

**GOVERNOR'S FORUM ON MONITORING
SALMON RECOVERY AND WATERSHED HEALTH
DRAFT SUMMARY MINUTES**

DATE: June 21, 2007
TIME: 8:00 a.m.

PLACE: Seattle Airport Marriott
SeaTac, Washington

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bill Ruckelshaus, Co-Chair	Chair, Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Jeff Koenings, Co-Chair	Director, Department of Fish & Wildlife
Laura Johnson	Director, Office of the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation
Josh Baldi	Designee, Department of Ecology
Jeff Breckel	Designee, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board
Jim Cowles	Designee, Department of Agriculture
Gretchen Hayslip	Designee, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Carol Smith	Designee, Conservation Commission
Craig Partridge	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Anne Nelson	Designee, Puget Sound Action Team
Ginny Stern	Designee, Department of Health
Barry Thom	Designee, NOAA Fisheries
Steve Waste	Designee, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Doug MacDonald	Director, Washington DOT
Chris Drivdahl	Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

IT IS INTENDED THAT THIS SUMMARY BE USED WITH THE NOTEBOOK PROVIDED IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.
A RECORDED TAPE IS RETAINED BY IAC AS THE FORMAL RECORD OF MEETING.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Co-Chair Jeff Koenings opened the meeting of the Governor's Forum on Monitoring (Forum) at 8:18 a.m.

Introductions were made and the agenda was approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Co-Chair Bill Ruckelshaus **MOVED** to approve the March 9, 2007 meeting minutes. Laura Johnson **SECONDED** the motion. Minutes **APPROVED**.

DATA WORKSHOP REPORTS

Bruce Crawford handed out a summary sheet of recommendations from the June 20 data workshop

Harvest

Steve Leider summarized the fish subgroup discussions from the workshop. Several items were highlighted:

- Funding to improve organization of harvest management information at the ESU/population scale, with an emphasis on wild fish.
- Identify gaps and limitations in existing coast-wide databases.
- Provide policy-level support for requiring standardized data collection and reporting – linked to funding (consider formalizing data transfer and sharing agreements between agencies and salmon recovery regional organizations).

Co-Chair Ruckelshaus asked why the need for funding was over-arching? Aren't there some items that can be done without additional funding? Was this discussed?

Steve noted this wasn't pulled out in the discussion.

Co-Chair Ruckelshaus believes there needs to be specific assignments given to make sure things get done. We may need to change priorities, not increase funding first.

Bruce discussed the current processes that are in place but that the databases need to be adjusted to fit the salmon recovery needs.

Steve Waste talked about what he heard during the workshop and that there is a lot of data out there, but the problem is that it is not in one place. The Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NWPCC) is working on a new tagging system that might be part of the solution.

Co-Chair Koenings mentioned that the workshop small-group discussion he was in talked about the need for data stewards. At WDFW there are different databases in the regions that don't always talk to the headquarters' databases, and that this may need to change.

Co-Chair Ruckelshaus suggested the Forum make a strong recommendation to have the harvest data available to policy makers and the public and pull the system together with the framework.

Steve Leider continued his summary of the workshop. He talked about Stewart Toshach's four principles or business rules for data management:

- Identify the main questions the data needs to answer
- Ensure data are defined to meet those questions
- Develop data dictionary
- Lay out the data cycle and flow

Co-Chair Ruckelshaus discussed the need to make organizational changes and how the EPA alluded to being the group responsible for the monitoring data. He is not concerned with who collects and stores the data but would like to have this start being put in place.

Steve Leider continued the discussion on what he heard at the workshop such as starting a workgroup to look at what is currently existing and not reinventing the wheel.

Juvenile Migrant and Spawner Abundance

- Continue, and increase, the level of active communication to improve coordination.
- Form a broad working group to:
 - Recommend to the Forum for adoption a list of business practices and data dictionary/protocols.
 - Formalize relationships between policy questions and data needed to address those questions. Align with NOAA viable salmonid population (VSP) parameters/limiting factors.
 - Identify data gaps and where, who, how, when data are currently being summarized and reported.
 - Consider development of data templates, incentives, data sharing agreements, juvenile and adult framework.
- Pursue implementation resources

Steve noted how there were several workshop attendees that were not familiar with the State of Salmon (SOS) report nor what the Forum does.

