conditions that are being restored in the basin.

Discussion:

- The initial Recovery Plan focused on South Fork populations, but the population was a bad fit for the river. The Cushman Settlement shifted the focus to the North Fork, and a spring stock closer to historical timing that also helped ensure separation between the early and late returns.
 - This approach should benefit Southern Resident orcas, which suffer from months where Chinook availability in Puget Sound is limited. The historic Chinook returns of March through October have dwindled and now mainly occur in August and September.
 - Current marine survival study findings confirm that a lack of stock diversity and timing are a problem; with all stocks out-migrating at the same time, food abundance and receiving areas are limiting. This situation is projected to worsen with climate change, and stock diversity will become increasingly important.
- Habitat is imperative and restoring estuaries like the Skokomish that are not bordered by development is key to Chinook survival. Once the barriers were removed in the Skokomish valley the tide quickly began restoring the valley to a natural estuary that benefits fish and flood control.
- The Skokomish Tribe will share advice with SRC members whose watersheds have similar conditions to the Skokomish, and also recommended that watersheds undertaking chapter updates consider the potential to recover functionally extinct populations of Chinook – not just those that were listed.

COMMON INDICATORS [Briefing Memo and Attachment](#), [Common Indicators Presentation](#), [Tracking Estuary Extent and Recovery Presentation](#)

Presenters: Stephanie Suter, PSP & Mary Ramirez, UW

Highlights:

- Stephanie explained how Partnership staff have been working with watersheds, technical experts, and the Vital Sign leads to develop protocols for measuring Common Indicators. Results showing status and trends of Chinook habitat condition will be reported to the SRC, recovery region partners, and stakeholders and will be included in the State of the Sound, the State of the Salmon, and the State of the Watersheds reports.
- Mary presented on one of the first completed protocols, the estuary indicator. The indicator uses a GIS approach, consistently applied over all 16 major deltas to create a common language for

measuring estuaries and tracking progress across watersheds. The timing of restoration and the status the of each delta was shown that breaks out the estuary extent into:

- Functional channels (functional is defined as channels and wetlands with full connection and exchange of natural tidal flows that support Chinook salmon and their prey)
 - Functional tidal flat/complex
 - Functional tidal wetland
 - Potential estuary
- This reporting clearly defines the 3,142 acres of estuarine wetlands restored to full tidal flooding and the remaining acres needed to meet the 7,380 acres Vital Sign Indicator 2020 Target.

Discussion:

- Federal partners expressed interest in aligning this body of work with Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP) planning and funding.

APPROACH TO CHINOOK RECOVERY IN PUGET SOUND [Briefing Memo and Attachment](#)

Presenter: Abby Hook, ESA

Highlights:

- In September the SRC adopted four refresh recommendations and asked the Executive Committee (EC) to begin developing an implementation approach for each. The SRC discussed the current status of each recommendation, and the roles of members and subcommittees in generating content for the SRC to consider, as well as how an upcoming Chinook Synthesis report may provide information that could inform the prioritization and sequencing of Chinook recovery efforts in Puget Sound.

Discussion:

- *Recommendation 1:* Improve strategic funding approach with direct high-level outreach to ongoing parallel processes (e.g., Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force, ESHB 6091 implementation, Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board plans, Pacific Salmon Treaty project funding, FEMA funding streams for flood hazard mitigation, etc.).
 - Clear, simplified communication for both the general public and elected officials is insufficient to garner political support needed to compete against other societal needs for limited state funding. Communication needs to tell positive stories showing success and outline how spending X will result in Y.
 - The non-profits in the SRC discussed building an effective caucus for Puget Sound.
 - Several possibilities were discussed to streamline funding requests and secure new funding sources. The concepts were similar to those brought forth by the SRC Funding Subcommittee, as well as those being explored in the Mobilizing Funding report, due out in August.
 - SRC members requested an in-depth conversation around funding strategy and mechanisms at least six months before next year's state legislative session, which the Funding Subcommittee may be able to help advance in context of its prior recommendations to the SRC. The Mobilizing Funding report will also serve as a useful source of input. Dennis Robertson and Bill Blake volunteered to participate as new members of the Funding Subcommittee.
- *Recommendation 2:* Confirm current allocation formula for PSAR and SRFB funding.
 - The SRC explored this question with the Salmon Science Advisory Group, which found that – short of substantially more information on the effectiveness of projects funded under the current allocation formula – it is not able to suggest an alternative allocation formula that would be more effective or efficient. Monitoring and collecting data, as with the Vital Signs estuary indicator presented today, will provide information in the future to reassess recovery priorities.

- *Recommendation 3:* Dedicate capacity resources to co-managers in order to expand H-Integration analysis for all Puget Sound watersheds.
 - The SRC EC is working to frame a Pacific Salmon Treaty presentation/discussion for the SRC in May, which will open a new line of H-integration inquiry.
- *Recommendation 4:* Develop policy approaches and recommendations to the Leadership Council that – when implemented – would substantially improve our ability to recover salmon, support treaty rights and other fisheries, and protect habitat in Puget Sound.
 - The SRC recently forwarded a Lower Skagit TMDL policy recommendation to the Leadership Council, which the Council revised into a resolution and adopted at its March meeting.
 - On the EC's advice, Partnership staff plan to issue a call for new policy recommendations from SRC members once per year from here forward. Other existing recommendations from the Regulatory & Incentives Subcommittee will be considered in 2019.

VITAL SIGNS REVISION [Vital Signs Revision Memo](#) & [Presentation](#)

Presenters: Scott Redman, PSP & Ron Thom, PNNL emeritus

Highlights:

- Phase 1. By June 2019 the Vital Signs revision project will work with partners to:
 - Establish clear statements describing how Vital Signs will be used to guide Puget Sound recovery.
 - Describe the attributes of a portfolio of Vital Signs and indicators.
- Phase 2. By June 2020 the Vital Signs revision project anticipates the following outcomes:
 - Implement the collaborative approach to Vital Sign revision defined in Phase 1.
 - Compile and update as needed frameworks and conceptual models to inform Vital Sign and indicator selection and support identification of other types of performance measures.
 - Complete technical analyses of potential Vital Signs and indicators, and portfolios.
 - Final report and recommendations on revisions to the Science Panel and then the Leadership Council.
- Scott noted that developing the Vital Signs will be a social process, from standardizing the models, to discussing how they relate, to coming to terms with which are most important. He asked SRC members for their feedback on the vision and processes presented for revising the Vital Signs.

Discussion:

- The SRC discussed how moving to a new set of Vital Signs might impact the existing Implementation Strategies. They would like to see Vital Signs relate to each other and the Common Indicators, and be linked to project standards that directly measure what is being implemented. The use of whole ecosystem models that also apply tribal history/science was encouraged.
- The SRC asked that this process help identify measurements that relate directly to management actions, to help convince the public and legislators that there is a problem meriting action and resources. A side benefit may be the creation of a system of measurement that partners buy-in and are willing to contribute to.
- Look for opportunity to make your comments in an upcoming survey and May workshop.

WRAP-UP AND ADJOURN

David Troutt adjourned the meeting at 3:00 P.M. The next Salmon Recovery Council meeting is May 23, 2019, at the Edmonds Center for the Arts.