

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

- Federal law passed by Congress in 1973
- To conserve threatened and endangered species and their ecosystems.
- ESA prohibits any take of species listed as endangered
- "Take" means harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect
- Some take of threatened species may be allowed as long as it does not interfere with survival and recovery
- Non-federal individuals, agencies, or organizations may have limited take through special permits with conservation plans

Listing Status

- Anadromous salmonids administered by NOAA-NMFS (aka NOAA Fisheries)
- Puget Sound “Distinct Population Segment” (DPS) (Elwha River and eastward) listed as Threatened in May 2007
- Technical Recovery Team (TRT) identified 32 demographically independent populations and established viability criteria
- 3 Major Population Groups
 - North Cascades (Snohomish north)
 - Central and South Puget Sound (Lake Washington south)
 - Hood Canal and Strait of Juan de Fuca

Section 4(d) of the ESA

- Allows NOAA Fisheries to issue regulations to conserve species listed as threatened
- 4(d) rule applies take prohibitions to all actions except those within certain limits to the rules
- The limits, or exemptions, describe specified categories of activities that contribute to conserving listed salmon
 - Ongoing scientific and conservation activities
 - Treaty and non-treaty fisheries for which a co-manager's management plan has been timely submitted
 - Fishery management activities
 - Hatchery and genetic management programs
- 2008 Adopted existing 4(d) rule for other west coast salmon and steelhead and applied to Puget Sound

Hatcheries Authorization

- Initially under 2008 4(d) rule
- Hatchery Genetic Management Plans (HGMP) required under 4(d)
- One WSGB in each Major Population Group was part of submitted HGMPs to reduce risk of hatchery effects

Fisheries Authorization

- Initially under 2008 4(d) rule
- Harvest Management Plan submitted by co-managers in 2010
- Limits on steelhead fisheries were set through NMFS' ESA section 7 consultation on the Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Management Plan (NMFS 2011).
- Harvest is limited to 325 Puget Sound steelhead in marine fisheries
- No more than a 4.2% harvest rate in freshwater fisheries for the five following watersheds: Skagit, Snohomish, Green, Puyallup, and Nisqually
- In the remaining watersheds, harvest will remain within the range observed from the 2000/2001 to 2006/2007 seasons.



Skagit Harvest Management Plan

- There has been vocal public desire for directed catch and release fishing on wild Skagit steelhead
- The current federal harvest permit does not allow for any directed fishing of Puget Sound steelhead
- Steps to apply for a separate harvest permit to allow directed fishing in the Skagit River have been initiated
 - Meetings with co-managers
 - Meetings with federal representatives
- Draft Skagit specific Harvest Management Plan under development



Recovery Planning



NOAA's Statutory Guidelines

Endangered Species Act requires NOAA to develop and implement plans for the recovery of listed species

Recovery Plans must contain:

- Site-Specific actions (necessary to achieve the plan's goal of conservation and survival)
- Measurable criteria for removing species from list
- Estimates of time and cost for completing actions



Puget Sound Steelhead Recovery Plan Development - Overview

NOAA Fisheries Regional Office will coordinate development of the draft and final recovery plans for listed Puget Sound steelhead

The Puget Sound Steelhead Recovery Plan will reference the existing Puget Sound Chinook and Hood Canal Summer Chum Salmon Recovery Plans

It will rely heavily on the recovery planning efforts already underway across Puget Sound and will build off those existing recovery plans where possible

Two watershed pilots in Hood Canal and Nisqually included in draft recovery plan with others to follow



Recovery Modeling and Guidance to Watersheds

NOAA is working with WDFW to develop recovery goals and scenarios to guide development of recovery actions

Builds from the Technical Recovery Team's viability criteria and analyzes multiple recovery scenarios

Watershed Template subgroup is developing guidance for local watershed planners to enhance local plan consistency and effectiveness



The Steelhead Recovery Team is preparing sections of the draft recovery plan

Steelhead Cutthroat Policy Advisory Group
June 10, 2015
Informational presentation – material subject to change

DRAFT OUTLINE RECOVERY PLAN FOR THE PUGET SOUND STEELHEAD DISTINCT POPULATION SEGMENT (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

West Coast Regional Office
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

DRAFT v. 4-28-15

Coast Regional Office
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration