

## **Puget Sound Steelhead Advisory Group (PSSAG) Meeting Notes**

November 16, 2017, Noon – 7PM

Embassy Suites, Lynnwood, Washington, 98036

Drafted by Cole Caldwell and James Scott

### Key Messages to Stakeholders Agreed at Meeting Conclusion

- The group is focused and is dealing with tough decisions with critically depressed runs of Puget Sound steelhead.
- The group recognizes that increasing the productivity (habitat and early marine survival) of steelhead stocks is essential to conservation and providing more fishing opportunities.
- The group provisionally identified some new fishing opportunities consistent with the conservation objectives.
- Choosing the right fish population and management threshold is important to meeting conservation objectives.
- The group is committed to coordinating with the Puget Sound Recovery Team.

### Agenda Items discussed at the meeting:

#### **1) Introduction**

#### **2) Coarse Scale Assessment of Draft Central & South Puget Sound Portfolios**

Review results from coarse scale assessments of draft portfolios (Gary Marston)

#### **3) Group Discussion of Central and South Puget Sound Portfolio**

#### **4) Looking Ahead**

#### **5) External Messages**

- What are the 3-5 messages regarding this meeting that we want to provide to other interested stakeholder?

#### **6) Public Comment**

#### **7) Thoughts on Meeting**

### Advisors Attending

Rich Simms

Andy Marks

Derek Day

Gary Butrim

Jonathan Stumpf

Jamie Glasgow

Roger Goodan

Mark Spada

Curtis Wilson

David Yamashita

Curt Kraemer

Al Senyohl

### Public Attending

Nick Chambers

Jesse Salsberry

Conrad Gowell

Hal Boynton

### NOAA Fisheries Staff Attending

Jeff Hard

David Price

### Staff Attending

Jim Scott (co-facilitator), Cole Caldwell (co-facilitator)

Brian Missildine

Chad Herring

James Losee

Annette Hoffmann

Jennifer Whitney

Bob Leland

Aaron Bosworth

Brett Barkdull

### Notes from the meeting per agenda item:

#### **1) Introduction**

- Jim distributed the agenda to the group and then discussed the meeting agenda and tasks that the PSSAG would be working on for the meeting.
- The PSSAG members requested that all notes be provided to the group at least one week prior to the next meeting.

#### **2) Coarse Scale Assessment of Draft Central & South Puget Sound Portfolios)**

- Jim distributed a table summarizing the sub-groups initial work on Central and South Puget Sound portfolios.
- Gary Marston presented results from coarse scale assessments of draft portfolios to the PSSAG.
  - A handout was provided to each group member that summarized the group designation options per watershed.
  - Gary's group utilized three analytical methods: i) All "H" Analyzer model (AHA) for integrated programs; ii) Demographic Gene Flow Model (DGM) for segregated programs; and iii) Smolt-to-Adult Return (SAR) for segregated programs in watersheds with few (if any) natural-origin steelhead.
  - AHA Model Analysis Review (see presentation for details):
    - This model was developed by the HSRG, is data intensive, and estimates potential program sizes, pHOS, PNI, and population response.
    - It was applied to: Green River (winter late analysis), and White River, (winter late analysis).
  - DGM Analysis (see presentation for details):
    - This model uses estimates of homing rates, SAR, natural-origin spawners, spawn timing, and relative reproductive success to predict gene flow.
    - It was applied to the Green River summer steelhead segregated program.
  - SAR% Model Analysis Review (see presentation for details):
    - This model was uses SARs from other watersheds to project the number of returning adults
    - It was applied to: North Lake Washington (functionally extinct population), Cedar River (functionally extinct population), and the Deschutes River.

#### **3) Group Discussion of Central and South Puget Sound Portfolio**

- North Lake WA Discussion
  - The group decided that this watershed should be provisionally designated as a Stabilizing Population with a Segregated Hatchery Program as a pilot project.
  - The project would require a data collection/monitoring criteria component to inform future watershed management decisions.

