

Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan Stakeholder Orientation Meeting Summary

Date: August 16, 2012
Location: Eden Hall, Gleneden Beach, Oregon
Present: See attached sign-in sheets

Introductions/Welcome

Jim Owens, facilitator, welcomed everyone at 10:00 a.m. to the Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan Stakeholder Orientation Meeting. All in attendance introduced themselves.

Ed Bowles, ODFW Fish Division Administrator, thanked everyone for their willingness to participate in this process. This is going to be a complex project on a fast time line. The goal is to have Oregon Administrative Rules to adopt the Plan in place by spring 2013.

This plan will focus on six species, none of which are currently listed under the Endangered Species Act. ODFW has gathered data and prepared the technical aspects of the plan upfront – stakeholders will not be starting from a blank slate. Participants are asked to bring their local knowledge, background, and desires to these meetings but will be challenged to stand-back and consider the bigger picture – across stratus and species. The Operating Assumptions to be used in discussing management actions were reviewed.

- No conservation or fishing crisis now
- “Portfolio” approach (specify emphasis areas: wild and hatchery)
- Outcome: leaning conservation with better fishing
- Hatcheries and harvest create conservation risk, but are important for fishing
- New programs require funding and support
- Predators can be a risk to conservation and fishing
- Habitat is important, but not primary focus
- Adaptive management

Process Overview

Tom Stahl, ODFW Assistant Conservation and Recovery Program Manager, provided an overview of the process that will be used and the scope of input to be sought from the stakeholders.

Habitat restoration needs and gaps will be identified during this process but habitat will not be a major focus. The goal is to manage the fisheries; some new ideas will be looked at. All available resources will be looked at during the process. Staff will identify the positive and negative impacts of each approach.

There are angling regulation proposals that were put on hold in order to be addressed during this process.

Charter

Jim Owens reviewed the Stakeholder Group's charter. He emphasized the commitment to maintain the schedule. Stakeholders should designate an alternate to serve if they are unable to attend the workshops. (Please contact staff if you will be designating an alternate.) Following the first round of workshops, integration meetings, with representatives from all four groups, will be convened. All the meetings will be open to the public and comments will be accepted.

There were no concerns with the Charter dated August 2012.

Breakout Sessions

Individual stratum working groups met to discuss members' specific concerns and take an opinion survey. Notes from the stratum-specific sessions are attached.

Current Status Review

Tom Stahl provided an overview of how the status assessment was completed. This information is provided as a starting point for the process. The method used for the current status assessment is based directly on other scientific assessments conducted for recovery and planning purposes, especially by NOAA. Population delineation differences relative to the 2005 Native Fish Status Report were noted.

Matt Falcy, ODFW Fish Conservation Biologist, provided a description of the methods used to determine population abundance and productivity and trend scores.

Kevin Goodson, ODFW Conservation Planning Coordinator, provided a description of the methods used to determine spatial structure and diversity scores for populations.

Tom Stahl described the results of the status assessment. Species Management Units are doing well, as are most (but not all) populations. It was noted that the chum status was incorrect in the materials distributed before the meeting; there is poor information on population structure and/or historical distribution for chum. The decision space in terms of risk allowance for discussing management actions was described.

The group discussed various concerns related to the reliability of the data and use of models. Staff acknowledged the issues associated with new data and revised models but indicated that the model presented was for current status assessment at this point in time to inform decisions. Other models will be used in the future but they have other purposes.

Issues/Questions

Ed Bowles commented that "status quo" isn't an improvement. The group was asked to keep in mind budget constraints, but this shouldn't limit what is considered for future actions. The Plan is a tool to obtain additional funding. The lack of funds will not delay implementation of those aspects of the plan which do not rely on new funding. Monitoring will be conducted to gauge progress and guide adaptive management during the plan's implementation.

The group agreed that the status assessment was acceptable and a place to begin discussion about actions.

Closing

Information will be distributed prior to all workshops. A strawman proposal will be distributed two weeks prior to workshops. Stakeholders were asked to contact staff if they have not received information. Questions can be addressed to Tom Stahl or Kevin Goodson before the workshops.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

Mid-South Coast Stratum Group	September 4 – 6, 2012 (Charleston)
Umpqua Stratum Group	September 17 – 19, 2012 (Roseburg)
North Coast Stratum Group	October 1 – 3, 2012 (Tillamook)
Mid-Coast Stratum Group	October 15 – 17, 2012 (Newport)

**Coastal Multi-Species Conservation & Management Plan
Stakeholder Orientation
Lincoln City - August 16, 2012**

Breakout Session Notes

North Coast Stratum – Stakeholders’ Issues/Concerns

- Healthy runs of wild fish with harvest opportunity
- Can’t get away from hatchery use given habitat issues and desire for harvest
- Get away from either/or regarding wild vs. hatchery
- Identify high value wild fish targets; where does hatchery make sense?
- Don’t forget about CCT
- Role of watershed councils in implementation: define and involve
- Support of agriculture will be important in process
- Utilize hatcheries to help harvest – maximize potential
- Regarding habitat, passage is most important
- Nehalem native Chinook
 - Concentrate management at area of extraction (i.e, jaws)
 - Upriver closures – don’t harvest dark fish
 - Sustain wild run – no over harvest
 - Adjust regulations according to abundance with baseline as conservation
- Take conservative approach given uncertainty in data & climate

Mid-Coast Stratum – Stakeholders’ Issues/Concerns

- Harvest without hatchery overload (balance)
- STEP has been involved with a lot of habitat restoration and wild fish should be utilized conservatively with some fishing opportunity
- Wild steelhead catch & release should be kept up to the individual
- Conservation is the key but balance is needed; to succeed need folks involved in fishing so it is important to identify those opportunities
- Fishing opportunity translates into funding for conservation and ODFW activities
- Siletz summer steelhead recovery
- Balance for wild and hatchery fish opportunity
- Role of Siletz Tribe is unclear and Council will need to endorse any recommendations made by their representative
- Plan consistency with OWEB, NOAA recovery, etc...
- Optimum balance of conservation and use
- Adaptive management of fisheries by adjusting in season from forecast if wrong (benefits conservation and opportunity)
- Desired outcome is watershed restoration and health with salmon populations providing strong economic benefits (commercial and sportfishing)
 - Long term sustainability from increase populations

- There are more opportunities to increase natural production with habitat and habitat for other species should be considered
- Operating assumptions are good
- How will targets be monitored? “Good” fishing definition is relative and will be key to monitoring (catch/effort, H:W)
- How will fishing in different conditions be addressed (e.g., low and high water situations in Siuslaw)?
- How will fishing access on good stocks be maintained and protection of low stocks occur?
- Maintain equity of opportunity (boat-bank; e.g., lowering deadline to protect spawners may reduce bank fishery disproportionately)
 - Bait use restrictions reduces opportunity, especially for kids
 - Multiple opportunities with a reasonable chance of success of bank anglers is a key to increased participation (i.e., kids)
 - bank angler numbers are declining due to access, demographics, and regulations
- Make confusing regulations streamlined and user friendly

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