

Avian Salmon Predation Working Group

Meeting #3

March 17, 2025

9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Olympia, WA and online

Welcome!

- Brief introductions
- Updates since last meeting
- Accomplishments at last meeting
- Today's agenda
- Today's objectives



Alan Bauer

Ice breaker!

A year from now, after you've delivered the report, you're really happy; why?

What did you accomplish?



WDFW

Agenda and objectives

- Report outline review
 - Objective: Structure the legislative report
- Developing criteria for determining scale of predation and implementing remedies
 - Objective: Identify things that can help managers decide when and where to implement predation management

Expectations

- Participate and engage
- Bring your ideas, experiences, and perspectives
- Hold space for *others'* ideas, experiences, and perspectives
- Engage in respectful dialogue; listen to understand
- If there are disagreements – challenge the idea, not the individual
- Be considerate of time and scheduling
- Hybrid meeting: if you're participating virtually, please use the Raise Hand feature and mute mic when not speaking.

Your task from the legislature

1. Identify all avian species that contribute to predation of juvenile salmon at a population level
2. Determine whether such species are adversely impacting the recovery of any threatened or endangered salmon species
3. Identify remedies to predation



Bill Hebner

Public comment



WDFW

Review proposed report outline

Shelby Thomas, Ross Strategic



Bret Hachtel

Break: back at 11:05 a.m.

Developing criteria for determining scale of predation and implementing remedies



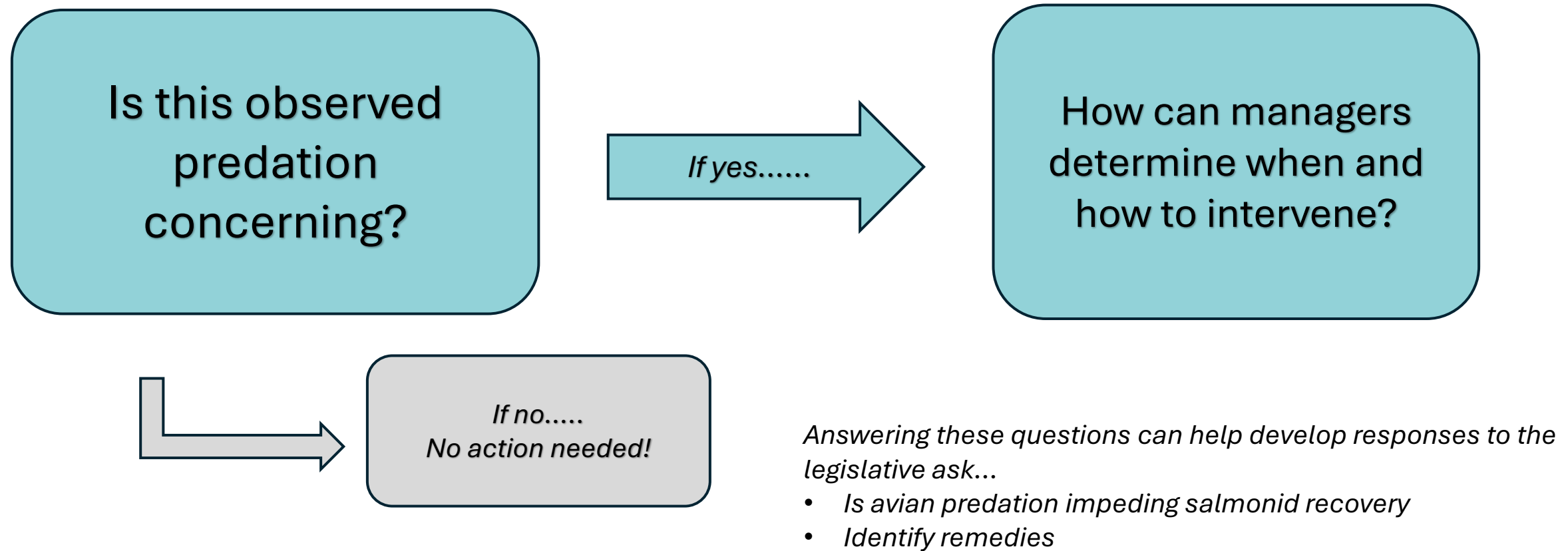
WDFW

Pacific Flyway Council Avian Predation Policy

- Current tool WDFW uses to evaluate avian predation and potential management
- Draw inspiration from this policy as we have today's discussion
- *10 minutes... please read through the policy.*



Deciding whether management is needed



How can managers determine whether predation is a concern?

