

Proposed Agenda

Washington Forum on Monitoring Salmon Recovery and Watershed Health

September 11, 2009

Cherberg Building Conference Room
Capitol Campus
Olympia, Washington

Note: Opening sessions will commence as shown; all other times are approximate. If you need special accommodations to participate in this meeting, please notify us by September 4, 2009 at 360/902-3000 or TDD 360/902-1996.

9:00	Item# 1	Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions• Review and approval of agenda• Correspondence sent or received	Chair
9:15	Item# 2	Approval of June minutes	Chair
9:20	Item# 3	Forum business rules <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss revisions to draft business and operating rules• Adopt the rules	Ken Dzinbal
9:45	Item# 4	Adopt High Level Indicators for Salmon <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposed indicator list for salmon• Outreach and announcement?	Ken Dzinbal
10:30		<i>Break</i>	
10:45	Item# 5	Forum Budget letter to OFM <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss and approve final letter to OFM and the Legislature	Chair
11:00	Item# 6	Forum recommendations to SRFB on monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forum workgroup recommendations• Discuss and approve recommendations for Oct SRFB mtg	Ken Dzinbal
12:00		<i>Lunch</i>	
1:00	Item# 7	Forum Response to Natural Resources Reform Options <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Background and overview of ideas on reorganizing state natural resource agencies• Discuss implications for monitoring• Forum response?	Kaleen Cottingham Steve McLellan

1:45	Item# 8	Update on sub-regional workshops on anadromous fish monitoring and evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alignment with CBFWA, PSP, NPCC	Ken MacDonald
2:15	Item# 9	Next Steps: High Level Indicators for Watershed Health <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordination with AREMP, PIBO, CBFWA, CRITFC, etc.	Ken MacDonald Ken Dzinbal
2:45	Item# 10	Formal invitation to invite BPA, CRITFC to join Forum?	Chair
3:00		<i>Adjourn</i>	

**FORUM ON MONITORING
SALMON RECOVERY AND WATERSHED HEALTH
SUMMARY MINUTES**

DATE: June 24, 2009

PLACE: Natural Resources Building, Room 172

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

Olympia, Washington

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bill Wilkerson	Chair, Forum on Monitoring Salmon Recovery and Watershed Health
Ken Dzinbal	Executive Coordinator, RCO
Kit Paulsen	Designee, City of Bellevue
Jim Cowles	Designee, Department of Agriculture
Brad Thompson	Designee, U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Carol Smith	Designee, Conservation Commission
Bob Nichols	Designee, Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Dick Wallace	Designee, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Steve Leider	Designee, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Rob Duff	Designee, Department of Ecology
Rebecca Ponzio	Designee, Puget Sound Partnership
Paul Ancich	Designee, Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group
Bruce Crawford	Designee, NOAA Fisheries
Rob Duff	Designee, Department of Ecology
Sara LaBorde	Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife

IT IS INTENDED THAT THIS SUMMARY BE USED WITH THE NOTEBOOK PROVIDED IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.

A RECORDING IS RETAINED BY THE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE AS THE FORMAL RECORD OF MEETING.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

The Chair called for introductions from the Forum and the audience. After introductions, Carol Smith asked to move agenda item 5 before lunch. Chair Wilkerson agreed.

Agenda Item #2: Approval of March Minutes and Approval of May Minutes

Kit Paulsen moved to approve the March and May meeting minutes. The Forum approved.

Brad Thompson asked for his name to be added to the list of members present at the May 11th meeting.

Agenda Item #3: Forum Business Rules

Jim Eychaner presented a draft version of Business Rules for the Forum to consider. Jim pointed out several issues, including differences in the meaning of the terms: member vs. representative. Chair Wilkerson asked about voting with regard to invited members vs required members. Jim clarified that members mandated in the statute would normally have a vote, while invited participants would not.

Ken Dzinbal added that after speaking with the Attorney General's Office, that it is the Forum's prerogative to determine how the Forum operates including how it would adopt actions within the Forum. The Attorney General's Office did not read into the statute any specific requirements for

how the Forum would adopt actions or create operating rules.

Kit Paulsen expressed an interest in local governments holding a voting position since they have been asked to participate and they pay for monitoring at the watershed level. Bob Metzger asked that the Forest Service serve as an ex officio member of the Forum, with invited guest status. Bruce Crawford agreed that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) serve as an invited guest. Jim noted that the changes could be made with a few edits. Chair Wilkerson asked to add tribes and local governments as voting members,.. Jim Eychaner noted that he would discuss that change with RCO Director, Kaleen Cottingham. JPaul Ancich requested that the Regional Fish Enhancement Groups (RFEs) be added to the voting list. Sara LaBorde suggested changing the term “invited guests” to “extended membership.” Jim Eychaner will check with Director Cottingham.

Chair Wilkerson asked if the Power Council would like to be added to the voting member list. Dick Wallace noted that he would like to be an ex officio member. Bob Metzger asked about the role of the ex officio members, he would like to see the ex officio members retain the ability to serve in an advisory and technical assistance role. The Forum discussed the roles of ex officio and voting members.

Jim Eychaner agreed to revise the draft Business Rules based on the discussion, and Ken Dzinbal will circulate to Forum members for further review.

Agenda Item #5: Update on Agency Monitoring Budgets

Chair Wilkerson explained that usually the Forum discusses the budget at the June meeting, but considering the status of the budget, there will not be a lengthy discussion about budget ads. Instead the Chair asked Forum members to report on the status of agency monitoring budgets across the state.

Regional Fish Enhancement Groups (RFEs):

Paul Ancich started by explaining that there has been a long debate about whether RFE volunteers are qualified to conduct monitoring. It has been determined that RFE volunteers, with the help of scientists on staff, can complete monitoring activities. Therefore RFEs are interested in assisting Forum agencies with monitoring.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA):

Bruce Crawford explained that NOAA Fisheries is involved in many monitoring efforts, including recent assistance with developing salmon monitoring strategies in Puget Sound working with the Puget Sound Partnership.

Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NWPC)

Dick Walled stated that the NWPC is working with Bonneville to improve research monitoring and evaluation (RME) and continuing existing monitoring efforts. The Council is looking at different projects that Bonneville funds, and working on a strategic plan for monitoring.

Puget Sound Partnership

Rebecca Ponzio explained that the Partnership is working with Ecology on status and trends monitoring using federal (EPA) funds. The Partnership expects to hire a Monitoring Coordinator by the end of the year, and the Partnership will take over the efforts of the Puget Sound Monitoring Consortium.

Washington Department of Ecology

Rob Duff noted that while the Puget Sound Partnership's Leadership Council decided to move the consortium into the Partnership, the storm water workgroup will work under Ecology and with the Partnership. Rob explained that thanks to National Estuary Program funding, Ecology continues to fund status and trends monitoring. The program took hits in other areas, but monitoring was not impacted.

Environmental Protection Agency

David Tetta noted that he would talk to Tom Eaton to get an update on EPA's budget status for the Forum. Chair Wilkerson added that EPA's budget is fairly safe, and from the perspective of the Leadership Council, monitoring in the Puget Sound will not be lost.

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO)

Steve Leider noted that GSRO is going through a transition but its budget is intact, and the regional recovery budgets are whole.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Sara LaBorde explained that the decision packages put forward last year to build up Fish in/Fish out monitoring and habitat remote sensing were not funded. There were some reductions in adult abundance work and smolt monitoring, but the biggest cut was in the salmon and steelhead inventory program, and the stock identification program. Invasive species monitoring was not affected. The Department of Fish and Wildlife lost a habitat section manager, Lead Entity Environmental Planner, and Special Assistant to the Director, Tim Smith.

Chair Wilkerson asked how the Partnership and Forum can most help Fish and Wildlife. Rebecca asked about remote sensing at the watershed scale vs. the regional scale.

Bruce Crawford asked if hatcheries lost effectiveness monitoring, looking at wild to hatchery returns. Sara responded that they lost 9 to 10 percent in code wire tagging.

Paul Ancich asked if the Forum has the capability to recommend decision packages that go forward. Chair Wilkerson noted that the Forum can offer recommendations, and noted that status and trends and fish in/fish out are the priorities.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Bob Nichols noted that there is a 10 percent monitoring requirement for all Salmon Recovery Funding Board projects receiving funds from the Pacific Coast Salmon Recover Fund (PCSRF). Bob asked Ken to describe the SRFB's monitoring priorities. Ken explained that Ecology's IMW program, Status and trends, and fish in/fish out program are the SRFB's primary monitoring projects. The current funding level for SRFB monitoring has been \$2.35 million, but it is anticipated that the funding will increase to \$2.6 million.

