

Objectives

Puget Sound Steelhead Advisory Group

Draft May 31, 2017

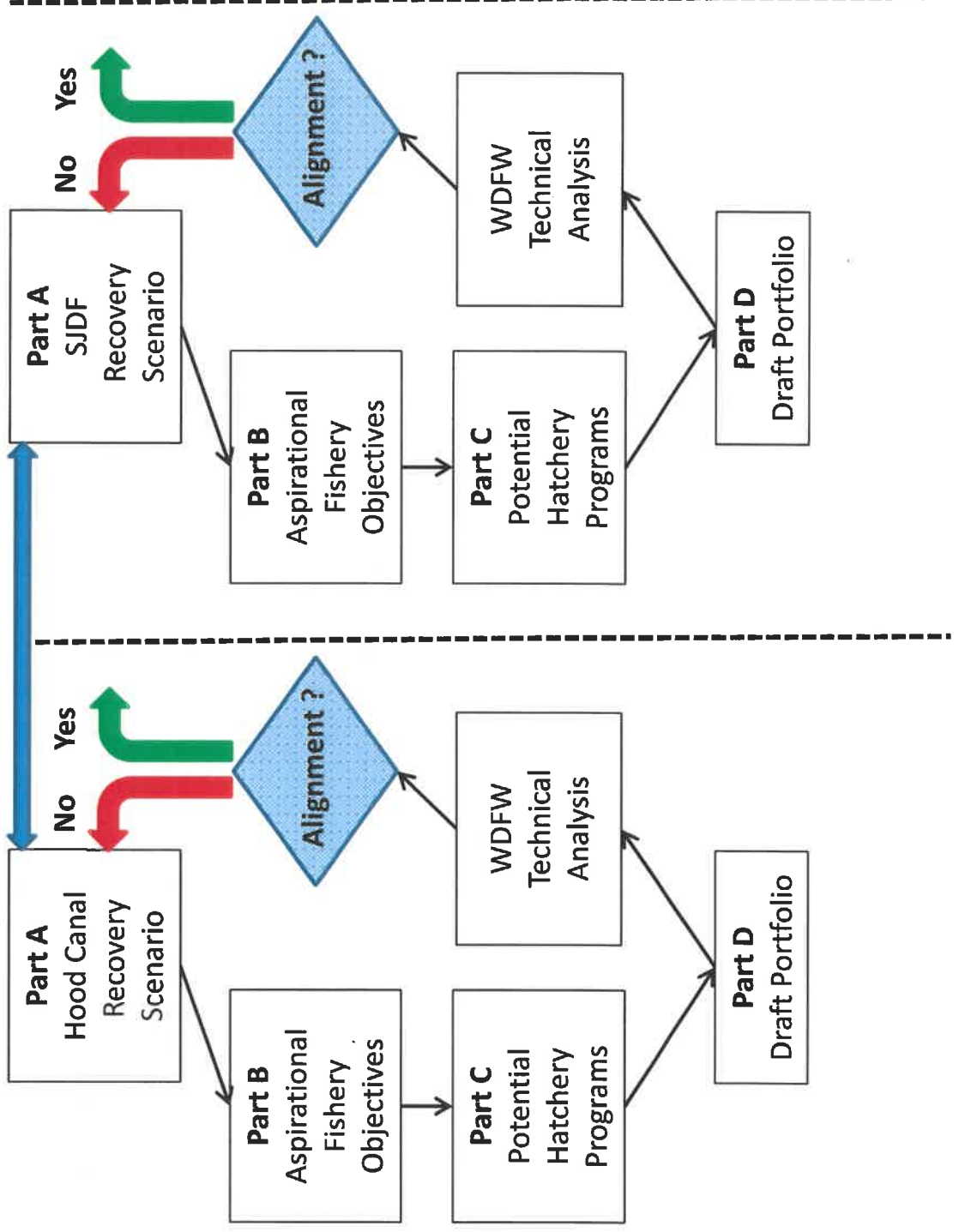
Within eight months, we will be successful if we have developed a document that:

