

Southern Resident Killer Whale Executive Order Immediate Action Report May 1, 2018

Executive Order Task
Identify the highest priority areas and watersheds for Southern Resident prey in order to focus or adjust, as needed, restoration, protection, incentives, hatcheries, harvest levels, and passage policies and programs.

Completion Date	July 31, 2018		
Lead Agency	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)		
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Supporting Agencies, if applicable	Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)		

Outcomes/Progress Narrative
<p>Currently, WDFW and NOAA are pulling together a draft list of priority chinook stocks based upon information that is held by the agencies on whale diet at different times and places, as well as fisheries data about chinook stocks that overlap with whale distribution.</p> <p>A workshop hosted by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is scheduled for June 2018, where the focus is to bring together a small group of agency, academic, non-profit and other scientists and managers to provide feedback and validation on the priorities criteria that is being developed by NOAA and WDFW. The review of initial priorities will include evaluation of the criteria and considerations used to identify priorities (i.e., percent of diet, overlap in distributions, seasonal importance, growth potential of stock, etc.).</p> <p>At the same time, in May and June 2018 the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, Puget Sound Partnership and the Salmon Recovery Council are convening conversations around how best to move the needle on Chinook recovery. These recovery groups have recognized that their actions could be more effective and the goal is to advance a conversation around prioritizing watersheds for habitat and other recovery actions with new and existing funding resources.</p> <p>WDFW, GSRO and PSP will ensure that these regional conversations about the role and priority of watersheds for Chinook recovery get integrated into the SRKW Prey Working Group discussions and outcomes. Specifically, the agencies will enter these broader regional conversations with a focus on benefits to Southern Residents by engaging the SRKW Prey</p>

Working Group to evaluate the criteria and/or priorities developed by the NFWF workshop, the Salmon Recovery Network and the state and federal agencies. In particular, the Working Group may suggest social, economic or policy criteria that may further prioritize the areas/stocks already identified through the various discussions described above.

To assist with communication and public awareness, WDFW, with partners, is leading the development of a simple online storymap that will better visually display killer whale distribution throughout the year as well as their diet in those places and times.

As more information becomes available and the above discussions mature, the storymap will evolve as a place to access this information. The idea is that this storymap will assist with the visual representation of SRKW priorities, and can also aid in telling the story around Chinook recovery priorities.