

**WRIA 1 SALMON RECOVERY PLAN DEVELOPMENT  
STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE  
MEETING SUMMARY**

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Date: September 30, 2003  
Time: 7:04 p.m.  
Place: 2nd Floor Conference Room, Whatcom County Public Works  
322 N. Commercial Street, Bellingham, WA

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**AGENDA**

1.	Welcome
2.	Introductions
3.	Verify Contact Information
4.	Pre-Project Questionnaire
5.	Stakeholder Group Operating Guidelines
6.	Timeline
7.	Purpose of Plan
8.	Introduction to WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Plan
9.	WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Plan Outline
10.	Questions/Dialogue
11.	Identify Actions/Toolbox

**MEETING ATTENDANCE**

Stakeholder Group members

Henry Bierlink, Agriculture Caucus  
Leo Bodensteiner, Western Washington University  
George Boggs, Whatcom Conservation District  
Jeremy Brown, Washington Trollers  
Mary Dickinson, Land Development Caucus  
Kristin Fredericks, WA State Dept of Transportation  
John Gillies, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Dale Griggs, Citizen  
Richard Haard, Salmon Habitat Citizens Advisory Committee  
Chip Hilarides, Georgia-Pacific  
David Hooper, Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Assoc  
Jim Jorgensen, Puget Sound Anglers  
Joe Kelly, Fourth Corner Fly Fishers  
Hugh Lewis, Washington Trout  
Fred Polinder, Ag/FCZD CAC  
Skip Richards, Non-Government Water Systems Caucus  
Rebecca Schlotterback, PUD #1 of Whatcom County  
Mike Stoner, Port of Bellingham  
Vern VandeGarde, Bertrand CIDMP  
Kristian Warfel, Puget Sound Gillnetters, WA Salmon Commission  
Bert Webber, Salmon Habitat Citizens Advisory Committee  
Richard Whitmore, Forestry Caucus

Member of Public/Alternate

Shannon Moore, WA Salmon Commission

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Staff and Contractors

John Thompson, Whatcom County Water Resources  
Ned Currence, Nooksack Natural Resources  
Lisa Kaufman, Whatcom County Water Resources  
Anne Krancus, Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Assoc  
Wendy Scherrer, Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Assoc

**DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED**

- Agenda for September 30, 2003 Meeting
- About Shared Strategy
- Characteristics of a Viable Salmonid Population (VSP)
- Factors Affecting Salmonid Recovery in WRIA 1
- Glossary – Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office
- Purpose of WRIA 1 Salmonid Recovery Plan
- Relevant Documents for WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Plan Development
- Shared Strategy: A 5-step voluntary & collaborative process to develop a recovery plan for salmon in Puget Sound
- Stakeholders Group Meeting Follow-Up
- Statewide Strategy to Recover Salmon: Extinction in Not an Option
- Surface Water Delineation Boundaries in WRIA 1, Version 3 – Map
- Timeline for WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Plan
- WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Plan Outline
- WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Plan Stakeholder Group Operating Guidelines
- WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Stakeholder Group: Questionnaire
- WRIA 1 Salmonid Recovery Plan Stakeholder Group – PowerPoint Presentation
- WRIA 1 Salmonid Recovery Plan Toolbox

**MEETING SUMMARY:**

**Welcome**

The Contractor welcomed the Stakeholder Group and invited their participation in WRIA 1 Salmonid Recovery Plan Development.

**Introductions**

Introductions were made by the 27 participants.

**Verify Contact Information**

Contact information for those attending was verified.

**Pre-Project Questionnaire**

The questionnaire was distributed at the beginning of the meeting and members were asked to respond and hand in the questionnaire upon adjournment.

**Background:**

Whatcom County received a grant from WA Dept of Fish & Wildlife to support the development of a draft salmon recovery plan in WRIA 1, which includes the Nooksack River basin and adjacent coastal watersheds and a number of streams that flow north to British Columbia. The purpose of the salmon recovery plan is to outline a local strategy of projects, program, and

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timelines to recover salmonid populations with a particular focus on chinook salmon and bull trout due to their status as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act.

**Stakeholder Group Operating Guidelines**

The Stakeholder Group shall advise the County and its contractors on issues pertaining to community interests, share knowledge about key issues relating to salmon and salmon recovery planning, and identify community interests. The importance of attending all monthly meetings was discussed in order to reach the goal of having a Final Draft recovery plan ready for local policy endorsement by April 2004.

Questions or comments should be directed to the staff for the Stakeholder Group, which consists of Wendy Scherrer, Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Assoc (Contractor) and John Thompson, Whatcom County Water Resources (County).

**Timeline**

In order to meet the overall Shared Strategy timeline for chapter (i.e. by recovery region) development and for completion of a Shared Strategy for Puget Sound Plan ready for submission to NOAA Fisheries by June 2005, a timeline was compiled. Four groups were identified on the draft timeline as participating in the WRIA 1 salmon recovery plan development. They are: Stakeholder Group, Steering Committee, Technical Plan Development Staff, and the local policy decision-makers including the salmon co-managers, cities, and County. This latter group combined is referred to as the Lead Entity Group.

Background Documents are available in CD format or hard copy. The document distributed, *Relevant Documents for WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Plan Development*, is a listing of those documents.

