

*Washington Forum on Monitoring
June 24, 2009*

AGENDA Item # 6

NOAA Guidance for Monitoring Recovery of Salmon and Steelhead

Presentation by:

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Problem/Issue Statement

NOAA has distributed a guidance document with recommendations for monitoring the recovery of salmon and steelhead, addressing all of the VSP criteria and listing factors and threats for salmon populations. NOAA had intended to publish their guidance document in the Federal Register on June 1, 2009 opening a formal public comment period. It was the Forum's intention (May 11, 2009 meeting notes) to coordinate a joint response to NOAA's guidance, capturing any general comments or specific concerns common among Forum member agencies in a formal response during the public comment period.

For internal reasons, NOAA has not yet published their guidance in the federal register (as of June 17). This delay means the formal public comment period has not yet begun, and provides additional time for the Forum to coordinate comments among its member agencies.

Methods/Solutions Proposed

Forum member agencies interested in providing comments on NOAA's guidance should complete their internal reviews and then meet to identify and coordinate comments across the agencies. The Forum Executive Coordinator will then draft a coordinated comment letter to NOAA for signature by the Forum Chair.

What decision is asked of the Forum?

None at this point. Once NOAA publishes their guidance document and the formal public comment period is opened, Forum agencies who wish to review the guidance should coordinate and assist in the development of a joint response on behalf of the Washington Forum. Individual agencies remain free to forward additional comments to NOAA that are not included in the Forum's letter.