

Meeting Summary

Snohomish Basin Salmonid Recovery Technical Committee
WDFW Office, Mill Creek
9:00 am – 12:00 pm, May 2, 2017

In attendance:

Matt Baerwald, Snoqualmie Tribe
David Bain, ORCA Conservancy
Heather Khan, WA Dept. of Ecology
Denise Krownbell, Seattle City Light
Scott Powell, Seattle City Light
Elissa Ostergaard, King County
Beth leDoux, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum/King County (Co-Chair)
Colin Wahl, Tulalip Tribes (Co-Chair)
Andrew McDonnell, Snohomish PUD
James Bails, WDFW
Lindsey Desmul, WDFW
Ryan Miller, Tulalip Tribes
Kevin Lee, SSS
Micah Wait, WFC
Jim Starkes, Port of Everett
Esther Moseichuk, Snohomish County
Gretchen Glaub, Snohomish County
Luke Hanna, Snohomish County
Cindy Dittbrenner, Snohomish Conservation District
Kurt Beardslee, Wild Fish Conservancy
Dan Calvert, PSP

Meeting Summary:

Introductions

Basin Updates

- Gretchen provided information and a handout on a Scope Change Request from Forterra for the S. Fork Skykomish Acquisition project, #16-1632. The proposal has been modified to reflect inclusion of a match property purchase (by King County) in red on handout. Requested Tech Comm support for the scope change; there were no oppositions. Scope change will now also go to Forum for decision on May 4th.
- Gretchen briefed the committee on the 2017 SRFB Grant Applications and passed a handout providing brief project descriptions. One of the projects proposed is not currently on the 4 year work plan and needs approval. Request Tech Comm support to update the 4 YWP to include the Wallace May Acquisition. No oppositions. Decision will be brought to Forum on May 4th.

- Allocation numbers detailed on handout have been updated based on the last meeting's numbers; allocation will depend on final WA state PCSRF funding and state SRFB budget decisions, likely in June/July.
- SRFB Tech review site visits scheduled for May 24th.
- Morgan and Perry are working on setting up a project work group meeting in June.
- CWM funding will be presented at Snoqualmie Forum May 17th. Beth added that the initial applications came in with about 20 applicants; ~\$800,000 in funding available; over \$1 million requested.
- The FFF agreement has tentatively landed and the farmers will provide signatures. Scott P. added that they will be entering Phase 2.

Snohomish Agriculture Resilience Plan

Cindy gave a presentation on the agriculture resilience plan and reviewed aspects of the work.

- Modeling – requested Tech Comm comments/input; Guillaume Mauger (UW CIG) working on flow modeling; group offered additional resources, mapping data that may be useful, more up-to-date for modeling efforts
- Photo voice project
- Organizational approach and assessment. Status of projects that need funding.

Fish in – Fish Out

Colin provided an update on last year's escapement trends, trap numbers, ocean conditions, factors, 2017 forecast, FRAM, etc. Data was shown on Snohomish, Skykomish and Snoqualmie watersheds. Declining productivity for Snoqualmie and Skykomish chinook data was shown but has not been updated yet. Snohomish chum is really struggling. Morgan mentioned that Skagit chum aren't looking so good either. Chart was shown and explained ocean conditions. 2011-2016 data needs to be retrieved from Mike Rustay on freshwater habitat. Questions were asked on the NOAA data. Presentation will be provided to Forum and available on Forum webpage.

Break

Net Pen Management Implications

Kurt Beardslee gave a presentation on implications of net pen aquaculture in Puget Sound and noted that WFC has a Dropbox with lots of reference literature and data. Colin said he will share the link with others via Dropbox.

Kurt covered many potential problems associated with Atlantic salmon in net pens including: fish escapement, waste, predator and wild fish attraction to pens, parasites, viruses, drugs and chemical treatments, fish feed, etc. Icicle Seafoods has sold their 8 Puget Sound net pens to Cooke Aquaculture; anticipate increase in net pens in PS by Cooke. Concerns expressed that previous "best management practices" or recommendations from Ecology have not been followed by Icicle; there is no indication that Cooke will follow either. Ecology updating their 30yr old recommendations concern that there is no

enforceable regulatory “check” on net pen operation. Concern expressed on confusing, matrix of permitting, unclear net pen oversight. California, Oregon and Alaska have banned Atlantic salmon penning; RCW 15.85 encourages development/expansion of Atlantic salmon net pens in Washington State.

Round table Discussion

Beth redirected the group to formulate questions for Ecology representative Cedar Bouta’s visit in June. Numerous questions were discussed spanning policy, technical, scientific concerns and inquiries. Concern expressed a composition of Ecology work group – and whether science and non-industry perspective adequately represented. Noted that Ken Currans is involved.

Wrap up: Beth and Colin will compile questions. Transmission will be CC’d to everyone. Cedar will visit in June to answer questions. She is not in position to take recommendations/changes. RCO Dropbox link will be sent via email.

Questions can be emailed to Beth by mid-May.

Update

Federal budget is on continuing resolution until Sept. PCSRF funded at previous budget level.

Noted that herring are spawning in King County in areas not previously recorded. Question on whether spawning observed in Snohomish County. Gretchen noted MRC does some spawning surveys and will ask MRC staff if herring observed.

Noted that EPA is now accepting comments on regulations that may be appropriate for repeal, replacement, or modification. See EPA website

Upcoming Meetings

Forum meeting – Thursday, May 4th in Snohomish, 9 am.

Tech Comm – Tuesday, June 6th WDFW Mill Creek offices