- 1) promotes the conservation and recovery of Puget Sound wild steelhead with fishery and hatchery management aligned with habitat protection and restoration (all-H integration);
- 2) is developed in coordination with and reviewed by the Puget Sound Steelhead Recovery Team;
- 3) has sufficient flexibility to be compatible with the recovery plan adopted by NOAA Fisheries;
- 4) describes a path toward diverse and sustainable recreational fishing opportunities, with benchmarks to assess our progress;
- 5) recognizes the importance of steelhead and sustainable steelhead fisheries to our rural communities and state economy;
- 6) is informed by our scientific understanding of steelhead and the factors affecting their abundance, productivity, diversity, and spatial structure;
- 7) promotes greater understanding of steelhead populations through an experimental approach, and recognizes that adaptive management will be required to be successful;
- 8) is not constrained by previous fishery and hatchery management approaches;
- 9) identifies, considers, and where possible, addresses the highlights major factors limiting the abundance, productivity, spatial structure, and diversity of Puget Sound steelhead;
- 10) identifies watershed-specific strategies for fisheries and artificial production programs designed to achieve specific seasons and fishery types (catch and release, catch and keep, rivers with no hatchery production) in a manner consistent with achieving conversation objectives;
- 11) provides estimates of the funding necessary to implement the strategies;
- 12) enjoys broad support among stakeholders interested in steelhead, including anglersfishers and those interested in steelhead as a part of the Puget Sound ecosystem;
- 13) identifies subsequent action steps with comanagers, legislators, NOAA Fisheries, and stakeholders necessary to implement the plan; and
- 14) provides encouragement to our children, and their children, that they will also be able to enjoy our Puget Sound rivers and Washington State fish – steelhead.

HC/SDJF Major Population Group

Must have:

- ≥ 4 Primary Populations
- ≥ 2.2 Geometric Mean





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West Coast Region

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Fishery Management and the ESA:

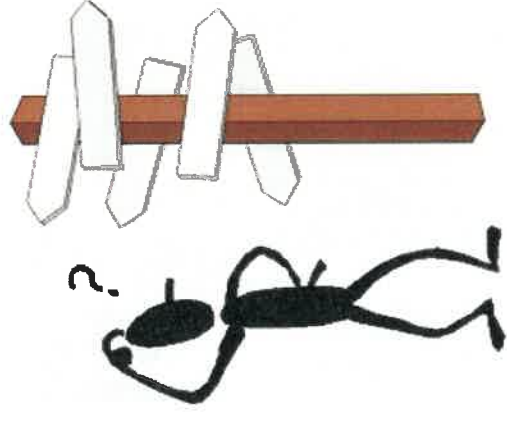
Puget Sound Steelhead

June 1, 2017



How we got here....

- Listed as threatened – 2007
 - Primary limiting factor: present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of habitat or range
 - "elimination of direct harvest of wild steelhead in the mid 1990s has largely addressed this [harvest] threat"
 - Harvest rates continue to decline
- 4d Rule – 2009 (exemptions to take)
- Working with co-managers to develop management plan since 2007
- Current harvest has ESA authorization



DPS structure

32 DIPS > 3 MPGs > DPS

- Summers
- Winter
- Summer/Winter

Health varies among DIPS

- Highest potential for steelhead production in N & E Puget Sound
- Small populations in S Puget Sound and the Kitsap Peninsula
- Potential production in Hood Canal / S/JF highest in the larger rivers