Chris Drivdahl was also surprised at the number of people attending the workshop who didn't know what the indicators are or what has been done over the last few years. We all live and breathe this information and forget that others may not be getting the message.

- **ACTION ITEM:** Co-Chair Ruckelshaus would like to have something written up to use for public education on what is being done through the Forum.

Jeff Breckel believes the regions face the same problems that the Forum is facing, in people not knowing what has been happening with the regional organizations, just at a smaller scale.

Co-Chair Ruckelshaus stressed the need to develop a better communication strategy.

Bruce reviewed the "wedding cake" style data model that Stewart presented at the workshop (see Figure 1).

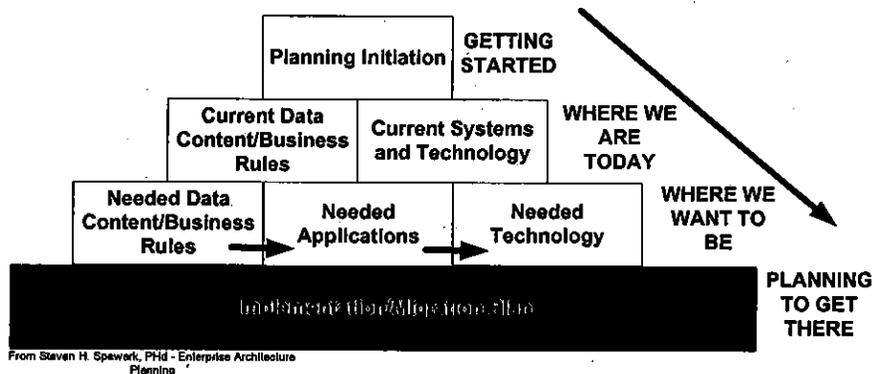


Figure 1 – "Wedding cake" style data model

Co-Chair Ruckelshaus talked about how you could get all the way to the "Needed Technology" box of the data model before needing much new funding.

Co-Chair Koenings believes the recommendation from the Forum should be to develop a harvest management information system that gives data at the evolutionarily significant unit (ESU) and population scale, with an emphasis on wild fish. He sees this as a good way to get organized and move the Forum forward.

Jeff Breckel likes the framework but isn't sure it has everything that is needed. He has a concern about how this would work for him.

Ginny Stern believes the SOS does lay out what is needed and believes that the framework lays out the need and would provide her with the basis to explain to her staff what is needed. They may not be able to see how they fit in yet but she could use this to educate them.

Co-Chair Koenings pointed out that, while we may never get to perfection, the data model is a good way to get organized relative to salmon recovery data. This would at least get the Forum moving forward.

Carol Smith agrees with Co-Chair Koenings and would suggest the same question be presented under each of the SOS categories. They could then create subcommittees and have them provide update reports at each of the Forum meetings.

Co-Chair Koenings would like to use the "wedding cake" data model as the organizational framework and begin to check off the boxes.

Bruce was asked if the current data and systems are documented. He reported that it is not in one place.

Steve Waste would like to be on the subcommittee for harvest and suggested having a couple meetings before fall to be able to take the questions to a meeting with NOAA to see where they are.

Water Quality

Jim Cowles, Department of Agriculture, presented the findings from the water workgroups. He summarized what was heard and then reviewed the recommendations:

- Leadership
 - Forum take active role
 - Formalize line of communications amongst all levels of government
 - Bring natural resource leadership together on a regular basis (2 years)
 - Commit to a plan
 - Coordinate with regional entities
 - Data needs to go to decision makers and users
 - Funding entities need to include data management in grants
 - Just Do It!

- Need common hydrography layer
 - Scalable from local to state
- Establish standards and protocols
 - Tiered system to indicate skill of data collectors
 - Recommend specific protocols for data collection
- Database needs
 - Don't establish a mega database
 - Create data portal that indexes available data bases and provides access to regional databases
 - Encourage state agencies to provide data infrastructure for small groups that cannot develop their own database

Bruce discussed the data exchange and how several agencies are part of this national system and several others are going that way.

Co-Chair Ruckelshaus noted that EPA has been involved with water quality since the beginning and they need to be included, along with other federal agencies, so we can draw on existing experience.