Conservation Commission

Carol Smith noted that it has always been a challenge for 47 conservation districts to report their 2,000 actions for on-the-ground monitoring and roll-up all that information for the State of the Salmon report. The Commission needs to update their data system, the system they have in place works with PRISM, and needs to be tested with the Habitat Work Schedule. Carol's hope is to have 20 of the 47 conservation districts ready for the next state of the salmon report.

Chair Wilkerson suggested that Carol work with the Power Council or Puget Sound Partnership to help the Commission find funding for monitoring efforts.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Brad Thompson noted that within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Puget Sound Partnership's federal caucus has been active in requesting funding for the Elwha Watershed and Nisqually. Fifty sites were added to monitor status and trends in Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 8. The only ad in the national budget is ~ \$10 million dollars nationally for climate change. He was unsure how the funds would be used. U.S Fish and Wildlife has been petitioned to list Lake Sammamish Kokanee.

Washington Department of Agriculture

Jim Cowles noted that the Department of Agriculture funds status and trends monitoring for pesticides in salmon bearing streams, and there were no budget changes. Some of the resources for the next fiscal year have been reallocated to urban watershed monitoring through a cooperative agreement with the Department of Ecology.

Local Government Representative

Kit Paulsen noted that local governments are experiencing challenges in salmon recovery monitoring, and monitoring efforts are being reduced at the local scale. Local governments banded together to conduct monitoring in Water Resources Inventory Area (WRIA) 8, located in King County. There are a few pilot projects that local governments are helping to move forward with Ecology.

Chair Wilkerson asked who was losing the monitoring efforts, and Kit responded that it is the central basin of the Puget Sound. Chair Wilkerson recommended that local governments work with the Partnership. Kit responded that the local governments hope to develop a plan before requesting funds from the regional organizations.

Kit briefly discussed the Monitoring Consortium's move to the Partnership, and noted that one of the goals of the Consortium is to coordinate with the storm water work group.

United States Forest Service

Bob Metzger listed the primary monitoring efforts by the USFS: watershed condition status and trends through the Aquatic and Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring Program (AREMP), and Pac Fish/In Fish (PIBO) in Eastern Washington, of which one of the key components is remote sensing.

Washington Department of Health

Ginny Stern stated that did not have any large updates, but the office of shellfish management did not report any cuts. She suggested advocating for local support because of all the cuts that the local governments are experiencing.

Chair Wilkerson noted that either the organizations are going to rely on the Forum to help, or the Forum will not be of any help at all. He asked if the Forum needs to weigh in on budgets to the legislature. He noted that the legislature and congress are willing to listen to the Forum, so it is important to use the leverage that the group has. Chair Wilkerson reiterated that agencies and organizations, in accord with the Forum, ask the funding agencies (the Puget Sound Partnership and Power Council) and request funding for specific monitoring priorities. He recommended the Forum connect itself to larger monitoring projects, like those taking place in the Puget Sound.

Ken asked the Forum if there were any budget planning or coordination processes that need to be completed prior to the August 26th Forum meeting, to ensure appropriate recommendations in time for the September 15th budget recommendations to OFM. Rob Duff questioned how well the

meeting date aligns with the Request for Proposals to the EPA, which is taking place over the next couple of months. Rob recommended that the Forum compose a letter to EPA.

The Forum decided to have Ken Dzinbal draft a letter to OFM and the legislature, and send it out for the Forum to review prior to the next meeting, incorporating any comments before it is finalized.

Agenda Item #6: NOAA Draft Guidance for Monitoring Salmon Recovery

Bruce reminded the Forum that his presentation is follow up to the March meeting's discussion of the NOAA Draft Guidance on Monitoring. The draft has been submitted to the Federal Register, and will be published on June 28th. Then there will be a 90 day public comment period. Ken recommended the Forum draft a letter from the Forum as a formal response to the federal register public notice.

Ginny recommended a smaller group to work on the letter, and allowing the entire Forum to give feedback at the August meeting.

