

Proposed Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council Ground Rules for Meetings

1. All Council members have equal representation and equal opportunities to participate in discussions.
2. All participants retain their rights, authorities and responsibilities. While free to pursue a course of action appropriate to their interests, participants agree that the Shared Strategy collaborative approach is needed to address issues related to successfully implementing the recovery plan.
3. Collaborative problem solving depends on mutual respect and careful listening among participants and on active participation by all. Meetings of the Council will be constructed and conducted in a respectful atmosphere and the work to develop trust and understanding among participants.
4. Participants will strive for honest and direct communication and a focus on interests and needs rather than positions. Participants will allow for open discussion, strive to understand the interests of others, and while reserving the right to disagree, will look for opportunities to find common interests, agreements, and solutions.
5. The Council will strive for consensus in the development of its recommendations and decisions. The Council will build its consensus around the issues and directions that converge over time. The Council will determine its decision-making process for any recommendations or decisions that do not have full consensus.
6. For any final recommendations or decisions, the Council will determine how to portray its consensus recommendations and any recommendations or decisions that may not have full consensus, as determined by the Council.
7. The facilitator is a neutral third party with no stake in the outcome of the project and, however contracted, works for the process and will treat all participants as equals.
8. Participants and/or the facilitator may request a caucus break at any time during a meeting. Individual caucus breaks should not exceed 15 minutes, in order to keep the flow of meetings on track.
9. Participants will focus on clarifying their own views and interests; they will refrain from characterizing the views of other participants especially in conversations with the press.
10. Meetings will start and end on time.