

## Notes for PSHAAC Meeting Thursday, December 1, 2011

### Attendees:

#### Public

Dick Burge – Wild Steelhead Coalition  
Nick Gayesk – Wild Fish Conservancy  
Frank Haw – CCA  
Andrew Marks – CCA  
Michael Schmidt – Long Live the Kings  
Al Senyohl – Steelhead Trout Club  
Frank Urabeck – concerned citizen  
Roger Urbaniak – PSA/Issaquah Hatchery  
Andy Appleby – HSRG  
Lee Blankenship – HSRG

#### WDFW

Heather Bartlett  
James Dixon  
Annette Hoffmann  
Ron Warren  
Kirt Hughes  
Gary Marston

### Chinook Review

- Marblemount is a possible candidate for closure/ termination, but the DIT group is needed as an indicator for the region
  - Would require another stock in the region to be used as a DIT group
  - Variability in the wild population limits the value of DIT information
  - Also provides valuable harvest for the North Sound (only harvestable spring Chinook)
  - Currently converting program to 100% sub-yearling Chinook (400k index)
    - 200k marked and tagged
    - 200k tag only
  - 160k Coho reduction at Marblemount
- Due to cost from marking fish the idea of using volunteers to maintain these programs was brought up.
- No current agreement on a separation between the size classes on WSMZ streams
  - E.g. what quantifies a large river?
    - Only the Skagit and Snohomish?
- Snoqualmie is a likely candidate as a WSMZ for Chinook
- MOU for Green River /Lake Washington Basins should have much of the HAIP data in it.
  - Working on a framework for natural escapement and harvest of Soos Cr. origin fish

- High percent of strays on the Green River may lead to assumptions about low productivity
- Want to eventually make the Elwha a WSMZ for Chinook

## **Steelhead**

### **WSMZs**

- ➔ Minimum of three required for the Puget Sound
- South Fork Nooksack – Summer
  - No hatchery summer run presence
  - Unlikely to currently meet the self sustaining criteria
  - Lack of data and would likely require more information before including
  - Not likely to be included as a primary
- Samish - Winter
  - Had a hatchery run until two years ago
    - Program moved to Whatcom Cr.
  - Viable wild population
- Skagit – Summer/ Winter
  - Baker and Barnaby Slough programs have been discontinued
  - Marblemount program still in operation; located on the Cascade River
    - Unlikely to be able to continue to release 225k from Marblemount
  - Mainstem currently would not qualify if Marblemount releases continue
  - Sauk is a candidate
  - Baker not a candidate
- Stillaguamish –Summer/Winter
  - Winter is more prolific
  - North Fork only a candidate if summer and winter releases are stopped
  - Deer Creek – Summer
  - Considered a small tributary of a medium sized watershed
  - Would not qualify with a mainstem hatchery
    - But may qualify with a weir
  - Has been a viable population in the recent past
  - Canyon Creek – Summer (conclusions from Deer Ck. apply)

- Snohomish / Skykomish – Summer/ Winter
  - Multiple stocks in the basin
  - Wallace River and Reiter Ponds programs would be affected
  - Plants have been discontinued on the North Fork Skykomish and Pilchuck Rivers
  - N. F. Skykomish would be problematic due to high stray rates
    - Genetics still distinct
    - Could be a candidate if strays could be reduced
    - Juvenile competition likely a problem
    - Lacking escapement data – self sustaining?
    - Unlikely to be included if Reiter is still in operation
  - Possible development of a hydro project at Sunset Falls on the S. Fork Skykomish
    - Would improve current fish trap and capability to haul natural origin fish above the falls
    - Hatchery steelhead excluded from above the falls currently
      - Early summer fish may not be included
- Snoqualmie – Summer/ Winter
  - Good candidate
  - Only winter Tokul Cr. fish still released
  - Raging River and Tolt River programs have been discontinued
- Green River – Summer/ Winter
  - Not discussed in detail
- Puyallup System – Summer/ Winter
  - Good candidate
  - No Chambers fish currently released
  - Conservation program on the White River still in operation
    - Could include the White after program ends
  - Has a depressed but viable population
  - Considered a primary
- Nisqually
  - Good candidate
  - No hatchery program currently
  - Viable but depressed population

- Olympic - Winter
  - West Hood Canal Likely
  - All programs a currently conservation based
  - Could all be candidates
- Dungeness – Winter
  - Small program but with high level of local support
  - Hatchery returns small
  - Previous returns may have been bolstered by strays from other Straits rivers
- Elwha
  - Chambers harvest program and local conservation program in operation
  - Only a candidate if programs end
  - Chambers should be ended to meet conservation goals with the dam removal

### **Hatchery Programs**

- Held to a higher standard than Chinook and Coho programs due to the segregated nature of the programs
- Survival poor in the Puget Sound currently – Unlikely to change in the near future
- Wild runs unlikely to recover to a level to allow angling without hatcheries in the next decade
- pHOS data lacking for many basins
  - Information is difficult to acquire
  - Must base more on genetic data
- Results by Ken Warheit do not represent actual gene flow
  - Are structure samples
  - Small sample sizes used in most cases

### Things that may look at in the future

- Value of wild stock fishery vs. hatchery fishery
- Programs to be ranked by conservation and harvest benefits