- The Stabilizing designation would be reanalyzed after data was collected following an established review period.
  - Monitoring efforts should seek to identify stray rates to the Cedar River.
  - All data finding, including stray rates, should be integrated into the review decision process.
  - Specific questions that should be looked into include:
    - Are there any wild fish present?
    - What level of straying would be expected from a segregated hatchery program?
    - How would the applied hatchery program impact wild steelhead.
  - Aaron Bosworth was asked to collate existing regarding the presence of natural-origin steelhead in the North Lake Washington population and provide it at the next meeting.
- Cedar River Discussion
    - The group decided that this watershed should be provisionally designated as a Contributing Population with an Integrated Hatchery Program.
    - The group suggested that the word “consistent” within the comments section be more specific (e.g. two years).
    - The group highlighted that managers should consider spreading the risk of placing fish here and on the Green River (i.e., if one watershed decreased from a primary status or collapsed due to a disaster, then managers could use the other river to help augment the population back towards recovery).
    - A suggestion was made that managers could tag and assess data as recovery occurred because of present or easily available fish trap monitoring.
    - The group decided to keep the conservation purpose for this watershed.
    - It was recommended that the Department use the conclusions of the Hood Canal study to guide the Cedar River conservation program.
  - Green River Discussion
    - The group decided that this watershed should be provisionally designated as a Primary Population, with an Integrated Hatchery Program, and a Mark Selective Fishery.
    - Managers should consider a tiered approach to escapement threshold criteria.
    - Managers should consider creative solutions (e.g. permitted fishery) on this watershed.
    - A catch, keep, and/or release of fishery could be adaptively managed (e.g., segregating particular stretches of river sections) on this watershed.
    - The 75% fish spawning objective can and may need to be adjusted to 80-100% before any fishery is initiated.
    - The group suggested that managers consider a 100,000 winter integrated hatchery program.
    - Managers should consider selective gear rules and mandatory release of wild fish.
  - Puyallup/Carbon Rivers Discussion
    - This watershed was provisionally designated as a Primary Population.
  - Nisqually River Discussion
    - This watershed was previously designated by the Department as a Wild Steelhead Gene Bank.
    - Consistent with this designation, the advisory group provisionally designated the Nisqually River as a Primary Population, no hatchery production, with a Catch and Release Fishery.

- The 75% fish spawning objective can and may need to be adjusted to 80-100% before any fishery is initiated.
- South Puget Sound
  - This watershed was provisionally designated as a Contributing Population with a Segregated Hatchery Program on the Deschutes River and an associated Catch and Keep Fishery.
  - The group suggested waiting until the new hatchery on the Deschutes River is complete before initiating specific management activities, and that initiation of the program be dependent upon securing funding to monitor straying (see next bullet).
  - The group expressed concerns regarding potential straying to the Nisqually River or other streams in the South Puget Sound populations and recommended monitoring the to address this concern.
- East Kitsap
  - This watershed was provisionally designated as a Primary Population.
- White River Discussion
  - The group did not address the White River due to time constraints.

#### **4) Looking Forward**

- The group will need to address the White River at the next meeting.
- At least four meetings will be needed on North Puget Sound.
- Jim is hoping to schedule the next meeting for December 14<sup>th</sup> or the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Jim is planning a follow-up meeting in mid-January.

#### **5) Key Message to Stakeholders Notes**

- The group is focused and is dealing with tough decisions with critically depressed Puget Sound steelhead.
- The group recognizes that increasing the productivity (habitat and early marine survival) of steelhead stocks is essential to conservation and providing more fishing opportunities.
- The group provisionally identified some new fishing opportunities consistent with the conservation objectives.
- Choosing the right fish population and management threshold is important to meeting conservation objectives.
- The group is committed to coordinating with the Puget Sound Recovery Team.

#### **6) Public Comments**

#### **7) Thoughts on the meeting**

- Group compromise is impressive
- People are looking forward to N. Puget Sound discussions
- People are pleased with the process
- Everyone is listening