- Aka... “Is predation impacting salmonid recovery?” (*Legislative ask*)
- Need to consider impact in a given time and place
 - Not one blanket definition of “impact”
 - Report could include different definitions of “impact” to provide context/scope to legislature (Meeting 2)



Alan Bauer

How can managers determine whether predation is a concern?

- Are there pieces of the Flyway policy that help you answer this question?
- What's missing?
- What would you add?



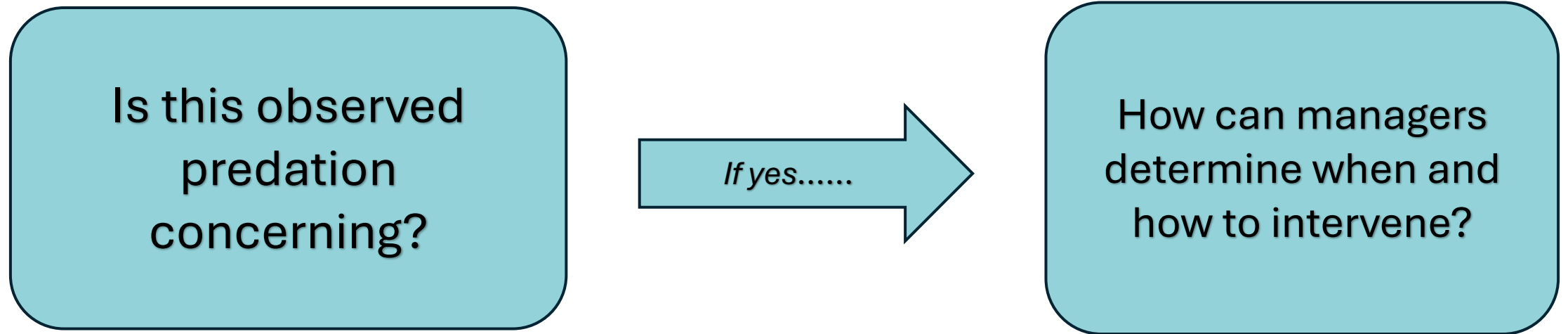
Zack Mays

Pacific Flyway Council Avian Predation Policy

- (4) Responses to perceived avian predation issues are based on sound science —
- (a) Magnitude and scope of predation impacts are best demonstrated through empirical evidence.
 - (b) Monitoring, data sharing, data gaps, and research needs are acknowledged and addressed.
 - (c) Expectations of how management actions will reduce impacts to affected fish populations are explicitly addressed.
 - (d) Expected outcomes of management actions on affected avian populations are clearly understood.
 - (e) Measures are implemented to assess effectiveness of management actions and inform future direction (i.e., adaptive management).

Lunch: back at 1 p.m.

Deciding whether management is needed



Once they've established that predation is a concern - how can managers determine when and how to implement management action?

Activity

What makes a “good”
remedy?



Determining when and how to implement management

What considerations do you need to make when evaluating any given remedy?

- (5) Important considerations when evaluating the need for management action in response to avian predation on fish resources —
 - (a) Assessment of population-level impacts for both migratory birds and fish.
 - (b) T&E species conflicts.
 - (c) Native species conflicts.
 - (d) Non-native sportfish impacts.
 - (e) Cost-benefit analyses for proposed management strategies.

Next steps

- Follow ups? Action items? (Shelby)
- Upcoming meetings:
 - May 6 – Yakima (hybrid), full day
 - June 3 – Virtual, half day



WDFW

Next meeting

- May 6
- Yakima, WA (hybrid)
- Oxford Suites Yakima
- Full dayish
- 9am start again? End TBD



Alan Bauer

Proposed timeline

- ✓ *Meeting 1: November 7, 2024*
 - ✓ *Meeting 2: February 4, 2025*
 - ✓ *Science/data presentations – level setting*
 - ✓ *Information sharing/gathering*
 - ✓ *Topical discussions*
 - ✓ *Meeting 3: March 17, 2025*
 - ✓ *Full day, virtual*
 - ✓ *Discuss criteria for determining scale of predation and implementing remedies*
 - ✓ *Develop report outline*
 - **Meeting 4: May 6, 2025**
 - Full day, hybrid, Yakima area
 - Edit/discuss draft report
 - Additional topical discussions as needed
 - **Meeting 5: June 3, 2025**
 - Half day, virtual
 - Finalize draft report
- June 30, 2025 – Report finished, ASPWG adjourns**

Thank you!

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833-885-1012, TTY (711), or CivilRightsTeam@dfw.wa.gov.