David Tetta (EPA) reported he talked to Tom Eaton over lunch, and mentioned that EPA is posting a website on how EPA's RFP should be designed, particularly with regard to how they should address different priorities on the Action Agenda. Remote sensing and backfilling any shortfall due to storm water requirements would be useful feedback.

Chair Wilkerson added that the Monitoring Forum can lend credence to agency proposals. Ken Dzinbal should be the contact person.

Ginny Stern asked if there are any ideas about the RFP timeline. David Tetta responded that the RFP will probably not be completed by the August meeting.

Agenda Item #7: Moving from Indicators to Metrics

Ken Dzinbal presented an update on the Forum's work on moving from indicators to specific metrics. One goal of the effort is to provide for internal consistency. Thus far, two categories of indicators have been identified: Fish indicators (with a focus on abundance at the population scale), and watershed health. The major regional parties involved appear to agree that the metrics for fish high-level indicators are generally standardized and in agreement. There is less agreement on Watershed Health metrics and protocols, however there is a smaller constituency of programs to align. The metrics that were proposed at the March 2009 Forum meeting were well received.

Ken noted that the focus for the protocols is determining how to compile data for the next report. Chair Wilkerson stated that the Forum should plan to agree on at least salmon indicators by the August meeting.

Ken presented the next steps for developing metrics for fish and watershed health. Chair Wilkerson encouraged the Forum to approve metrics for watershed health at the same time that the forum approves those for fish.

Agenda Item #9 Collaborative Monitoring and Evaluation for Anadromous Fish in the Columbia Basin

Ken introduced the panel, including Greg Delwiche - Bonneville Power Administration, Brian

Lipsomb - Columbia Basin Fish Recovery Board, Nancy Leonard - Northwest Power and Conservation Council, Erik Neatherlin from WDFW, and Bruce Crawford from NOAA. Brian Lipscomb started by providing a presentation on efforts to jointly develop an integrated monitoring framework for anadromous fish in the Columbia River Basin. The presentation gave an overview of the multiagency process, and the group's timeline May 2009 – September 2009.

Chair Wilkerson responded to the presentation that the Forum has a statutory requirement to get High Level Indicators completed by the end of the year. He was pleased with the Columbia Basin's efforts and progress. Dick Wallace and Sara LaBorde echoed the Chair's kudos to the panel. Chair Wilkerson asked if the panel's metrics agree with Ken's presentation. Brian noted that the Viable Salmonid Population (VSP) criteria that the panel presented were aligned with the Forum's metrics.

Bob Metzger asked about the idea for watershed health focusing on the assessment protocol that could help with developing the indicators. Ken McDonald responded about finding a way to align the reporting from federal and private lands. Nancy Leonard added the panel, along with Ken Dzinbal, and Jen Bayer all work together on a regular basis.

The Chair asked the panel to be in touch with the Puget Sound Partnership about making the presentation to the PSP's leadership council.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Bill Wilkerson, Chair

Next Meeting: September 11, 2009
Olympia, WA

Washington Forum on Monitoring
September 11, 2009

AGENDA Item # 3

Forum Business Rules

Presentation by:

Ken Dzinbal

Problem/Issue Statement

The Forum operates primarily as a coordination body, but under several circumstances it is required to adopt policy positions or make formal recommendations as a body. This includes the requirements under RCW 77.85.250 to make recommendations to OFM and the legislature on agency budget requests related to monitoring, and to adopt high-level indicators and protocols.

While the Forum developed an initial charter document in 2004, it has not addressed business rules governing procedures to reach formal positions with regard to recommendations, endorsements, or policy positions.

Methods/Solutions Proposed

RCO staff presented a first draft of proposed business rules at the June 24 meeting. That draft has been revised to incorporate comments from the ensuing forum discussion.

What decision is asked of the Forum?

Approve the revised set of business rules and decision procedures (with or without additional edits) to support the Forum's required policy functions.

Washington Forum on Monitoring Salmon Recovery and Watershed Health

Charter and Operating Guidelines Adopted September 11, 2009

Purpose of the Forum

The Forum provides a multiagency venue for coordinating technical and policy issues and actions related to monitoring salmon recovery and watershed health.

The Forum is directed by state law to implement the *Washington Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy and Action Plan for Watershed Health and Salmon Recovery*. 2SHB 2157 (2009), amending RCW 77.85.250.

