

Steelhead Watershed Management Plans
Coast Work Group
September 28, 2015

AGENDA
Meeting #7

- **Welcome/Introductions**
- **Overview of last meeting**
 - Additional notebook material
 - Review of Ground Rules
 - Any additional questions
- **Topic Discussion – Artificial Production**
 - Wrap up topic
- **Topic Discussion – Fishery Management**
 - Three-tiered approach for wild fish management in gene bank areas.
 - First tier (below minimum management goal)
 - No fishing
 - Second tier (above minimum management goal to third tier abundance threshold).
 - Catch and release fishing only.
 - Selective gear rules.
 - Third tier – (above high abundance threshold)
 - “Surplus” fish (i.e. additional wild fish impacts) are available.
 - For third tier – need to determine how best to allocate allowable impacts.
 - Maximizing catch/release opportunity.
 - Limited entry harvest fishery (special tag).
 - Harvest fishery (i.e. one fish per year)
 - Ensure equal and fair opportunity is provided.
 - May require FMEP update.
 - Slot limit fishery to protect larger fish Conduct analysis to further evaluate what the requirements are to move between tiers.
 - Based on percentage of carrying capacity; biological reference points.
 - I.e. 50% above seeding to move from tier two to tier three.
 - Needs to incorporate quality of data, evaluation of risk and ability to forecast run size.
 - Needs to be consistent with Recovery plan objectives (Figure 4.3 above)
 - Recommendations for regulation changes

- Skamokawa closure. Not a mistake. Proposed to be like Abernathy, Germany, Mill, Coal, Cedar, Lacamas creeks and the Coweeman River – closed to all fishing in September and October to protect natural spawning fall Chinook.
 - The general rule of thumb for the closures on these streams are if there aren't hatchery steelhead or hatchery sea-run cutthroats to harvest but there are fall Chinook to protect, then it would have the two-month closure.
- Other recommendations?
- Wrap up topic
- **Topic Discussion – Research**
 - NOAA ocean fisheries research should be supported.
 - AFTC research– workgroup needs to develop a recommendations
 - Develop biological reference points (BRP) from best available regional spawner/recruit data sets for steelhead.
 - Develop studies to evaluate gene flow/introgression and ecological interactions from segregated steelhead programs.
 - WDFW should explore issues surrounding decreased smolt to adult survival rates being experienced currently. Continue to identify causes and develop strategies to address them with the goal of improving survival rates.
 - Consider utilizing a workgroup process, similar to this one, to discuss research activities and out of basin impacts to steelhead populations.
- **Topic Discussion – Enforcement**
 - Identify appropriate opportunities for increased enforcement of key resting pools in the summer
 - Improve signage of boundaries, closed areas, and regulations, particularly at campgrounds; utilize caretakers at campgrounds and volunteers.
 - Information should be updated on reservation website to reflect current fishing regulations/closures.
 - Signage tied to outreach/education information.
 - Signage should include information on reporting poaching:
 - 1-877-WDFW-TIP/REPORTPOACHING@DFW.WA.GOV
 - Develop a list of landowners who are supportive and willing to allow enforcement through their properties to better access the river(s) and anglers.
 - Explore the use of game cameras as a tool for better monitoring/enforcing angler activities.
 - Work with enforcement to better communicate the importance/value of wild steelhead to judges/prosecutors.
 - Improve awareness of poaching hotline/e-mail address, and rewards program.
 - Improve citizen information communication process. Develop neighborhood “stream watch” programs coordinated with enforcement.
- **Topic Discussion – Monitoring and Evaluation**
 - Implement sufficient monitoring of hatchery programs.
 - If fisheries occur in gene bank areas, implement creel surveys to evaluate impacts to wild steelhead population.

- WDFW should obtain and establish long-term funding for monitoring to insure proper assessment of the status of the wild fish populations and the level of straying by hatchery fish.
- **Topic Discussion – Outreach**
 - Expand the use of volunteers to participate in needed monitoring and enforcement programs.
 - Utilize partnerships to update informational signage/kiosks.
 - Form a group of landowners/ public citizens, hatchery staff, and fish management staff in each basin to tackle key issues, projects, or challenges.
 - Explore ways to better connect with landowners in these basins.
 - Expand education of the public regarding gene bank areas and the purpose of gene banks.
 - Kiosks
 - Pamphlets/handouts
 - Regulation Pamphlet
 - Website
 - “Gene bank” celebration day - Viewing of steelhead – web cams
 - Include description of gene bank in rules for the chosen stream
- **Next meeting – if needed**
 - Set date and time
 - Topics for next meeting
- **Public Input**