**Purpose of Plan and Introduction to WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Plan**

The County gave a presentation on WRIA 1 Salmonid Recovery Plan; the document *WRIA 1 Salmonid Recovery Plan Stakeholder Group 09-30-2003*, is an outline of the PowerPoint presentation.

The purpose of the plan is twofold: 1. *“Identify actions necessary to recovery WRIA 1 salmonid populations, especially listed species” (chinook & bull trout)*, and 2. *“Outline the framework for implementation of recommended actions that have been agreed to by local, state, tribal, and federal governments and stakeholders in WRIA 1”*.

A member expressed the following concerns:

1. management and monitoring of international waters and harvest
2. measurement of the cyclic, current, climatic, and temperature dynamics and the effect on harvest
3. measurement of output/input in the system
4. clarification of what system do we have control over

The WRIA 1 planning process is a locally developed salmonid recovery plan that will be included in the overall Shared Strategy for Puget Sound. NOAA Fisheries will evaluate the Shared Strategy for the possibility of recovery, resulting in de-listing of certain salmon species. If the Shared Strategy is approved by NOAA Fisheries, it will then be adopted as the formal Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan.

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A member wanted to know how this was going to be evaluated and how the public would be informed in advance.

A member wanted to state that he/she believed that the Shared Strategy should be for broad-based recovery, now it is only focused on Chinook.

**WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Plan Outline**

The WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Plan Outline consists of six major sections: executive summary, introduction, goals, technical background, necessary actions and implementation. The executive summary targets the general public and the local policy makers. The summary will encapsulate the key actions and commitment of the community to achieve recovery. The introduction to the plan will state the problem, purpose, and the recovery plan scope and organization. The goals of the plan are as follows: health and viability of populations of self-sustaining runs of salmon at harvestable levels, recovery and de-listing of threatened stocks, provide measures for recovery of listed stocks, address viable salmonid population characteristics (abundance, population growth rate, spatial structure, genetic diversity), and Chinook planning targets produced by the Technical Review Team and salmon co-managers. There is also a recovery plan being developed by US Fish and Wildlife Service for bull trout in the Puget Sound; the population characteristics should be considered much the same as viable salmonid populations. In general, there will be no specific population goals for other salmonids at this time; rather, if goals are met for listed species, this protection and restoration of habitat forming processes will benefit multiple species. Population targets for other species may be develop under later phases of planning. A framework will be created that will benefit all salmonids, not just listed species. The technical background for the plan will assess salmonid populations, habitat conditions and limiting factors. The necessary actions section will look at the four H's and how they interact, what's going on locally (how current actions have moved us forward), and what's in place currently and how to integrate this into the plan. Implementation of the plan will consist of research, monitoring (evaluating progress towards goals and its effectiveness), education and outreach, enforcement, and a schedule of what should happen and when.

**Questions/Dialogue**

Following the County's presentation the floor was opened for questions.

A member of the committee wanted to know if recreation was considered an element of the four H's and should it have a category all its own. It is suggested that recreation needs to be looked at as a separate factor affecting salmonid recovery.

The County stated that the Steering Committee had recommended that recreation be added as a separate category. For example, white water rafting/tubing "spooks" fish but does not physically alter habitat, usually. This is one rationale for having recreation a factor distinct from habitat.

A committee member restated his opinion that there is a heavy bias towards endangered species in this plan. He/she would like a balanced, broad-based consideration of all stocks in Whatcom County. The committee member would like to make a point that this is taken more seriously in WRIA 1. It was inquired as to how one could change this and if it is a matter of policy or is the committee's role to merely bringing concerns and opinions to the table.

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Another member of the committee stated that they held a great concern for coho salmon and that the plan should be broadened and directed attention to all salmonid stocks.

The 'starting point' of Shared Strategy was discussed within the group. When chinook were listed in 1999, local jurisdictions and community members were given the tasks to plan how to recover the dwindling chinook populations. This was considered a bottom-up approach.

A committee member responded to the Shared Strategy discussion by stating that it pre-dated the listing of Chinook with ESHB 2496, the Salmon Recovery Act, which was passed by the state legislature in 1998.

A committee member asked who would actually adopt and enforce the recovery plan?

Another committee member had the following questions:

1. What is the focus of WRIA 1 salmonid recovery planning?
2. Is it endemic in the outline of the plan that all is listed species focused?
3. Is this going to be a holistic view or should we not focus our time as a committee on what we cannot affect?
4. What exactly can the committee affect?

Another member had the following question, why do we have to focus on habitat at all in salmonid recovery? He/she believed there was more habitat for salmon now than there was years ago.

A member wanted the "Human Factor" to go along with the four H's in the factors affecting salmonid recovery. He/she also agreed that recreation and invasive species should be recognized as factors.

A committee member stated that he/she would like notes from the other groups, namely the Steering Group, that are part of the WRIA 1 Salmonid Recovery Plan work.

The County responded by saying that WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery information would be put on a website.

A member suggested that a tape recorder should be bought and brought to the meetings for the Stakeholder Committee in order to ensure that all the information was being documented.

**Identify Actions/Toolbox**

The Contractor suggested that everyone to look over the WRIA 1 Salmonid Recovery Plan Toolbox before the next meeting.

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**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS:**

- The pre-project questionnaire answers will be compiled for all committee members.
- The web site will be updated with information regarding the meetings being held by groups involved in the recovery planning for WRIA 1.
- *Relevant Documents for WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Plan Development*, will be re-copied in larger print that is readable.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 9:01 p.m.