

Puget Sound Recovery Implementation Technical Team (RITT)

Agenda and Notes from Meeting (in italics)

Minutes by Kit Rawson; accepted at December 21, 2010, RITT meeting

Thirty-first Meeting - Tuesday, November 16th, 2010, 10 am – 3:00 pm
Center for Urban Waters, Tacoma

Attendance

Present:

RITT Members: Norma Sands, Kit Rawson, Kirk Lakey, Eric Beamer, Krista Bartz, Ken Currens, and Mindy Rowse (by phone).

Puget Sound Partnership: Rebecca Ponzio, Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz (PSP).

NMFS: Bruce Crawford (RO), Mike Ford (NWFSC), Elizabeth Babcock (RO, phone).

Others: Mike Grayum (NWIFC), Mike Crewson (Tulalip, phone, pm)

Present for afternoon panel discussion: Tom Sibley & Bonnie Shorin, NOAA, and Jeff Davis, WDFW.

Absent:

RITT Members: Mike Parton

10:00 am Approve minutes of last month's meetings and today's agenda
Choose notetaker

Kit Rawson is notetaker. Minutes approved as modified at meeting.

10:10am Updates

Liaisons

Mindy and Kit met with San Juan Oct 22 to work on AMM

Ken and Eric met with Nooksack to discuss AMM and 3-year workplan review and orient Eric to the watershed. Eric attended the Nooksack salmon summit Nov 3rd. They reported progress on all the Hs for the last 5 years of the recovery plan. Eric thought this format was a good way to present a comprehensive update.

WRIA 8 will have a 5-year review meeting in December 3rd at downtown REI in Seattle. All RITT members will be invited. This will also be an all-H update.

Regional Office & Skokomish Review – Elizabeth Babcock

Elizabeth described the former watershed plan review process. This included both a technical and a policy/management review. The RITT will do the technical review; the policy/management review will be the Domain Team(DT) – Susan, Tim, Matt or Tom, and Elizabeth and some group from the Partnership. Currently much of the regional office's time is consumed by review of the updated harvest management plan. This will cause a 2-week to one month delay before the DT and the PSP can get together on this. After that we need a ½ - full day meeting for RITT, DT, and PSP to meet and coordinate the reviews. This will probably happen in January.

The RITT review is complete but not written up yet.

The Domain Team is meeting regularly by conference call to coordinate Puget Sound work across divisions. They are planning to put the harvest plan review and the PRA (population recovery approach) out for public review concurrently in first or second week of December. They have received some negative feedback from some who have seen the writeup of the PRA. Some of this has to do with the difference between NMFS's roles vis a vis ESA and treaty rights.

PSP – Rebecca, Projects of Regional Significance (PoRS)

Rebecca and Jason presented a proposal for review criteria and a process for RITT review of PoRS which were introduced to the RITT at our last meeting. The process would include 2-3 hours for a presentation of the proposed projects and discussion related to the review criteria. This would be followed by a writeup of the RITT review e done by mid-January. PSP would like the RITT to review the list of projects for appropriateness, rather than contents of specific projects. The projects are not necessarily fully scoped out at this time.

We discussed what criteria are to be used for evaluating projects across watershed boundaries. RITT asks that we be made clear what criteria the watersheds were given for bringing these projects forward when PSP presents us with the list. We also discussed the need to understand the original direction the Recovery Council gave that led to these projects being brought forward. The list will be presented to the RITT at our December meeting.

10:30 am Dashboard Indicator Champion Role and first task. Norma

The RITT is the indicator champion for salmon, with a focus on Puget Sound Chinook salmon. She attended the first meeting of Indicator Champions held October 20th in Tacoma. The first assignment was just to confirm the indicator. The next assignment is to figure out a graphical way to present the information about the indicator. Norma has developed some draft ideas for the RITT to review. RITT members need to look at these and make comments well before the next meeting so that Norma can have a near-final presentation for us to review at our December meeting. Ken reminded us that the presentation is meant for the public, but it also needs to be able to have technical details parsed out.

11:00 am AFS Symposium on Salmon Recovery. Mike P and Norma

Mike and Norma have put together a symposium proposal for Pacific Northwest salmon recovery as part of the AFS Annual Meeting in September 2011 in Seattle. They will get out a call for talks and would like to have input from the various Salmon recovery TRTs. Symposia proposals are being accepted by AFS now and are due by early January. Norma is on the Team2011 planning group for this AFS meeting and will continue to work on it and these symposia through the meeting in September 2011.

11:30 am Hatchery Issues in Puget Sound - Mike Ford

Mike Ford wanted to discuss how the RITT could work with the Hatchery Action Coordinating Committee (HACC) on issues in Puget Sound. Mike Grayum gave some background on the HACC.

