

# GOVERNOR'S MONITORING FORUM DATA WORKSHOP

Welcome to the Data Workshop sponsored by the Governor's Forum on Monitoring Salmon Recovery and Watershed Health (Forum). The Forum was formed by Governor's Executive Order 04-03 to pursue the recommendations of the Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy (CMS) and Action Plan created by statute. The 2007 Legislature has formed the Forum in statute and formally adopted the CMS. The Forum is charged with providing a multi-agency venue for coordinating technical and policy issues and actions related to monitoring watershed health and salmon recovery.

## **Workshop Purpose**

This workshop is the second in a series of workshops intended to increase transparency and accountability for salmon recovery and watershed health. The public has invested hundreds of millions of dollars to these efforts and yet there are few ways to account for whether these investments are paying dividends. The public, Congress, State Legislature, and Governor want to know: Are things improving? How close are we to reaching our goals? How much more will it cost? And when will we be finished?

The *State of Salmon Report in Watersheds (SOS)* is Washington's biennial report intended to report on these questions at a statewide, regional, and watershed scale. These workshops are intended to improve the efficiency, accuracy, and transparency of the SOS Report.

The first workshop, held in 2005, identified the appropriate and available statewide and regional indicators that most accurately reflect the progress of salmon recovery and watershed health in the SOS Report. The Indicator Workshop was successful in garnering broad support for additions and changes in which indicators would be used and how they were summarized in the 2006 SOS Report.

The second workshop, titled "*Transitioning from Dirt Roads to a Data Highway*", is scheduled for June 20, 2007. The workshop will build on the 2005 Indicator Workshop but will focus on improving how data are stored, summarized, and reported. The current process for storing and preparing data for the SOS Report could be improved, saving time and money, and providing more transparency and accountability to the general public.

Future workshops will build on all of this work and explore how parts of the reporting and data summary systems can be automated. This will improve efficiencies and allow the SOS Report to be generated online, further increasing transparency and accountability.

## **Data Workshop Goals**

The goals of the Data Workshop are to:

1. Identify the current data management issues and needs related to the State of Salmon Report.
  - a. Where are the data, who are the stewards, and what are the data sharing issues?
2. Identify the obstacles to storing and sharing data and information related to the State of Salmon Report. Specifically for the following categories:
  - a. Juvenile salmon migrants for Primary populations (Fish Out)
  - b. Adult salmon escapements for Primary populations (Fish In)
  - c. Coastwide harvest of primary populations and major population groups
  - d. Water quantity by primary watersheds
  - e. Water quality
  - f. Regional databases and regional data sharing needs
3. Identify possible solutions to the obstacles
4. Outline the potential costs and priorities
  - a. How much will it cost, how much time will it take?
  - b. Which issues/items should be addressed first?

## **Recommendations to the Governor's Forum**

The results of the June 20, 2007, Data Workshop will be summarized into recommendations and presented to the Governor's Forum on Monitoring on the following day.

### **WORKSHOP SESSIONS AND FORMAT**

The workshop has been planned to accomplish the following tasks:

#### **Morning General Session**

1. Greet and introduce the participants
2. Briefly review the various important elements of data handling and data sharing to set the stage for our discussion (Stewart Toshach, NMFS)
3. Describe the SOS indicators that have been chosen for this workshop and why they were chosen
4. Describe the breakout groups and introduce their facilitators
5. Describe the tasks of each breakout group and their products
6. Adjourn the concurrent session and move to the breakout groups

#### **Fish Breakout Sessions (Steve Leider, Facilitator)**

The Fish breakout group will have three hours to work on:

- Reporting SOS fish out (juvenile migrants), fish in (escapement), and harvest
- For each, Identify the most important steps that can be taken that will improve data sharing
- Identify obstacles that exist for improved data and reporting
- Identify the most important tasks and strategies the FORUM members should pursue
- Prioritize solutions
- Summarize recommendations for the Forum

#### **Water Breakout Sessions (Linda Crerar, Facilitator)**

The Water breakout group will have three hours to work on:

- Identifying data issues and obstacles for combining multiple agency data associated with reporting water quality measurements necessary for the Water Quality Index and water quantity
- For each, Identify tasks or strategies the FORUM should pursue to help address the most important data sharing needs
- Prioritize solutions
- Summarize recommendations for the Forum

#### **Afternoon General Session Regional Data Issues (Susan Zemek, Facilitator)**

1. The participants will meet together to discuss regional data issues involving ESA recovery plans and cross-agency data sharing and reporting
2. The regions will identify their most important data management issues and needs as they implement monitoring components of their regional salmon recovery plans
  - a. How they intend to address them
  - b. To what extent their issues and needs are unique to their region or shared by other regions
3. What obstacles exist at the regional scale for providing information to the SOS reports?
4. What are the most important tasks and strategies the Forum should pursue to help address the most important needs?

The Forum will convene the day after the workshop, June 21, to receive recommendations from each breakout group and to determine the next steps to take to address data solutions.