

Agenda Item: Review of New Forum Statute and Responsibilities

Presentation by: Bruce Crawford, FORUM Staff, will brief the FORUM on contents of recently passed SSB5224 and its impact upon the FORUM.

Problem/Issue Statement

The Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy recommended establishing an ongoing monitoring council to coordinate monitoring. Former Governor Locke created the Governor's Forum on Monitoring Salmon Recovery and Watershed Health by Executive Order 03-04. The 2007 legislature created by statute the Washington Forum on Monitoring Salmon Recovery and Watershed Health effective July 1, 2007.

Task/Policy Addressed

Addresses responsibilities, participants, and tasks of the FORUM

Methods/Solutions Proposed

The FORUM will be able to understand and implement changes in its authority and required tasks.

Attachments

Following related material is attached to this Summary or will be presented at the meeting:

Forum Tasks

Forum Structure

What decision is asked of the Forum?

None

FORUM STRUCTURE

The purpose of this section is to adopt the “*The Washington Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy and Action Plan for Watershed Health and Salmon Recovery*”, and provide guidance to ensure that the coordination activities directed by executive order 04-03 are effectively carried out.

The governor shall appoint a person with experience and expertise in natural resources and environmental quality monitoring to chair the forum. The chair shall serve four-year terms and may serve successive terms.

The forum shall include representatives of the following state agencies and regional entities that have responsibilities related to monitoring of salmon recovery and watershed health:

- (a) Department of ecology;
- (b) Salmon recovery funding board;
- (c) Salmon recovery office;
- (d) Department of fish and wildlife;
- (e) Department of natural resources;
- (f) Puget Sound action team, or a successor state agency;
- (g) Conservation commission;
- (h) Department of agriculture;
- (i) Department of transportation; and
- (j) Each of the regional salmon recovery organizations.

The forum sunsets on June 30, 2015 unless re-authorized by the legislature

FORUM TASKS

- 1. Provide a multi-agency venue for coordinating technical and policy issues and actions related to monitoring salmon recovery and watershed health.**
- 2. Recommend a set of measures for use by the governor's salmon recovery office in the state of the salmon report to convey results and progress on salmon recovery and watershed health in ways that are easily understood by the general public**
- 3. Invite the participation of federal, tribal, regional, and local agencies and entities that carry out salmon recovery and watershed health monitoring.**
- 4. Work toward coordination and standardization of monitoring measures used.**
- 5. Periodically report to the governor and the appropriate standing committees of the senate and house of representatives on the forum's activities and recommendations for improving monitoring programs by state agencies**
- 6. Coordinate with the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office biennial report as required by RCW 77.85.020.**
- 7. Review pilot monitoring programs including those that integrate (a) data collection, management, and access; and (b) information regarding habitat projects and project management.**
- 8. Review and make recommendations to the office of financial management and the appropriate legislative committees on agency budget requests related to monitoring salmon recovery and watershed health. These recommendations must be made no later than September 15th of each year. The goal of this review is to prioritize and integrate budget requests across agencies.**