Bruce was in the water quality workgroup for awhile and heard some discontent from municipalities with not having a data design.

Bruce discussed the October 2 Executive Workshop on data that Jeff Koenings is planning to attend. He also noted a couple different federal level databases are starting to have data migrated into one place but may need to find if all these systems will talk to each other or which one to use.

- **ACTION ITEM:** Co-Chair Koenings would like to see groups bring back recommendations on most efficient ways to get to "needed data", "needed applications", and "needed technology".

Water Quantity

Jim summarized what was discussed during the water quantity workgroup and reported on the recommendations:

- Create a team to identify sources of flow data
 - Map to GIS for easy location of gauges
 - Recommend strategy for deploying gauges in gap areas, including examination of first order and ephemeral streams
 - Develop refined hydrologic model that helps direct gauge deployment
 - Specify data needed for determining normative flows regime
 - Recommend methods for US Geological Survey and the Department of Ecology to disseminate information on data quality from gauges
- Seek funding for flow data collection at WRIA scale

Josh Baldi noted that the main issue with water quantity measuring is location of gauges.

Jeff Breckel discussed how 2514 planning is looking at instream flows and target flows and how they have developed a prioritized strategy for placing gauges in his region.

Co-Chair Koenings noted that what he heard during this workgroup was that this might be the easiest issue to resolve and should be able to get success on this issue fairly easily.

Josh noted that the hardest issue with this is the continuing funding for maintaining this data.

Carol Smith noted another issue would be how to prioritize the needs, whether by species or land use, depending on what is needed for the SOS.

Regional

Chris Drivdahl provided a summary of the regional discussion and recommendations.

- Help regions understand data needs, develop templates, help with infrastructure.
- Advocate for funding.
- Work closely with regions to use recovery plans to identify critical gaps, develop budget request, and seek funding.

Chris noted that, although it didn't come out in the workgroup discussion, she has heard from the regions that they need to have the key questions and needs outlined for them. Each region is unique in its needs and, although there are some commonalities, each region will need a little different plan. The Council of Regions has agreed to work on this issue as a workgroup.

Barry Thom sees a need to do the "wedding cake" model for each of the building blocks, but will still need an overall integration/migration plan at the higher level to meet what NOAA needs for delisting.

Craig Partridge provided his observations on the "wedding cake" model and noted some items are possibly missing such as "current applications". Although it has "implementation/migration plan" it needs an additional layer for "actual implementation and migration of data".

Chair Ruckelshaus would like to get going on this and communicate what the plan is to follow.

Josh suggested adding a "you are here" type box for where the Forum comes in.

Carol believes this is a great way to get the subcommittees moving forward and would like to see definitions for each box so that the workgroups are on the same page.

Jeff Breckel sees himself as an advocate for the user and wants to make sure that the user's needs are taken into consideration when designing an information system.

Co-Chair Ruckelshaus agrees that this needs to be driven by the users and their needs.

It was noted that the need for funding, accessibility to data, and ease of data input were themes reflected in all the workgroups.

REVIEW OF NEW FORUM STATUTE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Bruce Crawford presented this agenda item. He reviewed the new Forum statute and responsibilities, including changing from co-chairs to one Governor-appointed chair serving a four-year term. The new statute also adds representation by each of the regional organizations and changes representation from the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). The Forum sunsets on June 30, 2015 unless re-authorized by the Legislature.

The tasks continue to be the same as in the past with the addition of making recommendations to OFM and appropriate legislative committees by September 15th. This date would cause a problem since the next scheduled Forum meeting is September 26th. Bruce suggested moving the meeting up to earlier in September.

Craig asked about the potential tension that may arise with the greater oversight by the Forum on monitoring activities. He wondered if we may be steering away from on-the-ground program and project monitoring toward monitoring for the purpose of communicating with the general public and decision makers.

Co-Chair Ruckelshaus doesn't see this precluding either monitoring effort.

Jim Cowles noted that it is provided in the legislation that if there are other statutory requirements for doing monitoring, the Forum can't have agencies stop doing that monitoring.

Jeff Breckel said that with the Legislature calling out the SOS, they aren't saying to not do monitoring, but to make sure questions are answered and to have more focused monitoring efforts.

