

Hood Canal – Skokomish and Mid-Canal Chinook Populations Shared Strategy Feedback for Decision Makers

I. Key Questions for Regional Summit: The following questions are important to determine the contribution of the Skokomish and Mid-Canal Chinook Populations 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 long-term goals for the Chinook populations in this watershed? What are the 10 year objectives? Of the habitat, harvest and hatchery conditions identified as necessary for the populations in your watershed, 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 they supported by those responsible for 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?

II. Essential Decision for Final Watershed Chapter: Based on the June 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 and include in your 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.

Skokomish and Mid-Canal populations:

1. Protection: Level of protection for all intact freshwater areas and nearshore (forage fish spawning beaches and habitats) which provide functions and values that support Chinook, summer chum and bull trout; timeline and steps to provide protection where gaps occur
2. Strategies and actions addressing limiting factors: Determine the policy issues necessary to achieve consistency with Hood Canal Coordinating Council's timeline and steps for protection, restoration, and recovery of Hood Canal Summer Chum
3. Water quality: Strategy, set of actions, responsibilities and timeline to reduce the dissolved oxygen levels.
4. Hatchery and harvest management practices: Identify actions and a timeline for developing locally adapted populations.

5. Adaptive management: identification of an adaptive management structure to monitor and manage progress toward recovery goals and objectives

Skokomish population

Identify actions that can be taken to preserve options to create a viable Skokomish River Chinook run pending the outcome of litigation between Tacoma City Light and the Skokomish Tribe

1. Fish access/passage: timeline and steps to provide increased access to habitat for the Skokomish Chinook population.
2. Skokomish delta: timeline and steps for the restoration of the Skokomish delta for the support of summer chum populations.
3. Floodplain and channel structure: timeline and steps for the stabilization and restoration of channel structure and mainstem channel of the Skokomish River.
4. Water quantity: timeline and steps to address water quantity problems (flows, flashiness) in the Skokomish, including flow issues below Cushman Dam.

Mid-Hood Canal population

1. Estuary: Identify target actions and develop a timetable and steps for the restoration of estuarine habitat and the development of strategies to address the impacts of Highway 101 on the Mid-Canal Chinook population.
2. Riparian: Implement identified actions that improve riparian functions that support fish.

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. 3-H Integration: Steps and timetable to reconcile hatchery and harvest management practices and habitat actions and goals
2. Habitat Impacts of US Highway 101 along the west side of Hood Canal and along the eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca: Identify potential actions to reduce impacts of Highway 101 and conduct preliminary assessments on redesign as elements of contributions to nearshore functions supporting Chinook, summer chum and bull trout

IV. Highlights of Summer Review: This section summarizes our understanding of the response to the six questions from the 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 for Chinook recovery?

Co-managers are taking the lead in developing a Chinook recovery plan with the cooperation of the Hood Canal Coordinating Council, which is currently developing a recovery plan for the Hood Canal Summer Chum ESU.

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

The co-managers are currently identifying conditions which are necessary to reach recovery.

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

Recovery goals have not been developed for the Skokomish River Chinook population. Litigation between Tacoma City Light and the Skokomish Tribe is currently viewed as an obstacle to recovery planning, including the setting of goals (*Co-managers' Input to Hood Canal Chinook Recovery Chapter*, July 2, 2004, p. 7).

Planning targets for abundance and productivity have been developed for the Hamma Hamma, Duckabush, and Dosewalips Chinook subpopulations using EDT and are based on assessments of properly functioning habitat and recent marine survivals.

4. Long term Contribution to ESU Recovery: What are the long term contributions of the independent spawning Chinook populations using this watershed to 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.

In this region of Puget Sound, to achieve the TRT draft delisting criteria, two Chinook populations must meet the planning targets and other VSP parameters (core populations/low risk).

B. Highlights of improvements completed or underway or existing protections of ecological functions that support recovery (Note: Results for fish have not been evaluated).

1. 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, summer chum, and bull

trout. The magnitude of protection of current programs has not been assessed by the Shared Strategy Work Group or the TRT.

2. Estuary: Several restoration projects have improved small estuaries that provide support for fish. The Dosewallips Estuary Restoration Project was funded by SRFB in 2003.
3. Fish access/passage: Several fish access and passage improvements have been completed or are underway.
4. Levee setbacks, riparian plantings, rearing pond constructions, channel reconnections and culvert replacement projects have been funded and are completed or have been funded.
5. Road decommissioning and conversions to trails: Road segments have been decommissioned and converted to trail by the US Forest Service in the Dosewallips, Hamma Hamma and Duckabush. Additional designations are awaiting funding as follows: In the Dosewallips, US Forest Service has designated 7721 meters of road for decommissioning and an additional 2581 meters for conversion to trails. Duckabush River figures are 13,048 meters designated for decommissioning and 1,205 meters designated for conversion to trail. In the Hamma Hamma, 9,217 meters have been designated for decommissioning, and 9,217 meters of road have been designated for conversion to trails. Roads have been also been designated for decommissioning and conversion to trail in the Skokomish North Fork, South Fork and Vance Creek. (*Co-managers' Input*, 35-37)
6. Harvest Management: Significant reductions in harvest have been made by the co-managers.

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)

The list of 2004-2005 projects submitted to the SRFB include requests for Dosewallips floodplain acquisition and Skokomish Valley conservation easements for a total of \$507,120. The total funding request of approximately \$3.3 million includes other projects that are believed to have direct benefits to Chinook habitat. (*Co-managers' Input*, 38)

Total Costs of Proposal: Co-managers did not submit a proposed strategy or set of actions accompanied by cost estimates. Their June 30th submission indicates that funding requirements are yet to be identified for the implementation of projects to address data gaps, harvest management planning, assessment and adaptive management. Funding requirements for modifications to hatchery facilities, and expanded monitoring and evaluation activities have not yet been estimated. Costs have been estimated for projects submitted to SRFB for funding.

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. Identification of strategies or sets of actions addressing limiting factors: The Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC) has identified and estimated costs for capital and non-capital summer chum recovery actions addressing habitat conditions in the nearshore, estuarine and freshwater environment that are expected to benefit Chinook.
2. EDT Diagnosis and Treatment: The diagnosis phase of EDT has been completed for Hood Canal Chinook. The Treatment phase is expected to begin in January 2005.
3. Protection and Restoration actions: HCCC is currently working with jurisdictions on habitat protection and build-out analyses in preparation of identifying a strategy or set of actions addressing limiting factors in conservation units in Hood Canal.
4. Water Quality: The Hood Canal Coordinating Council is working with Puget Sound Action Team to address dissolved oxygen levels. Resolution of appropriate nutrient baseline conditions and management targets will improve habitat conditions for fish.
5. All-H Integration: Co-managers developed and submitted material to Shared Strategy addressing Chinook harvest and hatchery management practices and considerations for All-H integration for incorporation into a chinook recovery plan that will potentially be developed by the co-managers in cooperation with other stakeholders.