Information limited

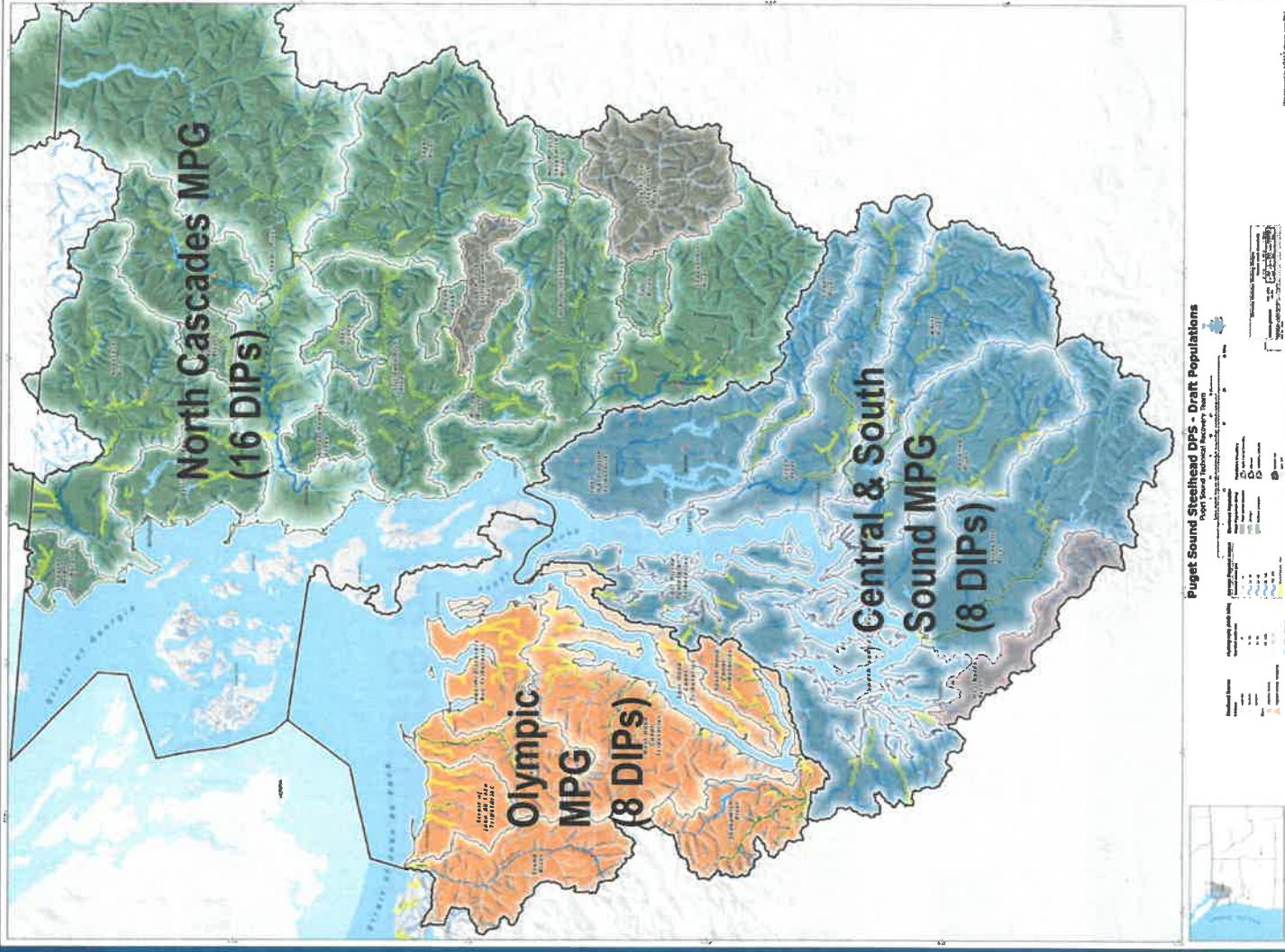
Recovery plan in the works

- Abundance
- Productivity
- Spatial Structure
- Diversity

VSP



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Recovery Criteria

- Populations sufficiently large, productive, and diverse
- > 40% of DIPs in each MPG are viable
- Life history expression is similar to historical
- Habitat use is at least 20% of capacity
- Distribution of viable populations minimizes catastrophic risk
- Extinction risk < 10% in 100 years





Guiding concepts

- Listed unit is DPS; populations = building blocks
- NMFS must assess distribution of risk across DIPs
- Assess risk relative to survival and recovery of DPS
- Recovery criteria, Viable Salmonid Populations (VSP)
- Intent of action = directed vs incidental take

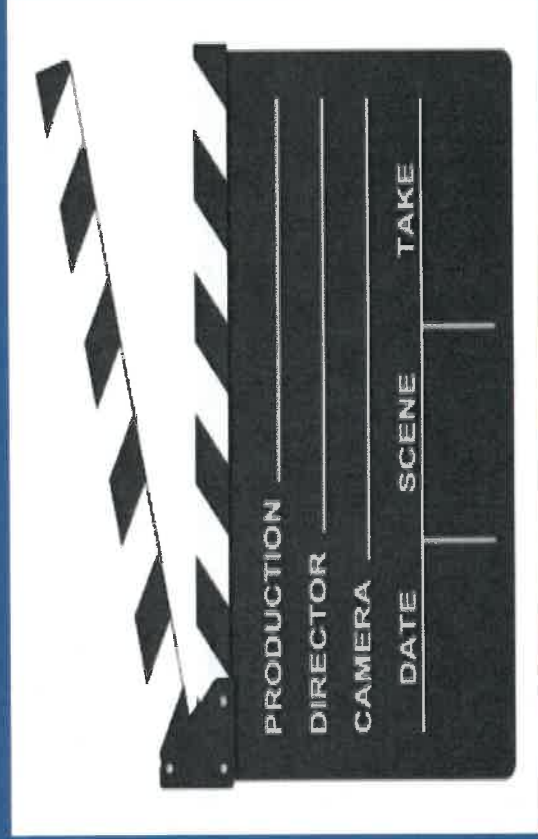


Regulatory options



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FACTS





ESA Evaluation

Impacts

VSP



Recovery Criteria

Risk Distribution

Magnitude/distribution of impacts?

Baseline condition?