Statutory Membership

State law says the Forum on Monitoring Salmon Recovery and Watershed Health (Forum) is composed of the following organizations:

- Department of Ecology
- Salmon Recovery Funding Board
- Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Department of Natural Resources
- Puget Sound Partnership
- Washington Conservation Commission
- Washington Department of Agriculture
- Washington Department of Transportation
- Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board
- Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board
- Snake River Salmon Recovery Board
- Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board
- Hood Canal Coordinating Council
- Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership

Membership by Invitation

The forum shall invite the participation of federal, tribal, regional, and local agencies and entities that carry out salmon recovery and watershed health monitoring (RCW 77.85.250(5)). Invitees will have full rights as voting members of the forum, or may elect to serve on an *ex officio* basis as need be, if voting creates a conflict of interest or conflict of authorities. A list of invited members shall be kept current by RCO staff.

Representatives

Each member of the forum shall designate a single representative. If the designated representative is unable to attend a forum meeting, the forum will allow a substitute to participate as a full member of the forum if the representative or the representative's organization so directs.

Representatives serve until replaced by their organization.

Forum Members' Responsibility

Forum members are expected to have a representative at each meeting. Forum representatives are expected to bring their agency or entity's perspective and position to the meetings, and to communicate the results of the meetings to the agency or entity they represent.

Quorum

For the Forum to take official action, a quorum of voting Forum members must have a representative present in person or by telecommunication. A quorum is a majority (51%) of the voting members. A meeting of a quorum, whether in person or electronically and, depending on the nature of the meeting, may be subject to the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act. If a quorum is not present, the only actions that may legally be taken are to fix a time of adjournment, adjourn, recess, or take measures to obtain a quorum.

Actions of the Forum

The Forum will work to meet the requirements of RCW 77.85.250, as amended by 2SHB 2157. These include (but are not limited to):

- Making recommendations to the office of financial management and the appropriate legislative committees on agency budget requests related to monitoring salmon recovery and watershed health. The goal of this review is to prioritize and integrate budget requests across agencies.
- Adopting general high-level indicators for salmon recovery and watershed health in Washington, and protocols for monitoring these high-level indicators that will enable state-conducted or state-funded monitoring efforts to be capable of reporting results that will ensure reporting consistency and agency compliance under the consolidated reporting requirement of RCW 77.85.020.
- Indicating how the general high-level indicators are consistent with, and complement, the more detailed regional and local metrics used to measure watershed health and salmon recovery. High-level indicators shall inform a nontechnical summary of key metrics that indicate the state of salmon recovery and provide an index of watershed health in Washington.

Decision Making

In doing its work, the forum will operate by consensus as much as possible. For the purposes of the Forum, consensus is defined as a lack of opposition of all representatives. Representatives should express their reservations, and then express their willingness to “go along” with the majority whenever possible. The Chair will ensure that every representative has had a chance to voice his or her opinion before declaring that a consensus has been reached.

Consensus has not been reached if more than one representative is unwilling to support the decision or if more than one member expresses active opposition to the decision. If consensus cannot be reached, voting according to Robert’s Rules of Order will be used if a majority of the members present agree. If so desired, a minority or dissenting opinion will be included in the official record of the forum and any report or recommendation adopted by the forum by vote rather than consensus.

The forum may designate types of decisions that require consensus, a simple majority vote, or a super majority vote. Each statutory or invited member organization has one vote except any invited members serving in an *ex officio* capacity.

Agreements

All agreements or recommendations are tentative until the end of the process, at which time the Forum will review them in whole before finalizing them. During the process, recommendations will only be revisited by agreement of the Forum.

Ethics

The requirements of state ethics laws apply to all Forum representatives operating in their Forum role. (See RCW43.52 and the reference resources at the website for the Executive Ethics Board, <http://ethics.wa.gov/>.) The laws include prohibitions against conflicts of interest, acceptance of most gifts, and release of confidential information. The Forum will strive to maintain full awareness and compliance with these requirements in the conduct of its work.

Travel and Other Reimbursement

Forum representatives are expected to seek reimbursement of travel and other expenses from their respective organizations.

