

This document captures the feedback received from Task Force members during the June 3rd SRKW Task Force meeting in response to the following prompt:

What are the 3 most important things that still need to be done for the SRKW?

- Examples: data gaps, funding needs, more attention/priority to existing efforts, etc.
- This is intended to be very open-ended. Please limit your submissions to a few words!

Predation

- Lack of funding for pinniped management. Need funding to forward this issue.
- Pinniped and other predator management.
- Scientifically evaluate the effect of pinniped predation on Chinook salmon and the uncertainty associated with removal as a potential action.
- Chinook predation by seals in Puget Sound. Needs to seriously recognize and acknowledge the signification of predation.
- Predation- aggressively pursue pinnipeds study.
- Examine all facets of predation on Chinook
 - Related to hatchery practices
 - Related to lack of forage fish
 - Related to population changes of pinnipeds and transient killer whales
- Fund and implement recommendation 12 (pinniped management).
- Pinniped management
 - Introduce long-term sustainable management plan for pinnipeds in Washington waters (including Puget Sound and Salish Sea).
 - Plan should be adaptively managed and should consider the fact that humans have always interacted (i.e. hunted) these species.
 - A plan should also take into account the reserved treaty rights tribes have retained to hunt and harvest these resources.
- Fund recommendation 12, because we cannot manage the ecosystem which we have up ended, unless we have a better understanding of how it functions.

Fish passage / culverts

- Culvert and fish passage barrier removal.
 - State culverts
 - Local governments culverts
 - Funding to prioritize culverts to address most recoverable watersheds. Worst 1st, based on highest probability of success for survival of salmon.
- Dam removal: Accelerate the effort to remove interference to salmon habitat and access to spawning grounds.

Habitat restoration

- Fund and act on all shovel-ready Chinook, Chum and Coho salmon restoration projects.
- Salmon habitat restoration
- Full funding for habitat protection and restoration, we may need a new funding source.
- Mechanism to ensure our new tools to protect habitat are used in a way to help avoid new impacts.
- More money for salmon habitat.
- Stop the trend towards extinction. Habitat protection, preservation and recovery.
- Increase salmon availability through a robust habitat restoration investment
- More funding for habitat restoration and protection projects for salmon
- Develop a riparian protection act.
- Dedicated funding source for habitat restoration for salmon
- Update state policies (e.g. no net loss, SMP, GMA) to improve salmon habitat.
- Strengthen and expand recommendations 3+4 to improve and enforce local laws that allow habitat alteration, so they are protective of salmon and orcas in the long term, even with cumulative impacts of growth.
- Better coordination of salmon recovery/habitat enhancement.
- Department of Ecology and Department of Fish & Wildlife should adopt/advocate for a “riparian protection act” to protect and restore riparian habitat across all landscapes (since CAOs and SMPs are failing at this). See recommendation 4.
- Know we need more funding for salmon habitat. New funding mechanism dedicated to salmon and orca recovery. New revenue source needed
- Increase access to quality habitat for forage fish and salmon in all their life stages.
- Develop more specific actions to implement recommendations 3+4 (habitat protection).
- Create guidelines/requirements for riparian conditions along all waterways, especially those necessary to protect and restore salmon and their habitats.
- Identify better approach to land use.
- Department of Ecology and Department of Fish & Wildlife must adopt “net ecological benefit” standard and replace/retire no net loss policy (see recommendation 4).

Salmon recovery plans

- Fully fund and implement Puget Sound Chinook recovery plan and watershed salmon recovery chapters.
- Fully fund salmon recovery plans and update plans to ensure climate change is included.
- Fully fund regional salmon recovery plans.
- Funding for salmon recovery (Recs 1, 2, 3, 4, 131). When you add up SFAP, PSAR, ESRP, Flood. By design, SRFB, FFFPP, Brian Abbott - \$247M in 2013-15, \$249M in 2019-21.
- Salmon recovery. Do it- “whales eat fish not words.” – Ken Balcomb
- White paper by a group of external Chinook experts, LLTKs, WDFW, Tribes, NOAA, etc. on best available science - reviewing in detail Chinook Recovery plans in Puget Sound -

pulling out critical actions, point out funding needed and use synergistic approach to identify connected projects in habitat, regulations and legislation, etc. After reviewing paper- discuss multiple hypothesis on limiting factors to recovery and why we are not making progress. Touching on crisis reality including climate change, population growth, and lack of political will.

