

Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan Stakeholder Orientation

Meeting Summary

Date: August 7, 2012
Location: Douglas County Library, Roseburg, 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.

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

It was noted that although there will be no specific economic analyses as part of the Plan, such considerations go into designating management actions in the Plan.

Although there are limited options for addressing mammal and bird predators due to their protected status, the Plan will consider options within these constraints (e.g., hazing).

A criteria-based approach will be used for adaptive management, but it is dependent on good information.

All in attendance introduced themselves.

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.

This process may lead to changes in angling regulations. Thus, current proposals in the four year angling development process are being deferred for this planning process and if accepted would go into effect in 2014, a year after others in the general process.

This plan will address the components of limiting factors and desired status as required in the Native Fish Conservation Policy, just in a different sequence. Stakeholders will be asked to consider a different “currency” for deliberations (i.e., risk rather than abundance), which will then be “translated” into desired statuses. Only populations that are not viable will need to identify limiting factors and have specific actions developed around these.

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 unable to attend the workshops. All the meetings will be open to the public and comments will be accepted.

Stakeholders should bring their default position into the process. Constituents need to be informed about the process but their general position should be integrated into the stakeholders positions. Stakeholders represent a “sector” and need to develop a network for informing their sector. It was noted that ODFW will bring a strawman proposal to discuss, which should facilitate communication within a sector.

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. “Professional judgment” for fishing opportunity scores was based on ODFW biologists’ understanding of the fisheries. 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. A write-up of methods will be completed for the draft plan.

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 overall objective is to reduce conservation risk while increasing fishing opportunity in some locations. Conservation risk within locations or SMUs will be increased or decreased within these broad objectives.

Issues/Questions

The group was asked if the status assessment was acceptable and a place to begin discussion about actions in the upcoming workshops. There was general support for the status assessment as presented.

Comments on the survey included:

- make it simpler
- some issues have related questions (redundant)
- hard to make yes/no decisions in the format

Closing

Information will be distributed prior to all workshops. The strawman portfolio will be sent out 2 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 3:00 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)

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Breakout Session Notes

Umpqua Stratum – Stakeholders’ Issues/Concerns

- Catch-and-release mortality: justify range and reduce high rates (e.g., guides); regulations should increase survival (e.g., use of yarn vs. roe)
- How will the hatchbox program fit in and be enhanced?
- Wild winter steelhead harvest in the North Umpqua
- Opportunities for fly fishers
- Healthy wild stocks
- Has the North Umpqua management plan been reviewed? How will this plan’s progress be tracked?
- Fish in the mainstem should be for fishermen, not seals or cormorants
- Improve STEP hatchery production (e.g., Gardiner facility’s filtration)
- Diverse angling opportunity in all parts of the county provides an economic benefit
- Support for Rock Creek Hatchery
- North Umpqua summer steelhead are unique and there is a passion for them
- Habitat and water quality
- Opportunities to improve abundance and productivity
- There is concern with the low numbers of South Umpqua populations, especially spring Chinook, relative to historic numbers which should be considered
- The South Umpqua should not be less of a priority than other basins
- Habitat restoration is an effective tool but all tools should be considered (e.g., hatcheries)
- The best science should inform decisions
- Impacts on lamprey are a concern, although not directly addressed in this planning process
- Apply what has been learned in other processes
- Wild North Umpqua fish, which are genetically diverse, should be protected
- North Umpqua populations are good but the process may not focus on how to make them better; it may maintain the status quo and not improve them
- Limiting factors need to be identified per the NFCP, and there is concern that they will not be in this process
- Key areas for mainstem Umpqua winter steelhead rearing should be identified
- Conservation of North and South Umpqua spring Chinook
- Fin-clipped coho are not available for harvest relative to wild coho (which are affected by the fishery) and opportunity is needed for both hatchery and wild coho
- Wild harvest should be allowed if it does not affect viability (science driven)
- High levels of catch-and-release (e.g., guides, fly fishermen) causes mortality
- Regulations should help populations
- Warmwater fish management

- Native fish should be the focus and the North Umpqua is special; identify what makes the North Umpqua special and replicate in other places

Mid-South Coast – Stakeholders’ Issues/Concerns

- Protect commercial and recreational fishing
 - Hatchery impacts – straying
 - Gene pool limited, improve broodstock
 - Expectations for escapement / production
 - Improve wild production
 - Actions to improve
- Wide representation of public
- Hatchery vs. wild and its impacts to private lands (will wild fish production = impacts to private land management?)
- Access to recreational fishing opportunity
- Whole watershed – how ranch/timber fit into plan
- Tribal harvest – marine mammal issues
- Recognition of landowner contributions, long term efforts
- Acceleration of restoration
- Quantify restoration
- Monitoring – are we doing the right thing?
- If hatchery impacts “fixed”, up hatchery production
- Bandon Hatchery water limited for production
- Carrying capacity for Mid-South Coast waters?
- Best available science on hatchery impacts to wild fish?
- Rational for which basins can take higher risks from hatchery production
- Data on at-risk populations



COASTAL MULTI-SPECIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN
STAKEHOLDER ORIENTATION SESSIONS

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