

East Kitsap Salmon Recovery Group Shared Strategy Feedback for Decision Makers

I. Key Questions for Regional Summit: The following questions are important to determine the contribution of the East Kitsap watershed to regional salmon recovery in the next ten years. Answers to these questions by the end of December 2004 will support regional consensus on the direction for Puget Sound salmon recovery at the January 2005 summit.

1. What are the goals for the long-term and objectives for the next ten years? Of the habitat, harvest and hatchery conditions necessary for the populations that use your area, which can you make significant progress on in the 10-year timeframe?
2. What conditions are necessary to implement the actions identified in your 10-year timeframe? Are the conditions supported by those responsible for the implementation? If funding during the next ten years is not available for all areas where you would like to make significant progress, how would you prioritize actions?
3. What actions are necessary to achieve the protection of existing functions? What conditions must be in place to achieve protection? Are these conditions supported by those responsible for implementation?

In your June 30th submittal you provided a list of regulatory and voluntary programs but did not provide an identification, analysis and discussion of which existing functions are protected and which are not. We would like to work with you to determine a approach to addressing this question.

II. Essential Decisions for Final Watershed Chapter: Based on the chapter submittal, the summer review process, and our best scientific understanding, the Technical Recovery Team and Shared Strategy Work Group consider the following policy decisions as the most important to answer to include in the chapter by April 30, 2004. This will increase the certainty that actions in the next ten years will move us on a trajectory toward recovery.

1. **Protection:** the level of protection of all freshwater tributaries and nearshore (forage fish spawning beaches and habitats) which provide functions and values that support Chinook and bull trout; timetable and steps to provide protection where gaps exist
2. **Water Quality and Quantity:** actions, timeline and steps for filling data gaps and addressing peak and low flow problems in streams which have the greatest habitat restoration potential (Haring, Salmonid Habitat Limiting Factors, WRIA

15 Final Report, November 2000), p. 275) and/or noted in the Refugia study by refugia types and categories.

3. Adaptive Management: identification of an adaptive management structure to monitor protection and restoration measures and manage progress toward recovery goals and objectives

III. Increasing ESU Certainty: The Technical Recovery Team suggests that addressing the following will increase the certainty of meeting ESU recovery and should be noted in the plan with a brief statement of long-term strategy to address even if it is not possible to develop actions at this time.

1. Develop measurable habitat protection and restoration goals addressing ecological processes and conditions.
2. Develop a strategy that will ensure a diversity of shoreline habitats that provide adequate functions for Chinook, including the protection of eelgrass, kelp and other habitat features that support salmon.

IV. Highlights of Summer Review: This section summarizes our understanding of your responses to the six questions from your June submission and August discussions.

A. Information about the planning approach, conditions necessary to achieve recovery, and measurable goals

1. Planning Group: Is there a group working to complete a draft chapter?

The Suquamish Tribe, the City of Bainbridge Island, and Kitsap County are cooperating in the development of a salmon recovery chapter.

2. Recovery Conditions: Has the watershed group identified the conditions (habitat, harvest and hatchery) necessary to reach recovery?

Planning participants have determined that they lack sufficient information to identify conditions and the quantity of habitat types necessary to reach planning targets for the populations that use their nearshore and freshwater systems. Instead, they are identifying habitat functions and intact areas for protection. Co-managers are identifying harvest and hatchery management practices and modifications that will support recovery and for the purposes of 3H integration.

3. Measurable Goals: Has the watershed group endorsed the planning target as a long term goal? If not, what is their goal?

The East Kitsap recovery planning group's efforts are focused on functions and values of nearshore, marine habitat and freshwater conditions that serve multiple Chinook populations. Decision makers have not yet adopted habitat goals.

4. Long-term Contribution to ESU Recovery: What is the long term contribution of the independent spawning populations using this watershed for ESU recovery? To achieve ESU recovery, the TRT draft delisting criteria recommend that all populations show significant improvements. Also, based upon the delisting criteria, 2-4 populations in each of the five sub-regions must achieve the planning targets and other viable salmonid population parameters (VSP). These criteria are not intended to limit additional populations in each of the five regions from achieving the planning targets.

To achieve the TRT delisting criteria, nearshore, marine and tributaries to Puget Sound not identified as primary freshwater habitat for any of the 22 identified Chinook populations should be functioning in a manner that is sufficient to support ESU-wide recovery. The East Kitsap parties are planning largely for the nearshore and freshwater tributaries.

B. Highlights: Improvements completed or underway or existing protection of ecological functions that support recovery (Note: results for fish have not been evaluated)

1. Contaminated Sediments: Sediment Remediation activities have been completed or are underway at 11 superfund sites in Kitsap County.
2. Fish Access: Several fish access and passage improvements through culvert removals and replacements have been completed and/or are underway.
3. Regulatory Protections: The implementation of each jurisdiction's Critical Areas Ordinance, Shoreline Master Program, and other ordinances and voluntary programs contribute to the protection of habitat functions and values that support Chinook. The magnitude of protection provided by current and proposed changes to the existing programs have not been assessed by the Shared Strategy Work Group or the TRT.

C. Significant proposals - proposed strategy that strives to significantly protect or improve an important factor for recovery with actions that can be evaluated qualitatively or quantitatively for their results for fish; total cost of proposal(s)

1. The Suquamish Tribe is evaluating specific hatchery and harvest management actions associated with needs identified in the HSRG, HGMP and other documents. Estimated costs have not yet been provided.

2. The City of Bainbridge Island has developed proposals for acquisition, restoration, and a water quality and flow monitoring programs.

Total Costs: Fee-title acquisition of highest quality nearshore habitat is estimated at \$1.25 million for the 2003 and 2004 Open Space Bond. Future costs for acquisition, are estimated as \$128 million. The cost of nearshore restoration projects identified to date is \$180,000. The estimated cost of the proposed two-year pilot Comprehensive Water Quality and Stream Flow Monitoring Program is \$300,000. Estimates for in-stream fish passage projects, training associated with road maintenance, education, and regulatory updates have not yet been provided.

D. Poised – the watershed has designed or initiated a process that will result in the development of significant proposals to improve conditions for fish. Anticipated or resulting proposals should be included in the recovery chapter.

1. Nearshore Assessments: Nearshore Assessments completed for City of Bainbridge Island shoreline and Kitsap-Gig Harbor and Key Islands (KGI) provide the basis for identification, protection and restoration actions of functions and values in intact nearshore areas.

Kitsap County, in collaboration with Battelle Marine Science Laboratory, is conducting the Kitsap Peninsula Habitat Assessment of 220 miles of marine nearshore that will support policy decisions necessary to ensure protection and restoration of key nearshore and estuarine habitats important to fish.

2. Water Quantity and Water Quality: Participating municipal, county and tribal governments are addressing water quantity and water quality issues in a watershed planning process that will be completed in April 2005.
3. The City of Bainbridge Island is currently working on adopting a new stormwater ordinance which is based on the Department of Ecology Stormwater Management Manual 2001.