Doug MacDonald, Department of Transportation Director, asked whether legislators recognized that the question of Monitoring support for salmon recovery on a statewide basis and monitoring support for the new legislative initiative in the Puget Sound Partnership restoration might be different.

Chris Drivdahl discussed the internal struggle on delisting of fish versus need for watershed health.

Steve Waste noted there are two sides to the salmon recovery coin – what we can do for the fish and protecting what we have now (preventative measures).

Co-Chair Ruckelshaus discussed how the SRFB agrees with the need to fund projects that are both preventative and restoring, but that the federal funds are for restoring only.

Bruce reminded the Forum that when it first started working on the comprehensive plan, the definition of what watershed health included everything but air and ground water.

Doug discussed the need for more of an ecosystem approach.

REVIEW OF AGENCY MONITORING BUDGET PROPOSALS

Bruce reviewed this agenda item and results of last year's budget requests.

Carol Smith would like to come up with criteria to look at agency budgets before trying to make the final recommendations. Some suggested items include cross-agency usage.

Josh noted that he can't get crosswise with his agency's budget process which is mid-cycle now. Although he would like to discuss this issue, he couldn't vote on anything today.

Co-Chair Ruckelshaus wouldn't want to put agencies on the spot today but would strongly recommend they base budget requests on monitoring needs.

Josh talked about the consortium that Ecology is leading up. Chris suggested inviting a member of the consortium to be on the Forum. Josh said it is too soon for this since this group isn't in place yet, but would be a good idea to include on the Forum.

Carol provided an update on the Conservation Commission's Washington Data Pilot project and informed the group that there will not be a supplemental request for this project.

Co-Chair Ruckelshaus asked Carol if they are planning to coordinate with the SRFB on this information. Carol reported that they have worked with IAC and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to make sure their information can talk to those systems.

Bruce noted that there were a lot of budget items under the Puget Sound umbrella that didn't specifically address monitoring.

Bruce then reviewed the possible monitoring related proposals for the supplemental budget.

Jeff Breckel discussed the regional monitoring plans and how they are working toward putting together a proposal.

Bruce reported on the funds IAC received to work on IMWs. Contracts are in place in the Columbia and Yakima Basins and in process for the Snake River.

There was discussion on the work plans for the September meeting. Carol asked if the plan would be to have a list of all the requests and then go over the list and prioritize. She

noted that it would be difficult to do this without more in-depth knowledge and presentations on each of the proposals.

Co-Chair Koenings isn't comfortable with prioritizing across the agencies.

Craig noted there is a difference between a biennial budget and a supplemental budget and the bar is higher for a supplemental budget.

- **ACTION ITEM:** It was decided that the Forum will not prioritize the proposals, but instead will rate the proposals. For the September meeting we will need to have a summary of the requests and presentation by each agency.

There was discussion on possible agenda items for September:

- Preliminary report from new subcommittees
- Update on consortium and Puget Sound
- Discussion and recommendation on new composition of the Forum (this may be tabled until December)
- Work plans with action items

Josh noted that Ecology is at a cross-roads and a lot of energy is going into Puget Sound so will need to make decisions on how much energy will be focused on the Forum. They will be at the table, but how much energy they can give will need to be decided.

Bruce pointed out that at the December meeting, or later, will need to have a discussion on how the Partnership fits in.

Co-Chair Koenings believes there is a need for discussion on what this Forum really is and how much energy agencies put into this effort. He would like to make sure there is meat behind what is being done and that future efforts go toward an ecosystem process.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST AQUATIC MONITORING PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Steve Waste, Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NWPPCC), presented this agenda item.

Steve provided an overview of the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP) history, membership, and tasks.

Steve informed the group that agencies can bring projects to PNAMP and be able to do the work under its umbrella. The agency would still need to do most of the work but would be able to use PNAMP standards and work practices so would save time and money in the long run.

Co-Chair Ruckelshaus asked if the Forum could help promote the data protocols. Steve reported that the Monitoring Forum could endorse use of the protocols as could any other funding entity.

Steve reported that the American Fisheries Society just released a set of salmon habitat protocols and, although this is still missing some information, it is the best we have and they are endorsing the use of these guidelines.