How/where do you want to do it?

What do you want to do?



Take...what does it mean to me?

“...harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect any threatened or endangered species.” (50 CFR 222.102)

Intent of action = **Direct or Incidental?**



Intentional or Accidental?

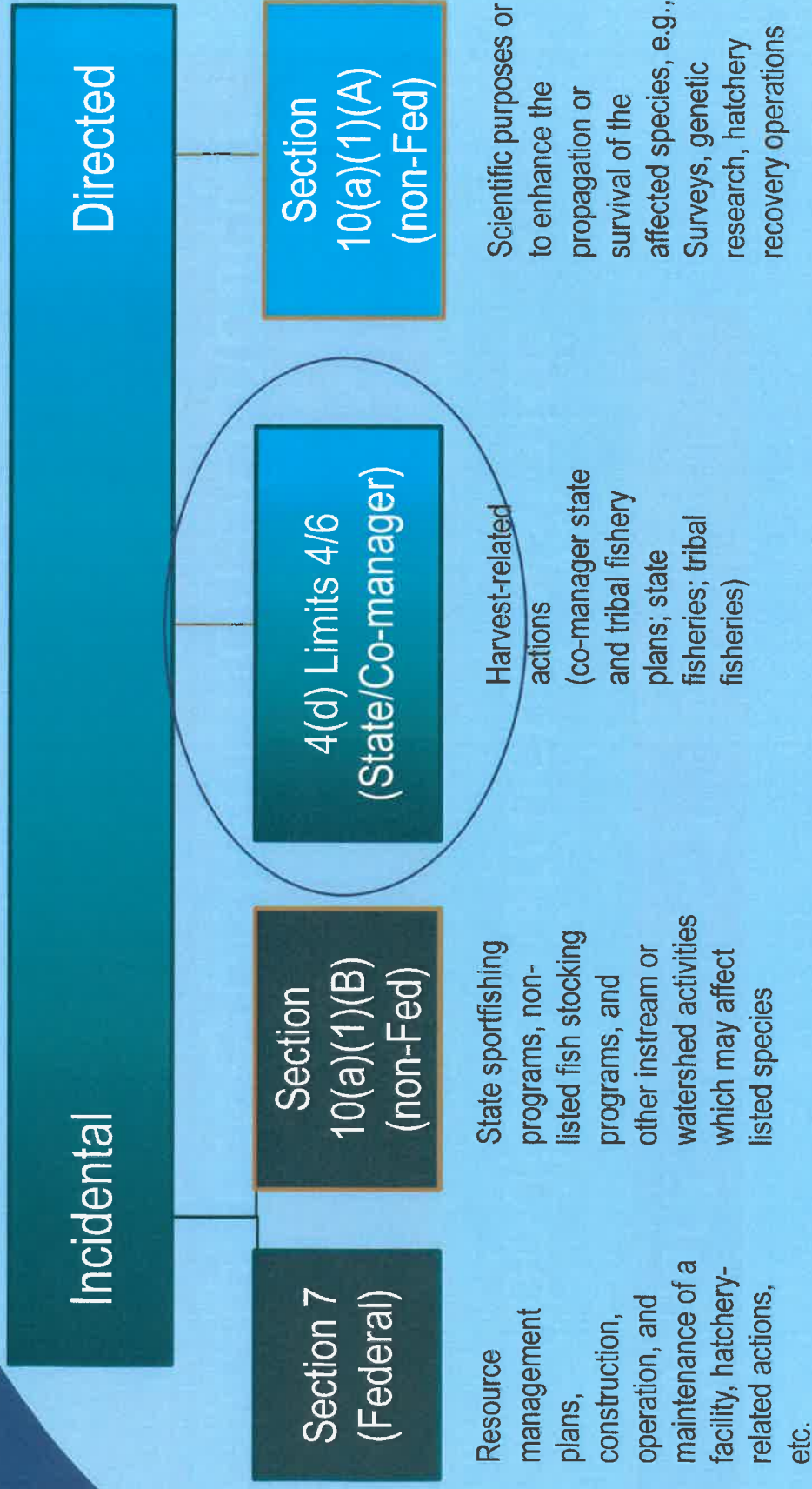


Regulatory options



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Regulatory options



Plans must address.....

What?

How?

Where?