The tribes and WDFW are refocusing efforts on watershed specific Hatchery Action Implementation Plans (HAIP). These will cover how hatcheries will be used for recovery, harvest, etc., how HGMPs will be incorporated, and so forth. The HACC is a policy-level committee of tribes, WDFW, and NMFS, with possibly others involved. The task of the HACC is to coordinate individual watershed HAIPs with each other and with larger efforts. One of these areas of coordination is science. Because the RITT advises NOAA and the partnership on recovery plan implementation, the RITT needs to be informed as to the role of hatcheries and how hatchery management is changing and contributing to recovery. The HACC also plans to consult other scientific groups, such as the RIST and HSRG for larger scientific questions. There are questions that go beyond just ESA implementation, such as treaty rights. Getting habitat addressed in a fashion and at the same level that harvest and hatcheries are being addressed is an ongoing concern of the tribes. We are losing habitat faster than we can recover it. We need all Hs to get to recovery. One important purpose of hatcheries is to support harvest while we are working towards recovery of habitat. The proper sequencing and balancing of the Hs is a policy call that the HACC is helping to inform.

Mike Ford said that he senses some uncertainty in details of the HAIPs based on some uncertainty in the science. The HAIPs are essentially updates of the comanagers' existing hatchery plans. Kit's sense is that

the bulk of the revised plans are agreed to by the comanagers but that a few areas of disagreement remain. That's what Mike was hearing as uncertainty.

Mike Crewson discussed the question of measuring gene flow by direct measurement versus basing this on the fraction of natural and hatchery origin fish in the spawning grounds.

Mike Ford discussed the need to quantify the relative importance of the Hs on the productivity of wild fish. We don't have numbers to quantify the loss of productivity from hatchery fish. Kit pointed out that the comprehensive recovery strategies we have for the watersheds are H-integration strategies.

How does the RITT fit into this?

- 1) Become informed as to how hatchery plan implementation contributes to recovery plans.*
- 2) Understand that the HAIPs will be the statement of how the comanagers are implementing hatchery programs.*
- 3) The precise method of interaction between the RITT and HACC is yet to be determined.*

12:30 pm Lunch Break

1:00 pm Protection Regulations and Policy Panel Part II Discussion

Tom Sibley, Bonnie Shorin, NOAA and Jeff Davis, WDFW joined u for this presentation and discussion.

Tom and Bonnie discussed NOAA's FEMA BiOp with us. Consultation on FEMA rules was to determine the question of jeopardy to listed species. The FEMA consultation was unusual in that it reached a jeopardy conclusion. The consultation was initiated by National Wildlife Federation lawsuit. Components of the program reviewed included: mapping, minimum criteria, community rating system, levees, and development.

Reasonable and prudent alternative (RPA) included: notification of local jurisdictions, improvement of mapping of floodplains, establishment of new minimum criteria (no development in riparian buffer zone and mitigation for development in the rest of the floodplain), community rating system, mitigation and monitoring.

Current status: FEMA has issued a model ordinance. But most communities are not adopting this, rather they will put their current rules through a checklist.

NOAA is planning a workshop in February for jurisdictions and other interested parties to discuss the implications of implementing the new program and how do get new programs in place by September 2011. There will also be four local workshops that will include other participants.

Jeff Davis covered WDFW's hydraulic permit approval (HPA) program. Authority is in RCW 77.55 and WAC 221.10. HPA is unique in that it doesn't have to balance fish protection with other societal needs. HPA is either issued with conditions or denied. Some post-construction visits occur as well, especially to high risk projects. Challenges include: Last time rules were updated was 1994, staff and budget reductions, weakening of authority (stormwater, single family residence bulkheads, tidegates), compliance/enforcement, regulatory duplication perception, inconsistent application of the rules, lack of authority to consider cumulative impacts, land conversion, climate change, etc. Strengths include: no balancing requirement, authority is in one agency, rules adopted by WFWC, large support structure, on the ground pre-permit technical assistance, attempt to achieve no net loss for new projects.

New initiatives: 2011 HPA reform legislation, staff training, compliance effectiveness and adaptive management, rules update process about to begin, focusing on projects that pose the greatest risk to fish.

Proposed legislation includes: pilot classification system, improved civil authority – increased penalties, focus on fixing problems, revenue generation.

3:00 pm Adjourn

3:00 pm Adaptive Management workgroup

Next Meetings – Tuesday, December 21, 2010 – location NWFSC Montlake
January two day meeting with RIST and Steelhead TRT, date TBD

RITT Meetings are generally held the third TUESDAY of each month.

Outstanding Ideas/Task/Issues/Agenda Items

RITT	TRT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptive Management Plans for each watershed (ongoing) Population ID and sequencing (request from RO) Climate Change Guidance for recovery implementation (backburner) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chinook Viability document Flow document

Watershed Liaisons - RITT and PSP Last Amended 8/28/10

PUGET SOUND watersheds					
San Juan	Mindy	Roma	Lake Wash.	Kirk	Jason
Island	Mindy	Morgan	Green	Kirk	Jason
Nooksack	Eric	Rebecca	Puyallup/White	Mike	Jason
Skagit	Eric	Rebecca	North Olympic	Mike	John C.
	& Kit		West Sound	Norma	John M.
Stillaguamish	Kit	Morgan	Hood Canal	Ken	John M
Snohomish	Krista	Morgan	Nisqually	Ken	Roma
South Sound	Krista	Roma			
			OZETTE Sockeye	Norma	