

“GREEN SHEET”

Meeting dates: October 1-2, 2010, Commission Meeting

Agenda item # 10: Status of the Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Management Plan and ESA incidental take exemptions for listed Chinook and for listed Southern Resident Killer whales and Puget Sound/Georgia Basin Rockfish – Briefing only

Staff Contact: Patrick Pattillo, Director’s Office

Presenter(s): Patrick Pattillo, Director’s Office

Background:

The Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Management Plan (PSCHMP), jointly developed by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) and the Puget Sound Indian tribes (Tribes), was originally submitted in November 2009 to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for consideration as a Resource Management Plan (RMP) in compliance of procedures and requirements of the exemption to prohibition of take for an ESA listed species, the 4(d) exemption. As an outcome of further discussions between the co-managers (Department and Tribes) and NOAA, the PSCHMP was updated, modified and re-submitted March 2010. The co-managers’ PSCHMP includes a recommendation to NOAA that the pursued 4(d) coverage apply for a period of five years, including the 2010–2014 annual salmon fishery management periods (through April 30, 2015). NOAA is currently engaged in reviewing and analyzing the RMP for consistency with criteria of the 4(d) approval process.

Since the current ESA 4(d) listed species take prohibition exemption for Puget Sound salmon fisheries (2004-2009 RMP) expired on April 30, 2010, NOAA has provided ESA coverage for the period of May 2010 through April 2011, by Section 7 ESA exemption.

This briefing is intended only as an update to the Commission on the status of the PSCHMP. The briefing will also include a status report on NOAA’s approval process for coverage of Puget Sound fisheries with impacts to listed Orcas and Puget Sound Rockfish species.

Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

Briefing only.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

N/A

Action requested:

None at this time.

Draft motion language:

Justification for Commission action:
