

Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force

Meeting #8: Summary

March 18, 2019 in Lacey

Action items are highlighted in red font throughout.

Attending:

Task Force members:

Amy Scarton	Washington State Department of Transportation
Amy Windrope	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Conor Giorgi on behalf of B.J. Kieffer	Spokane Tribe
Brad Smith	Washington State Fish and Wildlife Commission
Brendan Flynn	Commercial fisherman
Bryce Campbell	Global Affairs Canada
Cecilia Gobin	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Chad Bowechop	Makah Tribe
Commissioner Steve Johnston	Port of Edmonds
Commissioner Jamie Stephens	San Juan County
Dave Herrera	Skokomish Tribe
Donna Sandstrom	The Whale Trail
George Harris	Northwest Marine Trade Association
Jacques White	Long Live the Kings
Jeff Dickison	Squaxin Island Tribe
Jeff Friedman	Pacific Whale Watch Association
Joe Gaydos	The SeaDoc Society
JT Austin	Office of Gov. Inslee
Kaleen Cottingham	Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
Kelly McLain	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Kristin Swenddal	Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Les Purce	Co-chair
Lisa Lantz	Washington State Parks
Lynne Barre	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Maia Bellon	Washington State Department of Ecology
Mark Doumit	Washington State Forest Protection Association
Mindy Roberts	Washington Environmental Council
Paul McCollum	Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
Phil Anderson	Pacific Salmon Council
Rep. Debra Lekanoff (D)	WA House of Representatives (D), District 40
Ron Schulz	Washington State Conservation Commission
Senator Kevin Van De Wege	WA Senate (D), District 24, Sequim

Sheida Sahandy	Puget Sound Partnership
Stephanie Solien	Co-chair
Darryl Williams on behalf of Terry Williams	Tulalip Tribes
Tom Davis	Washington State Farm Bureau
Trina Wellman	Northern Economics, Inc.

Staff, Steering Committee, Presenters, and Consulting team:

Cathy Cochrane	Puget Sound Partnership
Derek Day	Washington State Department of Ecology
Heather Bartlett	Washington State Department of Ecology
Jim Cahill	Office of Financial Management
Laura Blackmore	Puget Sound Partnership
Leslie Connelly	Office of Financial Management
Penny Becker	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Todd Hass	Puget Sound Partnership
Tom Laurie	Washington State Department of Ecology
Angela Pietschmann	Cascadia Consulting Group
Gretchen Muller	Cascadia Consulting Group
Marc Daudon	The Caspian Group
Susan Gulick	Sound Resolutions

OPENING, INTRODUCTIONS, AND UPDATES

Following the Tribal welcome and blessing by Squaxin Island Tribal Council member Vicki Kruger, the co-chairs gave introductory remarks:

Co-chair Stephanie Solien welcomed everyone back to Year 2 of the SRKW Task Force. She is grateful to be partnering with everyone again and said the Southern Residents have been a unifying force, bringing together the Task Force and people the world over. However, she noted the Task Force's science-based recommendations are only one part of this journey. In December, Gov. Inslee sent the state legislature budget and policy proposals that will help the orca get the food that they need in the near-term and lay the groundwork for a longer-term recovery. Now legislative leaders are doing their part to address the policy and budget needs to save our region's beloved Southern Residents.

Co-chair Les Purce acknowledged ambiguous challenges the Task Force will face in the coming year: (1) in the June Task Force meeting we will discuss the final status of legislative actions proposed as part of Year 1 recommendations, (2) the effects of climate change, and (3) the health of orcas. He encouraged everyone to be open to conversations and strategies to address the effect these uncertainties will have on our path forward.

Stephanie introduced new Task Force members and project staff since last year: Gretchen Muller (replacing Nora Nickum), Angela Pietschmann (consulting team project support), Commissioner Steve Johnston (replacing Kathy Pittis), Representative Debra Lekanoff (replacing Representative Brian Blake), Senator Kevin Van De Wege (replacing Sen. Ranker on Task Force), Senator Doug Ericksen (representing Senate Republicans), and Erik Neatherlin (replacing Steve Martin).

After Task Force members introduced themselves, Susan Gulick (facilitator) reviewed the meeting agenda and referenced the Task Force Charter (pages 1-6 of [meeting packet](#)). Meeting materials are available on the Governor's [website](#).

UPDATES

Orca Health

Task Force member Lynne Barre (NOAA) provided an [update](#) on the health of the orcas. She referenced the Center for Whale Research [website](#) for information on the encounters the organization has with Southern Residents and noted L124, the newest SRKW calf, was first seen in mid-January. NOAA will be tracking the health of this calf and its mother. The current population of SRKW remains at 75, including the new calf.

The Center for Whale Research reported an encounter with K25, an adult male whose body condition had previously declined as documented through photogrammetry research (overhead drones taking aerial photos of the whales). The Center for Whale Research's most recent reports indicate that K25's condition does not appear to have worsened.

As part of ongoing population monitoring, research partners will continue to monitor the whales, collecting samples of feces and breath. NOAA is coordinating research meetings with Canadian colleagues to minimize the impacts on SRKW and learn as much as possible together. NOAA will take lessons learned last year to prepare for an emergency response, if needed (medication, observation, sample collection).

Overview of Year 2 Task Force Work Plan

Gretchen Muller (consulting team project manager) provided an overview of the SRKW Task Force Year 2 Work Plan ([meeting packet](#) page 7). **Gretchen will send meeting appointments later this week for the next three upcoming Task Force meetings: June 3 (Olympia/Tacoma), September 9 (Vancouver), and October 7 (Olympia/Tacoma or WA Coast/Aberdeen).** Gretchen asked the Task Force to email her and Susan any additional topics for Year 2.

Chad Bowechop (Makah Tribe) reminded the Task Force that the Makah Tribe has cultural interests and identify connected to the orca. He explained that tribal interests extend beyond adjudicated issues and center around spiritual values and beliefs. He emphasized that cultural importance should be addressed alongside physical science. The Makah Tribe wants a comprehensive and inclusive perspective developed as part of the Task Force discussions in Year 2.

Communication, Outreach, and Education

Co-chair Stephanie Solien thanked Cathy Cochrane (Puget Sound Partnership) and the other communications directors for their advocacy on behalf of SRKW. Cathy provided a summary on the communication activities to date and upcoming ([meeting packet](#) pages 8 and 9). **She invited all agencies and organizations to email her if they would like to participate in the Task Force communications group in Year 2.**

The communications group launched orca.wa.gov, a resource that provides links to information and resources related to orca recovery. **Agencies and entities are encouraged to submit links to Cathy if they would like to be included on this webpage. The communications group is working on an organized speakers bureau/list to respond to invitations to speak about orca recovery. Contact Cathy if you would like to be added to this list.** Last week the Department of Licensing emailed annual boating renewal notices and included a reminder to boaters to check [Be Whale Wise](#) for regulations around orcas. The communications group hopes to take a similar approach to vehicle licensing renewals ([Don't Drip and Drive](#)).

Brad Smith (WDFW-FWC) informed the communications group that he has heard increased criticism from WA residents regarding the amount of time and funding spent on SRKW.

- **Cathy said she appreciated hearing what people are saying around the state and will work with the communications group to brainstorm ways to address those criticisms. She encouraged everyone to do this within their own networks as well.**

Kaleen Cottingham (RCO) noted the 7th Biennial [Salmon Recovery Conference](#) will be held on April 8th and 9th at the Greater Tacoma Convention Center and the co-chairs will be speaking at a plenary session.

George Harris (Northwest Marine Trade Association) asked if there is a hashtag folks should be using to share information on Twitter.

- **Cathy will follow-up and share hashtag(s) with the Task Force.**

Rep. Debra Lekanoff (WA House of Representatives (D), District 40) shared that she is inspired by the passion for the SRKW from the youngest generations and the generational work that the Coast Salish and Makah have done.

Lynne Barre (NOAA) thanked Stephanie Solien and George Harris for their participation at the Be Whale Wise booth at the [Seattle Boat Show](#) last year, which reached thousands of boaters.

Jeff Dickison (Squaxin Island Tribe) would like the communications group to include tribal staff in communications planning going forward.

- **Cathy will invite NWIFC communications staff to participate in Year 2.**

Agency Implementation Efforts

Penny Becker (WDFW, Prey Working Group Lead) introduced the handout on [meeting packet](#) pages 10 through 19, which summarizes updates from agency leads on the current status of Task Force recommendations from Year 1. This template is draft only and has not yet been circulated outside of the Steering Committee. **Penny invited the Task Force to send additional updates to Gretchen Muller; the summary will be continually updated and posted to the Box site.** Susan Gulick noted a larger discussion around agency implementation and status of Year 1 recommendations is planned for the June 3 Task Force Meeting.

Canadian / US Transboundary Issues

Bryce Campbell (Global Affairs Canada) explained that in 2018, the Federal Government of Canada dedicated funding to help preserve three critical whale populations: Southern Residents, the St. Lawrence Estuary Beluga, and the North Atlantic Right Whales. In October 2018, the Canadian government announced an additional \$61.7M funding in response to the SRKW crisis and established five technical working groups: prey availability, sanctuaries, commercial vessels, general vessels, and contaminants.

In December 2018, Canada's technical working groups began meeting to develop (1) short-term measures to be implemented by May 1, 2019 and (2) longer-term recommendations due by early June. Short term recommendations are currently under review by First Nations, local communities, and research partners. These non-binding recommendations will then be submitted to three Canadian government ministries for consideration:

- The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (includes Canadian Coast Guard) within Global Affairs Canada, which is the equivalent of the U.S. State Department.
- Transport Canada, which is responsible for overseeing the transport of goods on all modes.
- Environment and Climate Change Canada, which is roughly equivalent to the U.S. E.P.A.

Short-term recommendation options currently under consideration include:

- Expanding slow-down area for large commercial vessels.
- Encouraging vessels to turn off echo sounders when not in use.
- Implementing a 1,000-meter go-slow zone and go-slow rate of seven knots or less.
- Turning off engines or idling within approaching distance of killer whales.
- Increasing the approach distance to 400 meters around all Southern Residents.
- Imposing a 650-meter approach distance for commercial whale watching.
- Suspending viewing for a three-year period.
- Area-based seasonal fishery closures and mobile/bubble closures or avoidance zones.
- Reducing contaminants to the SRKW habitat by March 2020.

Canada hopes to coordinate their efforts with Washington State moving forward. **Bryce invited the Task Force to connect with him directly if interested in learning more about Canada's process and recommendations. Mindy Roberts (WEC) requested links to Canada's work be included on the WA SRKW Task Force website for easier access.**

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY MARINE WATER QUALITY IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY AND NUTRIENT FORUM

Maia Bellon (Director of WA Department of Ecology) introduced Ecology's Puget Sound Nutrient Source Reduction Project. A key goal of the project is to build a long-term ecosystem resiliency model that supports Southern Residents and their prey. **Maia noted that the timing of this project coincides well with the Task Force Year 2 schedule and invited any Task Force members interested in this work to participate.** She asked the Task Force to consider supporting the recommendations that come out of this project in Year 2.

Maia introduced project manager Dustin Billhimer, who [presented](#) a brief overview of Ecology's [Puget Sound Nutrient Source Reduction Project](#), including how the project objectives connect to orca recovery. Additional information is provided on pages 27-30 of the [meeting packet](#). Susan then opened the floor to the Task Force for questions.

Jacques White (LLK) noted that in areas like central Puget Sound, which is relatively low in nutrients, even small absolute changes can result in 25-200% increases in nutrients available to plankton, which make them less able to support forage fish and salmon. Jacques asks if the Salish Sea model incorporates this type of analysis to determine whether the 4 million people in the basin are changing nutrient dynamics in ways that make Puget Sound less able to support the orca food web.

- Dustin noted the Salish Sea model includes some algae species and models those interactions in the biogeochemical processes to get at dissolved oxygen but does not get at the food web impacts Jacques describes. Dustin wants to continue strengthening relationships between what his project team is doing and the work that LLK, DFW, and NOAA are doing with the Marine Survival Project. Jacques recommends the Task Force determines specific recommendations to advance to the legislature, agencies, and/or municipalities to address these potential challenges.

Joe Gaydos (SeaDoc Society) reminded the Task Force that they have a limited amount of time to move Year 1 recommendations forward and cautioned against creating an extra working group or action item around nutrients. Joe proposed the Task Force instead supports Ecology's recommendations related to nutrients.

Co-chair Stephanie Solien noted that Ecology's work is based on sound science and expertise and suggested that relying on their work will save the Task Force time and energy. She asked Dustin for concrete examples of actions that citizens can take to help salmon and orca related to this nutrient proposal?

- Dustin discussed expanding existing wastewater treatment operations to include biological nitrogen reduction.
- Maia suggested citizens clean up pet waste, keep human waste out of natural waterways, convert to drought-resistant lawns that do not require watering/chemicals, and avoid washing cars in driveways/lawns.

Mindy Roberts (WEC) noted the population of the Puget Sound/Salish Sea region is expected to double by 2070, increasing to over 8 million people. She explained that the Puget Sound region currently has the nutrient removal technology needed to offset this population increase and can help reduce impacts of other contaminants like flame retardants and pharmaceuticals. However, implementing this technology requires large capital investments and these projects can take decades to implement.

Jeff Dickison (Squaxin Island Tribe) asked whether Ecology can require facilities with nitrogen removal infrastructure to utilize those capabilities.

- Dustin explained that in January 2019, Ecology committed to three actions: (1) asking those who are already investing in this technology to use it, (2) capping wastewater treatment plants around Puget Sound at current levels, and (3) helping facilities understand their options.
- Maia added that cities and towns providing sewer and water service inherit our collective waste. Ecology works closely with local governments and encourages wastewater treatment plants to advance beyond what is legally required.

Rep. Debra Lekanoff (D-40) emphasized the need to think about ways to raise more money, talk about taxes, and fund Orca recovery into the future.

Paul McCollum (Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe) emphasized looking at sea level rise, climate change, and population growth together as they exacerbate the issues facing wastewater treatment plants and community septic systems.

- Dustin added that local governments have success in getting treatment technology built when they include it in the overall facility and infrastructure planning process.

Susan summarized that the Task Force supports Ecology's nutrient source reduction process and wants to stay informed on recommendations that impact orca recovery.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Co-chair Les Purce introduced JT Austin (Governor Inslee's Senior Policy Advisor on Natural Resources) and thanked her for the work she has done on behalf of the Task Force.

JT provided an update on the legislative progress that supports the Task Force's Year 1 recommendations ([meeting packet](#) pages 20-23). She acknowledged that when the Task Force's recommendations were released in 2018, many legislators already had interests, projects, and stakeholder work in place, resulting in the lack of a legislative champion this session. She thanked Rep. Lekanoff, Senator Van De Wege, Senator Rolfes, Rep. Fitzgibbon, and Rep. Blake for their leadership.

Six bills were proposed directly from Task Force recommendations (three in the House + three companion bills in the Senate), and three continue to move forward:

- **2SHB 1579** (Fitzgibbon): Implementing recommendations of the Southern Resident Orca Task Force related to increasing Chinook salmon and forage fish abundance.
- **SHB 1578** (Lekanoff): Reducing the threats to Southern Resident orcas by improving the safety of oil transportation.
- **2SSB 5588** (Rolfes): Concerning the protection of Southern Resident orcas from disturbance by vessels.

Amy Windrope (WDFW) provided an overview of **HB 1708**, explaining that the bill is essential to WDFW's ability to continue to run the organization and deliver what the citizens of Washington want from the department (healthy fish, wildlife, and commercial/recreational opportunities). The bill increases license fees by 15% and matches against a request to the legislature for an increase in general fund.

- Penny Becker (WDFW) further noted the bill would support orcas through investments in hatcheries.
- JT clarified that the fee bill is NTIB (necessary to implement the bill) and added that WDFW is the last state agency to be made whole after budget cuts made during the recession. Since the general fund was cut, WDFW has increasingly relied on license holders to keep the agency running.

Jim Cahill (OFM) anticipates the capital budgets will be released next week. He is optimistic we will receive adequate funding for these new bills that the Task Force hopes to pass.

JT encouraged the Task Force to contact legislators and budget writers about these bills. Key legislators include: Rep. Ormsby, Rep. Fitzgibbons, Senator Rolfes, Senator Billig, and Senator Van De Wege. Refer to pages 24-26 of the [meeting packet](#) for legislative committee roster and contact information. Susan then opened the floor to the Task Force for questions:

Jacques White (LLK) asked support staff to provide key timelines and information related to the WDFW fee bill so the Task Force can advocate for it.

- Penny Becker (WDFW, Prey Working Group Lead) said that staff can include this information in the updates Gretchen sends to the Task Force.
- Jacques added that during the recession, total tax revenue was reduced by 12% and funding for WDFW was cut by 40%.
- Tom Davis (WA State Farm Bureau) agreed there is broad acknowledgement of the WDFW funding issue that must be addressed by the legislature.
- Phil Anderson (Pacific Salmon Council) noted that in 2007, the general fund for WDFW was \$110M, cut down to \$55M by 2009. WDFW addressed this decrease in revenue through cuts that impacted the department's ability to conserve, protect, and restore natural resources in Washington. If WDFW is not adequately funded, it will undermine the actions the Task Force is attempting to accomplish for the orca.

- Amy Windrope (WDFW) explained there will be a \$30M gap without additional money from the fee license. WDFW has cut hatcheries substantially over the past ten years due to budget restrictions, but with the money requested from the legislature, WDFW could nearly double the number of Chinook releases in Puget Sound and increase releases in the Columbia River by about 20M.
- JT added there is a \$75M budget request for infrastructure improvements to hatchery facilities. Increases to hatchery production will not provide returns on investment if we do not also have habitat carrying capacity.

George Harris (NW Marine Trade Association) acknowledged that recreational anglers, who contribute 40% of WDFW's revenue through purchase of fishing licenses, oppose the fee increase. Anglers have seen fishing opportunities decrease, while conservation burden has increased. This group supports **SB 5617** to remove non-tribal gill nets from the main stem of the Columbia River.

- Amy Windrope (WDFW) added that individual interests should not diminish WDFW's ability to deliver fisheries, hunting opportunities, and natural heritage within the state of Washington.
- Brendan Flynn (commercial fisherman) asked George whether SB 5617 is a reallocation to the sport fishing sector, which currently has 80% of the impacts of threatened and endangered fish on the Columbia River (commercial sector has 20%).
- George clarified the bill is not about increasing number of fish harvested for recreational fishing businesses, but rather increasing predictability of seasons. If too many fish are taken through non-tribal gill nets, the season is shut down. The business industry that supports recreational angling relies on predictable fishing seasons and opportunities to sustain their businesses.
- Brendan asked whether that the bill includes the Puget Sound fishery.
- George clarified that this part of the bill was removed.
- Brendan appreciates that predictability is valuable to businesses but disagrees with taking away commercial fishing opportunities from working families.
- George suggested the intent of the buyback was to reinvest into alternative gear or other business opportunities. He highlights the impact commercial businesses have on wild fish.

Mindy Roberts (WEC) observed that habitat bill **2SHB 1579** implements Task Force Recommendations 3, 4, 14, and part of 15. Oil spill bill **SHB 1578** implements Task Force Recommendation 24. Vessels bill **SB 5577** implements Task Force Recommendation 17, part of 18, and 26 with strong bipartisan support. Toxics bill **SB 5135** implements Task Force Recommendation 30. Mindy encouraged Task Force members to add their names in support of these bills.

Donna Sandstrom (Whale Trail) asked for an update on vessels bill **SB 5577** language which changed the more protective language “department **must** adopt” these rules to less protective language, “the department **may** adopt” these rules.

- JT reached an agreement in writing with Sen. Rolfes and Rep. Blake to go with the more protective language.

Jacque White (LLK) highlighted budget items directly related to Task Force Recommendations:

- **Recommendation 1-12:** (WDFW budget) support the \$1.24M Pinnipeds in Puget Sound line item to address seal predation.
- **Recommendation 1-6:** (WDFW budget) support testing pilot actions in hatcheries at \$381,660 in the \$4.6M request to Increase Hatchery Production. This will support practices that could increase the size and survival of Chinook salmon.
- **Recommendation 1-16:** (WDNR budget) increase the Ocean Acidification Research and Coordination line item to \$1.72M in the Department of Natural Resources budget. This supports ocean acidification monitoring, research on impacts to geoduck from changing conditions, and the Puget Sound zooplankton monitoring program (\$720K). Salmon, forage fish, and crab depend on zooplankton for survival. This program is critical for ecosystem recovery.
- **Multiple recommendations:** (PSP budget) support the \$2.2M Puget Sound Scientific Research line item in the Puget Sound Partnership budget. \$1.2M of this supports the critical transition from research to action, including: synthesizing over 100 studies, implementing new management tools, and testing solutions to improve the survival of salmon and steelhead.

Amy Windrope (WDFW) recognized and thanked JT for her gracious, diligent, and compassionate work on helping to move Task Force recommendations forward through the legislative process.

CLIMATE CHANGE PRESENTATIONS

Marc Daudon (Caspian Group) introduced four guest speakers who presented on climate change as it relates to Southern Resident recovery. Speaker bios are provided on page 31 of the [meeting packet](#).

Dr. Terrie Klinger, PhD is a director and professor at the University of Washington’s School of Marine and Environmental Affairs. She is also the co-director of the Washington Ocean Acidification Center. Her [presentation](#) focused on the **potential effects of warming and acidification on SRKW**.

- Amy Windrope (WDFW) asked Dr. Klinger why sound travels differently in an acidified ocean. Dr. Klinger explained it is related to borate ion concentrations that mediate the sound speed through the ocean. Borate ion concentrations change modestly to moderately as ocean acidification intensifies.

Dr. Amy Snover, PhD is the Director of the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group, University Director of the Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center, and Affiliate Associate Professor in the UW School of Marine and Environmental Affairs. Her [presentation](#) focused on the **implications of climate change impacts on coastal and upland systems**.

- Mark Doumit (WSFPA) highlighted the \$40M capital budget request by four agencies (DFW, DNR, SCC, and State Parks) for Eastern WA forest thinning to support forest resiliency and health, as well as wildlife habitat protection.
- Marc Daudon asked to what extent these changes are already happening or are measurable. Dr. Snover explained that many of the changes she described in her presentation are already unfolding across the landscape, including long-term decreases in mountain snowpack, sea level rise, changed timing in stream flow, earlier snow melt across the western U.S., and increased wildfire.

Bill Dewey is the Director of Public Affairs for Taylor Shellfish Farms, the largest producer of farmed shellfish in the United States. He has owned and operated his own shellfish farm in Samish Bay for 20 years. His [presentation](#) focused on the impacts of **ocean acidification on west coast shellfish aquaculture**.

- George Harris (NWMTA) asked for more information on biocides killing off eelgrass on the coast. Bill explained the shellfish industry has gone through the permitting process to get herbicide approved for targeted application to control non-native/invasive sea grass (*Zostera japonica*). *Zostera japonica* impacts shellfish beds, reducing their ability to grow clams and causing siltation.
- Commissioner Jamie Stephens (San Juan County) asked why Taylor Shellfish Farms is expanding growing seed in Hawaii. Bill clarified that they have had a facility in Hawaii for about 20 years; it is an aquaculture park that can produce seed during winter when it is hard to grow seed in nurseries locally. Taylor Shellfish Farms ramped up production in Hawaii when they experienced losses in WA.

Reed Schuler is a Senior Policy Advisor for Climate and Sustainability to Governor Jay Inslee. His presentation focused on the **Governor's Office perspective on opportunities to address climate change through the legislature**. He explained that ten years ago, Washington adopted the following climate targets: (1) return emissions to their 1990 levels by 2020, (2) reduce emissions by 25% below 1990 levels by 2035, and (3) reduce emissions by 50% compared to 1990 levels by 2050. Reed explained that despite the efforts of entities in state government and the governor, the legislature has not yet made major policy progress towards implementing those commitments.

In 2016, the Department of Ecology released an update based on the most current science, recommending a strengthening of those targets: (1) reduce emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2035 and (2) reduce emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. Reed noted that a tremendous amount of work is needed to transform Washington's economy to achieve the commitments already made by WA legislature, as well as these stronger targets.

Six major proposals are currently proceeding through the legislature that would put Washington on a path towards achieving these goals:

- (1) **SB 5116 100% Clean Electricity** bill transforms the electricity produced from natural gas and coal to a carbon-free power sector.
- (2) **HB1110 Clean Fuel Standard** bill requires a gradual reduction of the carbon intensity (carbon pollution per unit of transportation fuel) using a range of alternative fuels or by purchase credits from others.
- (3) **SB 5811 Zero Emission Vehicle Standard** and **SB 5336 Clean Transportation** bills increase the number of electric vehicles on state roads.
- (4) **HB 1112 Super Pollutants** bill requires a gradual phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which can be thousands of times as potent greenhouse gasses (pound-for-pound). HFCs are often used for refrigeration and air-conditioning.
- (5) **HB 1257 Clean Buildings** bill reduces energy usage per square foot over time, establishing a commercial building standard, and ensuring better energy performance.

Reed summarized that if this collection of bills passes, it will be the most significant step the state has taken on climate change. He encouraged the Task Force to consider opportunities to further these policies and make real progress against climate change.

Joe Gaydos (SeaDoc Society) asked Reed to provide specific actions he would like the Task Force to take related to these policies.

- Reed explained that as legislators consider this range of proposals, they want to hear from constituents. Reed suggests this group consider a range of options, from making general statements about how climate change is a long-term driver of the key factors that affect the survival of SRKW, to issuing stronger support for specific policies.
- **JT Austin (Office of Governor Inslee) recommended that individuals, communities, and groups continue to advocate for the policies they are most interested in.** Legislators are most moved when they hear from their constituents.

Maia Bellon (Ecology) asked Reed to provide the list of bill numbers to Gretchen Muller to share with the Task Force to get engaged and monitor the bills as they progress forward.

- **Mindy Roberts (WEC) noted that the Washington Environmental Council is tracking all five of the bills Reed discussed and Task Force members interested in supporting these bills can connect with her.**

Jacques White (LLK) asked Reed to help the Task Force frame the argument for why Washington should take action as a state on a global issue like climate change.

- Reed responded that all these policies have major co-benefits for the state. For example, reducing the carbon intensity of fuel helps clean up Washington's dirtiest transportation corridor, which contributes to asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. He further noted that these policies would also contribute to economic vitality by investing in emerging industries. The Governor's Office has studied similar policies in California, which helped create thousands of additional jobs in the clean energy sector. He added

that Washington has higher greenhouse gas emissions per capita than 178 of the world's 195 or so countries and greater absolute emissions than 140 of all countries that have committed to the Paris agreement. Reed argued that Washington acting as a "free rider" on climate change is at odds with the Washington ethic and with the way we expect the rest of the world to contribute to solving this problem.

Co-chair Stephanie Solien summarized that the Task Force has a responsibility over the next months to advocate for the legislative bills described by both JT and Reed.

CLIMATE CHANGE FISHBOWL DISCUSSION

Susan Gulick (facilitator) reminded the Task Force how the fishbowl process works (refer to [meeting packet](#) pages 32-33), then opened the floor to discuss the following questions:

- (1) What aspects of climate change pose the greatest threats to Southern Residents?
- (2) Do you think the Task Force needs additional recommendations regarding climate change? Greater emphasis on existing recommendations? Changes to any existing recommendations?
- (3) If you think there should be additions or changes to Task Force recommendations, what topics should be sent to Working Groups to develop into potential recommendations?

Ron Schulz (Washington State Conservation Commission) suggested more Task Force leadership or Working Group recommendations on habitat restoration project design/prioritization, in light of climate change impacts.

Jeff Dickison (Squaxin Island Tribe) emphasized the importance of culvert replacement design based on climate and stream modeling.

Mindy Roberts (WEC) believes we should look at climate impacts more broadly, especially effects on food webs and ecosystems, to develop specific climate change recommendations. Existing work groups may not be fully equipped to analyze these impacts, so supplementary support or cross-group collaboration is needed. She reiterated that the Task Force should be discussing ways to make fundamental systematic changes. She recommends the Task Force incorporate forward-looking climate projections into decision-making.

Joe Gaydos (SeaDoc Society) wants the Task Force to send a letter to legislators in support of the bills that benefit SRKW. He believes the Task Force has greater strength in supporting these bills as a group, in addition to supporting the bills as individuals.

- **Mindy Roberts volunteered to draft a letter of support for these climate change bills and circulate it among Task Force members.**

Jacques White (LLK) supports efforts to increase the diversity and resiliency of both wild and hatchery Chinook stocks. He believes the Prey Working Group should be fortified with additional salmon expertise. The Prey Working Group should evaluate the makeup of our current salmon

population and populations that were extirpated, to develop new ideas (e.g. reintroducing a spring Chinook run in the Skokomish River Basin).

Darryl Williams (on behalf of Terry Williams, Tulalip Tribes) suggested increasing hatchery production and adding silica to restore the nitrogen balance in Puget Sound.

Conor Giorgi (on behalf of B.J. Kieffer, Spokane Tribe) recommended prioritizing Recommendation 7 (Prepare an implementation strategy to reestablish salmon runs above existing dams, increasing prey availability for Southern Resident orcas).

Amy Windrope (WDFW) emphasized designing and retrofitting infrastructure (culverts, dikes, rail lines, hatcheries, fish passage) to ensure climate resiliency for the future.

- Mindy Roberts added onto Amy's point, specifically within the context of sea level rise. She further recommended looking at these changes more comprehensively and considering economic impacts.

Kristin Swenddal (DNR) wants to see improved messaging on the interrelationship between climate change and orca survival in 2019.

Donna Sandstrom (Whale Trail) suggested prioritizing Year 1 recommendations (after the legislative session) through a climate change lens.

Paul McCollum (Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe) emphasized looking at restoration funding through a climate change lens.

Susan Gulick asked Dr. Amy Snover's thoughts on what the Task Force could do to address the effects on climate change on orca recovery.

- Dr. Snover noted that for almost every impact she described in her presentation, there are local entities working on minimizing them or helping salmon cope with them in the interim adaptation period. She emphasized embedding climate change thinking into everyday work and suggested the Task Force call on agencies to show more leadership from the top-down on climate. Dr. Snover noted that we often embed assumptions from the past into our decision-making, but we should instead rely on current climate science and modeling to inform these decisions.

Susan then invited Todd Hass (PSP, Vessels Working Group Lead) to provide background information on vessel propellers: as they become more energy-efficient and climate-neutral, they create more noise emissions.

- Todd explained that the Port of Seattle is taking a lead role on Recommendation 22 (Implement shipping noise-reduction initiatives and monitoring programs, coordinating with Canadian and U.S. authorities); there is an opportunity to collaborate on shared interests through the [Maritime Blue](#) Innovation Center. Specifically, we can use the Port's planned meeting in June to work with Maritime Blue, Canada, and others to discuss how

the region can stimulate innovation of more efficient propellers that do not create the commensurate increases in noise. **Todd proposed the Task Force support this approach.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Issues and suggestions raised during the public comment period are summarized below. The public is also encouraged to submit comments in [writing](#). Everyone who signed up for public comment at this meeting had an opportunity to speak.

Jim Waddell (Clallam County Public Utility District #3 Commissioner) urged the Task Force to deliver Chinook salmon quickly to Southern Residents by breaching the dams.

Chief Jessie Nightwalker (Palouse Tribe) said the Snake River dams must come down.

Dr. Deborah Giles is ready to dig back into the Task Force work in 2019.

Ariel Eisa reminded the Task Force the orcas are 75 individuals with unique personalities.

Susan Marie Anderson (Salish Sea Ecosystem Advocates) referenced the five recommended actions within the [letter](#) to the Task Force from 12 orca organizations.

Olivia Hart (Palouse Tribe) said the Snake River dams must come down.

Robb Krehbiel (NW Representative for Defenders of Wildlife, Prey Working Group) underscored the importance of the stakeholder forum to identify non-carbon sources of energy to replace the dams.

Jerry Joyce (Chair of Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Committee) said the Task Force needs to establish a coordinated multidisciplinary effectiveness monitoring program.

Giulia Good Stefani (NRDC) reminded everyone that orca and salmon exist in coastal areas outside of Puget Sound and emphasized the impacts dams have on water temperature.

Cindy Hansen (Orca Network) emphasized reaching across the border to tackle orca recovery as a transboundary issue and restore the Fraser River.

Whitney Neugebauer (Whale Scout) referenced the five recommended actions within the [letter](#) to the Task Force from 12 orca organizations.

WRAP-UP AND NEXT STEPS

Wrap-Up

Susan Gulick (facilitator) confirmed the Steering Committee will use today's fishbowl discussion to develop ideas for engaging the working groups in Year 2. Working groups will then propose

recommendations for Task Force consideration. Susan thanked Mindy Roberts (WEC) for taking the lead on collecting signatures for the letter of Task Force support on proposed legislation.

Next Steps

Gretchen Muller (consulting team project manager) walked through next steps:

- (1) **Gretchen will send out meeting appointments for the three upcoming Task Force meetings. Task Force members should send any topics or ideas for upcoming agendas to Gretchen and Susan as soon as possible.**
- (2) Gretchen requested volunteers for a subcommittee which will discuss life after the Task Force via Skype before the next Task Force meeting. Volunteers included: Mindy Roberts (WEC), Paul McCollum (Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe), Jeff Friedman (Pacific Whale Watch Association), Donna Sandstrom (The Whale Trail), Chad Bowechop (Makah Tribe), Lynne Barre (NOAA), Brad Smith (WAFWC), Maia Bellon (Ecology), and Will Hall (Shoreline). **Task Force members interested in joining this sub-committee should notify Gretchen.**

Final Remarks

Paul McCollum (Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe) asked whether a new climate change working group will be formed or if the subject will be integrated across all working groups. Jacques White (LLK) requested the Task Force be allowed to provide input on whether to adjust the working groups to address climate change.

- **Susan explained the Steering Committee will consider available options and develop a proposal for Task Force consideration.** She confirmed the Task Force will have an opportunity to provide input before the next Task Force meeting.

Chad Bowechop (Makah Tribe) asked the Steering Committee to hold one of the next Task Force meetings on the coast (e.g. Aberdeen or Forks). He emphasized the Makah Tribe's interest in pursuing a government-to-government consultation model between Washington state and the tribes, as previously agreed upon with the Governor's Office.

Jeff Friedman (Pacific Whale Watch Association) circulated a [letter](#) from 12 organizations addressed to the Task Force and Canadian technical working groups. The letter includes five recommended actions. He would like to discuss these recommendations in more detail at future Task Force meetings. **Gretchen will circulate this letter to the Task Force electronically.**

Co-chair Les Purce thanked everyone for their thoughtful input and enthusiasm. Co-chair Stephanie Solien thanked everyone for kicking off another productive year. She summarized the key issues the Task Force will be responsive to in 2019 include:

- (1) Integrating tribal culture and spirituality into our work and values.
- (2) Coordinating communications efforts with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission.
- (3) Using this legislative session to represent the Southern Resident voices.
- (4) Addressing action on climate change.