Washington Forum on Monitoring
September 11, 2009

AGENDA Item # 4

Adopt high-level indicators for Salmon

Presentation by:

Ken Dzinbal

Problem/Issue Statement

The Forum is required to “*adopt general high-level indicators for salmon recovery and watershed health by December 1, 2009. By July 1, 2010 the forum shall also adopt the protocols for monitoring these high-level indicators...*”

The forum agreed on an initial set of proposed high-level indicators at its March meeting. Subsequently, we have coordinated with a number of other organizations also working on salmon indicators, including PNAMP (recommended high-level indicators), the Puget Sound Partnership indicators, NPCC (high-level indicators review process), CBFWA (State of the Resource Report), and NOAA (guidance for monitoring recovery of salmon and steelhead). The forum’s proposed salmon indicators are consistent with each of those other efforts. (Additional work is continuing on coordination and alignment of indicators for watershed health).

At the June 24th forum meeting, it was suggested that the forum move forward with approving the high-level indicators for salmon at its next meeting (this meeting).

What decision is asked of the Forum?

Formally adopt the proposed high-level indicators for salmon, and agree on a communications strategy to advertise the forum’s successful completion of this task.

Washington Forum on Monitoring: High Level Indicators for Salmon

Fish Abundance (salmon, steelhead, bull trout)

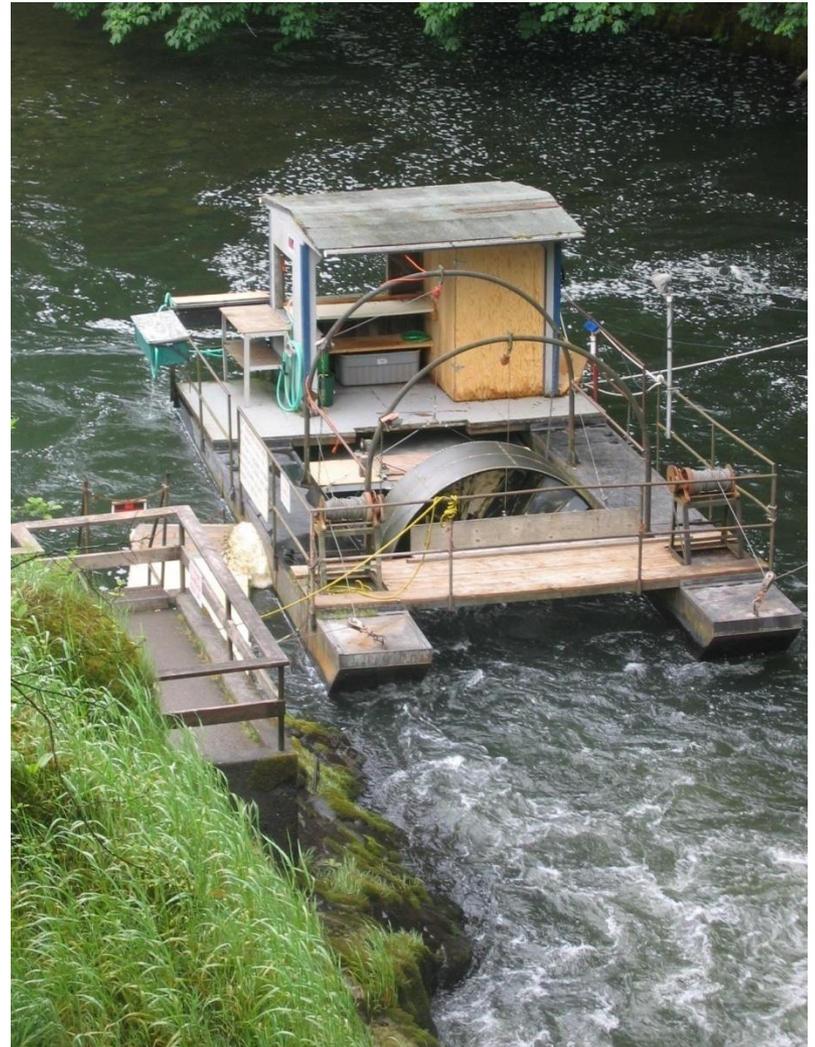
- Total adult spawners
- Total adults harvested
- Total juvenile out-migrants

For listed species by population
(rolls up into MPG and ESU)

*Enumerated separately for wild
fish and hatchery fish*

For all species by population
(not currently compiled)

*Enumerated separately for wild
fish and hatchery fish*



*Washington Forum on Monitoring
September 11, 2009*

AGENDA Item # 5

Forum Budget Letter to OFM and the Legislature

Presentation by:

Ken Dzinbal

Problem/Issue Statement

The Forum is required to “*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 all agencies.*”

The forum polled members during the June 24th meeting and found no agencies planning to submit monitoring budget requests to OFM for this year’s supplemental budget.

