

Hood Canal Summer Chum Shared Strategy Feedback for Decision Makers

I. Key Questions for Regional Summit: The following questions are important to determine the contribution of the Hood Canal Summer Chum 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 measurable goals for the long-term and the objectives for the next ten years? What are the habitat, harvest and hatchery conditions necessary for the recovery of summer chum to achieve the viable salmonid population parameters (VSP)? What can you make the most 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 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 those conditions supported by those responsible for implementation?

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

1. Measurable habitat protection and restoration and fish population goals:
2. Protection: the level of protection of all freshwater tributaries and nearshore habitats which provide functions and values that support summer chum, Chinook and bull trout; timetable and steps to provide protection where gaps exist
3. Water quality and quantity: specific target actions, timeline and steps to address water quality, including dissolved oxygen levels, and instream flows over the next ten years
4. Strategies and actions addressing limiting factors: identify and prioritize and restoration actions; select target number of projects and set steps and timetable for implementation over the next ten years

5. Adaptive Management: Identification of an adaptive management structure to monitor and manage progress toward recovery of summer chum and integrated recovery planning with co-managers concerning the achievement of Chinook recovery goals

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. All-H Integration: steps and timetable necessary to reconcile harvest and hatchery management practices and habitat actions and goals
2. 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 summer chum, Chinook and bull trout.

IV. Highlights of Summer Review: This section summarizes our understanding of your responses to the six questions from your June submissions 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 summer chum recovery?

Yes. The recovery plan for the Hood Canal Summer Chum ESU is being developed by the Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC). The Board of Directors of Regular Members includes county commissioners from Jefferson County, Kitsap County, and Mason County, and elected Tribal Council members from the Skokomish Tribe and the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe.

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

HCCC staff members are currently working with staff of member governments as well as of the Point No Point Treaty Tribes, federal, WDFW and other state agencies to identify conditions necessary to reach recovery. HCC staff also work with Clallam County staff concerning the eastern portion of Clallam County that is part of the summer chum ESU.

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

Interim targets have been adopted pending the development of VSP goals by the Puget Sound Technical Recovery Team (TRT). HCCC staff members are working with the TRT to identify goals for the ESU.

4. Long term Contribution to ESU Recovery: What is the long term contribution of the summer chum populations to ESU recovery?

HCCC staff members are working with the TRT and co-managers to determine planning targets for Hood Canal summer chum populations.

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

1. Regulatory Protections: The implementation of each jurisdictions' Critical Areas Ordinance, Shoreline Master Program, and other ordinances and voluntary programs contribute to the protection of habitat functions and values that support summer chum, Chinook, and bull trout. The magnitude of protection provided by existing 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.
2. Fish access/passage: Several fish access and passage improvements have been completed or are underway.
3. Levee setbacks, riparian plantings, rearing pond constructions and channel reconnections projects have been completed, funded or underway.
4. Road decommissioning and conversions to trails: Road segments have been decommissioned and converted to trail by the USFS. Additional segments are designated for decommissioning and conversion to trails.
5. Harvest management: Significant reductions in harvest have been made by 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 evaluated for their results for fish); total cost of proposal(s)

The list of 2004-2005 projects submitted to the SRFB include requests for projects which will have direct benefits to summer chum, Chinook, and bull trout.

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

1. HCCC has developed an extensive list of projects that are intended to address summer chum recovery. The list of 2004-2005 projects submitted to the SRFB includes requests for restoration projects that can be evaluated qualitatively or quantitatively for their results for fish.

Total cost: Initial costs for capital and non-capital costs were developed by Evergreen Funding Consultants (EFC). The total cost of selected projects is \$100,770.695. These projects include estuarine restoration, floodplain reconnections, LWD placement, and riparian enhancements. Of the total, acquisitions account for \$6,225,722. Non-capital items over the next ten year period are estimated at \$1.5 million. These include FTE estimates for monitoring, stewardship, public education, and research. (*Costing of Hood Canal Coordinating Council's Summer Chum Salmon Recovery plan, Draft, August 2004*).

2. Protection and Restoration actions: HCCC is currently working with jurisdictions on habitat protection and build-out analyses in preparation for identifying a strategy or set of actions addressing limiting factors in conservation units in Hood Canal.
3. Water Quality: HCCC is working with the Puget Sound action Team to address dissolved oxygen levels.
4. All-H Integration: Co-managers are committed to working achieving all-H integration.