

Draft Development Committee Process for Consensus and Decision Making

1. Approach Needed for Setting Priorities and Allocating Funds

- Clear decision approach is needed for setting priorities and allocating funds
- The Committee will converge around key ideas and reach consensus decisions, if possible.
- If consensus is not reached, a voting approach will be needed

2. What is consensus?

- Consensus is a desired outcome each person can live with, with lack of active opposition being the 'lowest' form of sufficient 'can live with' support.
- Willingness to actively support is not required from everyone, but is highly desirable by most if not all of the Development Committee members in order for the decision to have its appropriate support or influence
- Consensus outcomes are, by far, the most powerful and durable outcomes.
- Reach to consensus by:
 - Candid articulation of interests and needs by participants
 - Openness to different ways of meeting interests and needs
 - Active seeking of convergence
 - Willingness to enter into compromises
 - Acting in good faith and assuming others are too

3. How might voting, if needed, work?

- If the Committee cannot reach consensus, a super-majority voting process could be used with one vote for each arranged representative in the Committee
- To pass, a decision would need to carry two super majority votes
 - 2/3 of watershed representatives would need to support it and
 - 2/3 of entire Committee would need to support it
- Voting could be 'open ballot' and recorded in the meeting summary either by individual vote or by aggregate total as the Committee so desires.
- Super majorities would demonstrate that significant political support exists for a decision, enabling the regional approach to move forward with an emphasis on what is best for Salmon, within watersheds and across the ESU.
- Super majorities would ensure that the watershed approach is still the foundation of how the Recovery Plan is developed, implemented, and funded.