

Notes for PSHAAG meeting Tuesday, November 1, 2011

Attendees

Public

Roger Urbaniak - PSA-Issaquah Hatchery

Frank Haw - CCA

Andrew Marks - CCA

Frank Urabeck – concerned citizen

Michael Schmidt – LLtK

Al Senyohl – Steelhead Trout Club

Dick Burge – Wild Steelhead Coalition

Lee Blankenship - HSRG

Andy Appleby - HSRG

WDFW

Heather Bartlett

James Dixon

Annette Hoffmann

Ron Warren

Kirt Hughes

Need to get copies of steelhead handouts to Lee, Kirt Hughes and Andy Appleby

1. Reviewed preliminary budget from Governor.
2. Discussed initial response from Department regarding finding of ISA in B.C. Department taking additional steps to have appropriate cell lines in place to detect. Department concerned and cautious and taking appropriate next steps to ensure are have monitoring steps in place to protect resource.
3. NOAA Fisheries will be using HGMP as they consider new PS Harvest RMP. Last RMP put a lot of responsibility onto hatcheries for adult mgmt. The HAIP process s/b outlining and clarifying the adult mgmt. and reflected in updated HGMPs and then can be incorporated and reflected in updated Chinook harvest RMP. NOAA will provide the hatchery programs for which will be prioritized this way in next couple of weeks. Can share at next PSHAAG meeting.
 - HAIP status and updates, reviewed one page tracking sheet we use at HACC and outlined our process e.g. work at technical, identify policy issues, get policy resolution, finalize and complete HAIP. Some steps move back and forth a bit before finalization.
 - Region 4
 - Green R. has met since last PSHAAG. Working on assignment on EDT inputs and how to develop more contemporary productivity estimates.
 - Lk. Washington initial meetings and discussion.
 - Stilli/Snohomish is almost to policy resolution and completion of HAIP. Outstanding issue is what priority is for fish should total return compromise meeting escapement, hatchery broodstock, fisheries etc.
 - Skagit is still in initial phases of review of current hatchery programs and naturally spawning populations.
 - Nooksack is close to completion. Given more recent hatchery production reductions, some focus or energy is expended to consider hatchery production

based upon current funding, and what makes or can be done in manner that is biologically consistent.

- Region 6
 - Puyallup/White plan has progressed fairly quickly. A couple of technical issues – passage upstream of Buckley trap; need tier system to manage for composition and look for local adaptation. Integrated steelhead program has been successful and needs to have adaptive mgmt. triggers set up. Agreement to manage White R. coho as primary
 - Nisqually has Chinook done, but no other species filled in on draft HAIP.
 - East Kitsap is most likely to be done first. Program supported by Minter, though run by Suquamish tribe. Some objectives for chum included in the plan for harvest production to support harvest. No showstoppers.
 - Squaxin/Deschutes/Minter/Chambers has draft developed by NWIFC for review internally by relevant co-managers. Strong coordination/collaboration remains to be completed.
 - Skokomish is remains as work in progress at technical level. A few issues remain following technical coordination. Largest component still to be fully dealt with is Chinook race/population that will form the basis for recovery.
 - Hood Canal HAIP in draft form. Chapter 3 checks and provide to LLTK for their review and input.
 - East Straits including Dungeness and tribs. in about same progress as Hood Canal.
 - Elwha utilizes restoration plan as basis for development of HAIP.
- 4. Building HAIP framework started with Snohomish HAIP as template, customized by watersheds identified above and staff at NWIFC filled in preliminary information in HAIP and then sends to tribes for their review and input on how correct initial information is. First date or step identified in HAIP timeline.
- 5. Steelhead framework and review of initial data to help identify level of risk for hatchery programs that continue to operate.
 - Reviewed preliminary WSMZ. Need to add Samish, include White winter. Recommend White become WSMZ once integrated hatchery program sunsets.
 - When White integrated sunsets, entire Puyallup system can become a wild steelhead mgmt. zone.
 - SSMP spoke to having a suite of populations designated as WSMZ. Preliminary designations seem to cover small populations, but may be missing some of the most large or robust populations.
 - Suggestion that NF Sky be included in WSMZ. Will be best evaluated in context of steelhead risk assessment excel file.
 - Reviewed PS SH genetic introgression structure. The short answer in steelhead risk assessment is that all populations have had some level of genetic introgression. Next step is how much...is it a lot (high risk) or a little (low risk).
 - Add genetic introgression info into spreadsheet w/in next week and provide to.
 - Confirmed that all fisheries are selective in that they target towards hatchery stock or they are msf. Biggest users are recreational fishers except to some degree the tribal fisheries on the Green.
 - Possible group would seek recommendation that all fisheries are msf as part of compilation and overall recommendation to department in development of HAIPs.

- Some tribal fisheries on steelhead still occur on Skagit, Snohomish, Green and Elwha. Hook and line tend to be selective towards hatchery; net fisheries have some regulations in place that require release of wild fish still alive.
- Can we provide hatchery program to provide harvest opportunity and benefit with minimal or nominal risk to natural spawning population.
- Need to qualify the yes and no in genetic introgression. Need to crosswalk what the genetic introgression means for gene flow. **James to do w/in week.**
- **RECOMMENDATIONS**
 - **Elwha – eliminate and Chamber’s winter steelhead releases.**
 - **Dungeness – want data for current program on genetic introgression or gene flow; lowest priority when compared with others right now.**
 - **Nooksack – similar low priority, needs discussion with local fisheries. Was the program to be eliminated would the Nooksack present itself as a WSMZ. (Dick – based on Ken’s data the introgression is low, in that case wouldn’t we want to keep it).**
 - **Include cost/benefit and catch in the table.**
 - **Ensure that local fishery discussions occur prior to eliminating programs – Frank’s request; this was linked to the discussion about prioritization (Dungeness and Nooksack specific).**
 - **Capture bullet points that structure the prioritization for retaining and eliminating programs.**
- Discussion – about steelhead C&R seasons targeting the late run (March April) and how those have changed.
- Next meeting needs to be longer and folks will come with mindset of decision making for steelhead. This is predicated on department staff filling out the steelhead risk assessment template document.

6. Adjusted next meeting to a 9 – 3 timeframe and will have video conference capabilities available for use by participants.
7. Reviewed the Comp Coho document from May 1998. Outlines how we manage the coho populations in Puget. There is large part of south sound managed for hatchery escapement. Co-Mgrs. are rethinking about how they manage PS coho; so our work in HAIP process with advisory group well timed.
8. Typically if coho pop primary mgmt. unit, we have treated in mgmt. forum as primary population (similar to how we view them in recovery = highly valuable). It’s the secondary grouping that we have an interest in increasing the conservation emphasis for some coho populations and input from this advisory group could be helpful.
9. How does Comp coho fit into FWC hatchery and fishery reform policy? Hatchery programs need to meet FWC policy. Comp coho tells us where there are important natural coho; are there then coho problems improperly characterized in Comp coho relative to importance that we should approach from our hatchery reform activities.