

To: Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council  
From: Puget Sound Tribal Management Conference  
Date: May 19, 2017

**RE: Recommended Priority Actions for the Chinook Implementation Strategy**

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- 1. Action: Protect all remaining salmon habitat by implementing land use changes, and building a region wide accountability system that is comprehensive, accessible, and transparent.**
  - a. Implementing tasks:
    - i. Regional definition and application of critical areas, including coordination of data (GIS exercise) to compile this overlay;
    - ii. Developing a standardized, common framework that creates regulatory alignment and harmonization of laws, zoning, and land use practices (*e.g. Tulalip Tribes: Regulatory Harmonization for Salmon Habitat Protection and Restoration, phase I*).
    - iii. Establish common metrics region wide such as site potential tree height or the NMFS buffer table when protecting and restoring effective riparian zones on all salmon and steelhead streams. Include other key biological attributes such as floodplains, off channel habitats and riverine wetlands. (*e.g. establishing effective riparian management guidance manual, work currently underway by WDFW*).
    - iv. Changes to land use practices: Move away from current mitigation framework, and instead require project design for infrastructure improvements to include as a measureable outcome, the improvement of environmental conditions. (i.e. Create a paradigm shift wherein ecosystem deliverables are a design element and deliverable outcome for all future land use actions).
    - v. Enforce Existing regulations (*e.g. Track enforcement reporting for results, and variance reporting.*)
    - vi. Elimination of regulatory exemptions, and/or seek fixes to regulatory inadequacies that inhibit fisheries resources, and that facilitate adverse modification of salmonid habitat
    - vii. Modify hydraulic code to include enhanced civil enforcement authorities that would allow WDFW to issue stop work and administrative orders, inspect properties, and increase civil fines.
    - viii. Acquisition strategy that includes funding conservation easements and property acquisitions based on the value effective riparian areas provide to the ecosystem, as opposed to development rights.
- 2. Action: Water Quality and Water Quantity; Prevent all uses of water that would limit recovery of salmon**
  - a. Implementing tasks: Water Quantity
    - i. Establish stream flows in watershed that protect fish
    - ii. No authorization of new appropriations (including permit-exempt appropriations) if they would impair senior water rights (including state instream flow rights adopted by rule) or adversely affect fisheries resources.
  - b. Implementing tasks: Water Quality
    - i. Enforce Existing regulations

- ii. Improve monitoring of Contamination (e.g. metals, hydrocarbons, PAH's PBDE's) associated with CSO's in urban areas. These point or nonpoint sources need to be identified and assessed to improve our understanding of their impacts to salmon resources.
- iii. Address and manage nutrient loading sources (e.g. Nitrogen) and pathways associated with deep-water outfalls.
- iv. Stormwater Management: Changes needed to enforce the diversion of stormwater flows from directly entering surface waters.

**3. Action: Improve management of predation and mortality factors that inhibit salmon recovery.**

- a. Implementing tasks
  - i. Develop a white paper review of all recent science and studies on harbor seal, harbor porpoise, orca, fish and marine bird predation of juvenile, sub adult, and adult salmon to include a section on potential management options.
  - ii. Develop a white paper on WDFW mark selective fisheries management with a focus on the latest five years of total impacts to unmarked chinook including current hook release mortality estimates and a review of applicable best available science.
  - iii. Marine Mammal Protection Act: modification to allow management of predators on salmon.

**4. Action: Science and monitoring**

- a. Implementing tasks
  - i. Emphasize funding support for efforts that build our understanding of ecological interactions that likely influence how Puget Sound Chinook populations perform.
    - 1. Continue to support study of Salish Sea food web dynamics - including zooplankton monitoring, modeling and investigating Chinook predator / prey relationships.
    - 2. Increase scope and thoroughness of assessments and research on forage fish spawning, rearing habitats and requirements.
  - ii. Support efforts that improve our knowledge of things integral to managing Chinook and tracking their recovery, including:
    - 1. Co-manager (WDFW, Tribes) fish in / fish out monitoring of natal Chinook populations.
      - a. e.g. Utilizing the Juvenile Migrant Data Exchange (JMX) and Adult Fish Data Exchange (AMX) to share information between co-managers for fish in/out monitoring.
    - 2. Habitat status and trends monitoring throughout Puget Sound (*e.g. a survey of current habitat to assess the amount of habitat lost since Chinook were listed.*)
      - a. e.g. Utilizing the Habitat Strategy platform being established by the tribes for the status and trends monitoring.
      - b. e.g. Establish a regional baseline inventory of common datasets necessary for analyzing habitat conditions for Chinook, *i.e.* current (2017) shoreline armoring inventory along freshwater and saltwater habitats across the entire region, including but not