The forum staff has drafted a letter to this effect, attached here for final review and approval by the forum.

What decision is asked of the Forum?

Final review and approval of the draft letter to OFM and the legislature.

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RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

September 14, 2009

TO: Victor Moore, Director
Office of Financial Management

Senator Ken Jacobsen, Chair
Senate Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation Committee

Senator Phil Rockefeller, Chair
Senate Environment, Water & Energy Committee

Senator Margarita Prentice, Chair
Senate Ways & Means Committee

Representative Dave Upthegrove, Chair
House Ecology & Parks Committee

Representative Brian Blake, Chair
House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee

Representative Kelli Linville, Chair
House Ways & Means Committee

FROM: Bill Wilkerson, Chair
Washington Forum on Monitoring Salmon Recovery and Watershed Health

RE: FY 2010 Supplemental Budget Monitoring Recommendations

RCW 77.85.250 created the Forum on Monitoring Salmon Recovery and Watershed Health (Forum), and adopted "*The Washington Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy and Action Plan for Watershed Health and Salmon Recovery.*" The Forum currently comprises over 25 participating state, local, regional, tribal, and federal agencies and organizations involved in monitoring for salmon recovery or watershed health.

Among other duties the statute requires the Forum to:

"Review and make recommendations to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) 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."

Mindful of the budget issues facing the state this year, the Forum asked its members to discuss any potential monitoring proposals for the supplemental budget at our June 2009 meeting. While acknowledging that much work remains to be done, none of the Forum members reported any plans to submit monitoring budget proposals for the FY 2010 supplemental budget.

Therefore, the Forum has identified no new budget proposals to evaluate in preparation for the upcoming budget discussions.

However, the Forum would like to reiterate its commitment to continue working towards more efficient and effective use of state monitoring resources, by clearly identifying our priorities and framework for monitoring, and by using the Forum as a venue for deliberate coordination and program alignment across state, federal, tribal, and local agencies.

To that end, the Forum has been given two primary mandates:

- 1) Implement the recommendations and priorities described in *The Washington Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy and Action Plan for Watershed Health and Salmon Recovery* (RCW 77.85.250(1)), and
- 2) Adopt high-level indicators for salmon recovery and watershed health by December 2009 (RCW 77.85.250(8))

With those mandates in front of us, we have encouraged all of the participating agencies to look for opportunities to share resources and coordinate data collection while maintaining their existing commitments to monitoring. We also asked them to guard against reductions that would further impact our collective ability to support the highest priorities of the Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy.

We also clearly recognize that the public, the Legislature, and Congress are demanding ever greater accountability for our investments in salmon and watershed recovery. The monitoring programs prioritized in the Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy, and implemented by Forum agencies, can provide the objective data and measurements necessary to judge the success of our restoration efforts and gauge the level of investment still needed to reach our goals for salmon recovery and watershed health.

We appreciate this opportunity to report on agency budget requests related to monitoring, and hope that you will continue to support the Forum's efforts to coordinate both policy and technical issues related to monitoring salmon recovery and watershed health.

Sincerely,

Bill Wilkerson, Chair
Washington Forum on Monitoring Salmon Recovery and Watershed Health

Washington Forum on Monitoring
September 11, 2009

AGENDA Item # 6

Forum Recommendations to SRFB on Monitoring Allocations

Presentation by:

Ken Dzinbal

Problem/Issue Statement

In October 2008, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board indicated interest in having the Forum review and recommend an appropriate allocation for SRFB monitoring investments.

In response, the Forum convened a small work group to review SRFB monitoring programs and strategy documents. The forum approved the workgroup's initial recommendations at its March meeting, which were subsequently presented to the SRFB in May. Based on those recommendations, the SRFB approved one-year contract extensions for two main programs (Reach-scale Effectiveness Monitoring, and Intensively Monitored Watersheds).