Population Structure/Status

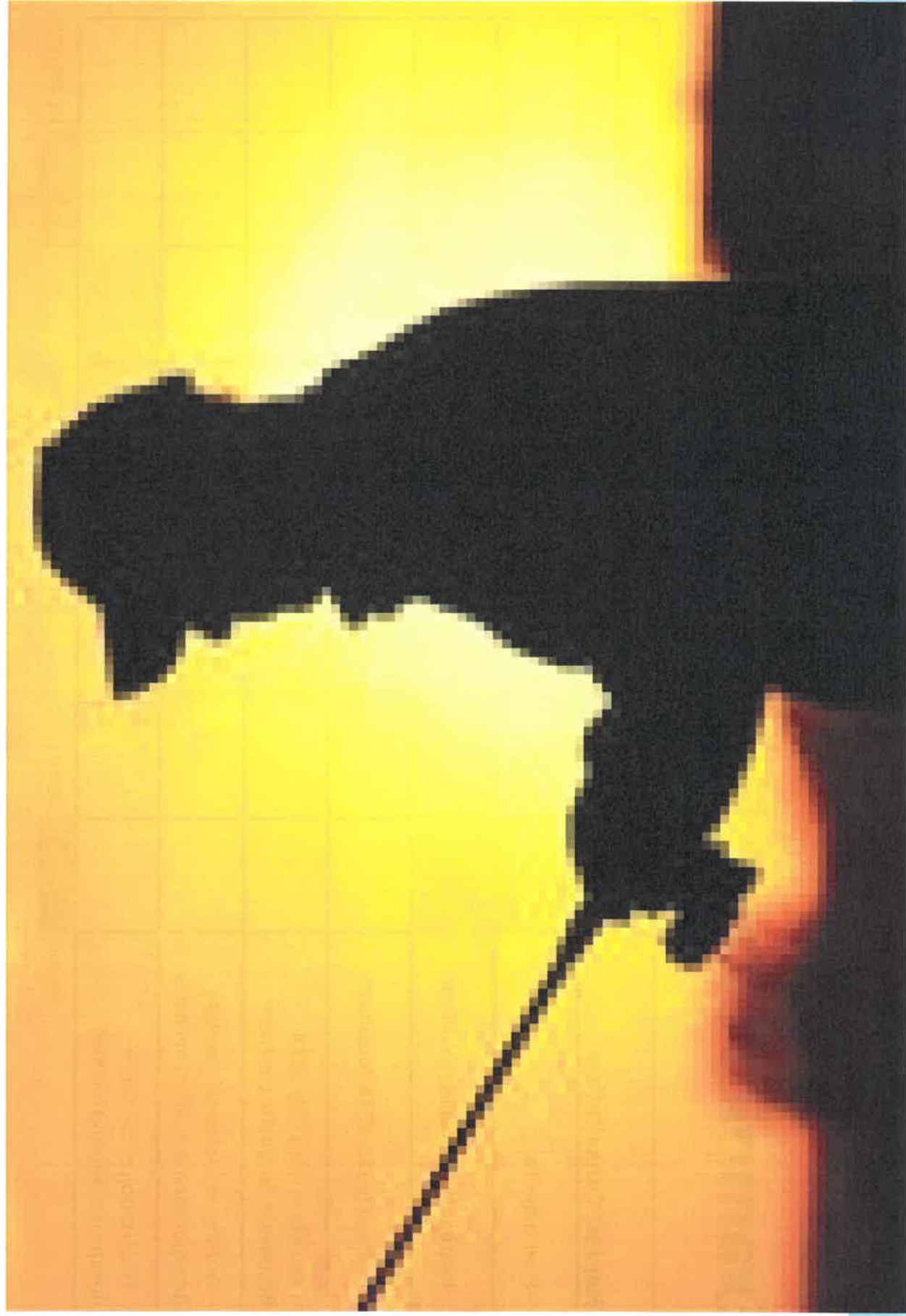
Magnitude/distribution of impacts?

How will we know if it is working?



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Steps and general timeline for consultation



Example: Skagit Harvest 4(d) Plan, EA

Harvest Consultation	2016				2017				2018			
	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
- Plan Submittal												
- Internal NEPA Scoping/RA Memo												
- Drafting of ESA/NEPA documents												
- Release of draft ESA/ NEPA documents for public comment												
- Drafting of biological opinion; incorporation of public comments												
- Finalization of ESA/NEPA documents; approval of RMP												
Legend:		Done							Underway			To be initi



Plan for success....

- Develop plan with map and recovery criteria in mind
- Choose a regulatory option consistent with action
- Make sure plan addresses all the criteria
- Transparent assumptions, account for uncertainty
- Larger scope increases complexity but allows more control, increases flexibility in how to draw the map
- Describe how harvest in other areas/other managers fits into picture
- Work with NOAA Fisheries in developing plan
- More detail, fewer assumptions, more efficient process



Q&A



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