Chris asked about peer review and acceptance of the documents. Steve reported that the salmon habitat protocols are the first document like this and that they haven't set up a peer review process yet.

The State of the Salmon's Salmon Field Protocols Handbook is now available.

In connecting with yesterday's data workshop, there will be a Regional Information Management Executive Summit on October 2, 2007.

Steve also reported on the workgroups under PNAMP.

Steve stressed the need for leadership, funding, and time to have processes work. PNAMP is in its 26th year and has survived its ups and downs. He is hoping this will start moving forward faster in the future.

Bruce reported that this is a remarkable group that is trying to coordinate what the Forum is doing across the Pacific Northwest region and all on a volunteer basis. It has really done a good job of bringing to fruition projects that are useful across jurisdictions.

Co-Chair Ruckelshaus encouraged the group to move forward. This is the kind of approach that should be used in the Puget Sound. A message to send to the people is patience. The charge is to restore Puget Sound by 2020, but that would be just the beginning to the stewardship of the Sound.

INTENSIVELY MONITORED WATERSHEDS

Steve Leider and a panel consisting of Bob Bilby, Weyerhaeuser, Mike Ward, Terraqua Inc., and Bill Ehinger, Ecology, presented this agenda item.

Steve led off with an overview of the monitoring efforts. (See PowerPoint presentation for details.)

Linkage between PNAMP and IMWs under the IMW Network Strategy, is a multi-phase strategy for coordination of IMWs across the Pacific Northwest region.

Bill Ehinger provided an overview of four watersheds he is involved with and criteria used to select the specific watersheds.

The Independent Science Panel (ISP) provided review of the specific study plans for each IMW.

Bill discussed the details of the projects in the Skagit watershed and planned restoration work.

Questions were asked about variables and how the results can be defined when changes are taking place in both the control and treatment areas.

Bill explained that, depending on where the control spot is in the study, most of the differences can be separated from the study. Habitat is also being monitored so will be able to identify these changes also.

Bob Bilby discussed the IMW concept and explained the focus was on coho and steelhead due to the amount of time these populations spend in freshwater. All ten watersheds being studied have the same variables being measured (water, habitat, and fish).

Frequent concerns are:

- What magnitude of change can be detected?
- When will results be available?
- Will the results be transferable to other locations?

Mike Ward talked about the Integrated Status and Effectiveness Monitoring Program (ISEMP) which he has been working on.

He discussed the Entiat effectiveness monitoring project first and then talked about leveraging IMW investments across the Pacific Northwest.

Co-Chair Ruckelshaus stressed the need to link the information being gleaned from the IMW's and what the various regions are doing. He noted that the sooner this happens the better.

NOAA FISHERIES ESA DECISION FRAMEWORK AND MONITORING GUIDANCE

Barry Thom, NOAA Fisheries, presented this agenda item.

Barry discussed three items: guidance document, opportunities to integrate regional research, monitoring and evaluation (RM&E), and a decision framework.

The guidance document is posted on the web site at www.nwr.noaa.gov/Salmon-Recovery-Planning/ESA-Recovery-Plans/Other-Documents.cfm.

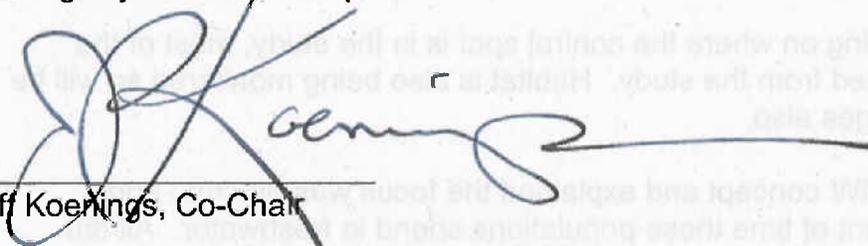
There was discussion on ways to develop processes to get the information being looked for on regulatory impacts on salmon recovery.

Jeff Breckel likes the flow chart because it is easy to see where they are and what needs to be done. It not only serves NOAA well, but also the other recovery partners.

Barry announced that the NOAA money for IMWs is available for next year also.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.



Jeff Koehnings, Co-Chair

Next Meeting: September 11, 2007
Natural Resources Building, Olympia