The forum work group has subsequently developed some follow-up (longer-term) recommendations, for forum discussion and approval to transmit to the SRFB in October.

What decision is asked of the Forum?

Discuss and approve forum recommendations to the SRFB on monitoring allocations.

Washington Forum on Monitoring
September 11, 2009

AGENDA Item # 7

Forum Response to Natural Resources Reform Options

Presentation by:

Kaleen Cottingham, RCO Director
Steve McLellan, RCO Policy Manager

Problem/Issue Statement

The Governor has tasked the natural resources cabinet with developing ideas and options for reforming how state natural resource agencies are structured or how they work together, in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our work.

A report on the reform options is due for release on September 11th. The Governor has asked cabinet members to solicit feedback from their boards and council, employees, partners, tribes, local and federal agencies and other stakeholders on the ideas presented in the report.

The forum has an opportunity to consider the ideas presented in the report and develop a response as to how the options might affect how monitoring is conducted, managed, and coordinated across the state.

Methods/Solutions Proposed

The forum should discuss if and how it should respond to the request for feedback on the natural resource agency reform ideas. If the forum chooses to respond as an entity, it needs to decide how best to provide comment. One option is to designate a subcommittee to work with staff to prepare a draft response letter that can be circulated for review. One option is to not comment as an entity, but to encourage individual members to provide feedback. One option is to call a special forum meeting between when the report is released and when comments are due for the sole purpose of articulating a position or comments. It is expected that comments will be most effective if received before the week of October 12th. With any of these options, forum members should read the full report.

What decisions are asked of the Forum?

Decision on whether, how, and by what date the forum should respond to the request for review.

*Washington Forum on Monitoring
September 11, 2009*

AGENDA Item # 8

Update on Anadromous Fish Monitoring and Evaluation Sub-Regional Meetings

Presentation by:

Ken McDonald, CBFWA
Eric Neatherlin, WDFW

Problem/Issue Statement

At the June forum meeting, a panel comprised of CBFWA, BPA, NPCC, and WDFW discussed their strategy for developing a monitoring and evaluation strategy for anadromous fish monitoring in the Columbia Basin. A key part of the process to develop the strategy was completion of a series of sub-regional workshops across the basin.

Those workshops are nearly complete. This presentation will summarize progress and results to-date, and next-steps in the process.

Methods/Solutions Proposed

Forum members should note any opportunities to participate in the process.

What decision is asked of the Forum?

This is an update on an on-going process. No decision is required.

*Washington Forum on Monitoring
September 11, 2009*

AGENDA Item # 9

Next Steps: High Level Indicators for Watershed Health

Presentation by:

Ken McDonald, CBFWA
Ken Dzinbal, RCO

Problem/Issue Statement

The Forum is required to “*adopt general high-level indicators for salmon recovery and watershed health by December 1, 2009. By July 1, 2010 the forum shall also adopt the protocols for monitoring these high-level indicators...*”

A number of forum member agencies are actively working to coordinate the forum’s proposed high-level indicators with those in use or being developed by other regional agencies and organizations continues. This agenda item will present an overview of next steps required for the forum to meet its December deadline to adopt watershed health indicators.

Included will be an update on recent efforts to coordinate state watershed health monitoring efforts with federal watershed monitoring programs (AREMP and PIBO).

Methods/Solutions Proposed

Forum agencies involved with watershed health monitoring are asked to commit to completing the coordination and alignment steps necessary to meet the forum’s deadline to adopt high-level indicators for watershed health by December, 2009.

What decision is asked of the Forum?

This is an update on an on-going process. No decision is required.

Washington Forum on Monitoring
September 11, 2009

AGENDA Item # 10

Forum Invitation to BPA, CRITFC?

Presentation by:

Ken Dzinbal

Problem/Issue Statement

The Forum is required to “*invite the participation of federal, tribal, regional, and local agencies and entities that carry out salmon recovery and watershed health monitoring, and work toward coordination and standardization of measures used.*”

Neither Bonneville Power Administration, nor the Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission are currently represented on the forum, despite both organizations’ significant involvement in monitoring.

What decision is asked of the Forum?

Discuss, and agree on, whether the forum should issue formal invitations to BPA and CRITFC to participate as invited members of the Washington Forum on Monitoring.