Hatcheries

- Increase hatchery production to the full extent the ESA allows.
- Hatchery production prioritized by:
 - Habitat availability
 - Benefit to SKRW
 - Compliance with E.S.A.
- Increase salmon availability through hatchery reform investment.
- Prey- working through comanagers, identify and preserve new hatchery production.
- Fund hatchery Chinook production deemed to have the greatest potential impact on SRKW and least potential impact on endangered wild Chinook.

Vessels

- Be whale wise and new vessel regulations
 - Information for recreation boaters is fragmented and hard to find
 - Need coordinated message/plan
- Suspend whale watching by all vessels on the SKRW (650 yd distance).
- Cumulative impacts associated with all vessel speed and noise but with a focus on speed of commercial and ferry vessels (including foot ferries).
- Deep decarbonization of maritime industry
- Continue to explore ways to reduce acoustic disturbance and reduce the risk of high-speed vessels physically impacting all cetaceans.
- Research and development into quiet vessel technology
- Funding for a maritime sector group-focused on vessel and orca interaction
- Implement whale alert system throughout Salish Sea. Invoke speed, proximity and noise restrictions (echo/sonar, cavitation, etc.) within 1 mile of real-time orca location.
- Moratorium to deny new projects that threaten the orcas (i.e. Roberts Bank Terminal) until a cumulative impact study is conducted. There seems to be a microscope on whale vessels but not on oil tankers or shipping containers.

Measure, model, and monitor

- Model our recommendation compared to recovery goals.
- Model effects of task force recommendations under various population growth and climate change scenarios.

- REC 35- Science and monitoring rec. was generalized and weakened near the end. Need a specific plan (or meta-plan, that doesn't duplicate) for filling data gaps. See RECs 33, 4, 6, 7, 15, 16, 22, and 23 for specific topics for monitoring.
- Consistent with the first bullet in recommendation 36, estimate the impact of our recommendations on orcas, taking into account the likely range of impacts from future growth, and report back to task force, governor, legislature and public.
- Set salmon recovery goals that can be measured (by run, stock, location) and focusing primarily on Chinook. Measure, report, respond. Approach systemically- not politically
- Evaluate and model how task force actions and Canadian actions translate into actual numbers of Chinook over time and space.
- Need accounting system for progress with respect to...
 - What whales need
 - How much provided by year/recs
 - Progress on year/recs
- Change the “no net loss” standard to a “net gain” standard.
- Define the problem, is lack of Chinook a symptom?
- Prioritize the top 10 actions:
 - That will result in recovery
 - When & what will be done
 - Who will achieve them
- Monitor and adaptively manage hatchery production and vessel measures.

Water Quality

- Reduce toxins through stormwater management.
- Department of ecology must enforce its water quality regulations and laws. See recommendation 3
- Emphasis on local source control for toxics.
- REC 31- Reduce stormwater threats- need clarity/specifics from the summer 2018 work group exercise. Delivery and focusing on hot spots, incentives, address sources before they contaminate.
- Fund MTCA at sustainable levels and suspend raiding fund for other purposes.

Co-management

- Leave hatchery harvest pinniped management to the co-managers.

Orca sanctuaries

- Create feeding sanctuaries like Canada did.
- Protected area for whales
- Sanctuary area

Life after Task Force

- Identify technical team of, orca scientists, Chinook scientists, recovery leads, tribal staff, etc., to help continue orca recovery effort. Fixed monthly meetings sending recommendations to JT, orca legislation team and PSP regularly. Tribal orca task force will continue via Tribal Management Council and will also provide continual advice and recommendations.
- Small crisis group with co-managers and regulatory authority to streamline some of the immediate issues that need to be addressed.
- Keep the task force intact in some form to maintain momentum.

Other

- Public outreach and education.