



SOUTHERN RESIDENT KILLER WHALE TASK FORCE MEETING

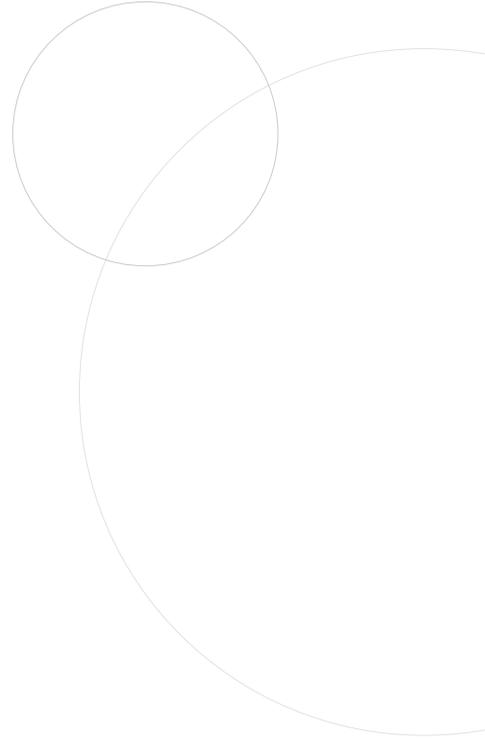


September 9, 2019



AGENDA

- 9:30 Welcome, introductions, agenda review
- 10:00 Updates
- 10:30 Climate change
- 11:30 Life after the Task Force
- 11:45 Lunch break
- 12:30 Report from Working Groups
- 1:00 Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission Recommendations
- 2:00 Break
- 2:15 Task Force report to Governor
- 4:00 Wrap-up and next steps
- 4:10 Public comment
- 5:00 Adjourn





ORCA HEALTH UPDATE



Southern Resident Killer Whale Health Update

September 2019



Date: August 6, 2019

Media Release: For immediate release

Subject: The Southern Resident Killer Whale population has dropped to 73 as of July 1, 2019

We are saddened to report that three adult killer whales (orca) are missing and presumed dead as of July 1, 2019. These whales are from the extremely endangered Southern Resident killer whale population, that historically frequent the Salish Sea almost daily in summer months. Due to the scarcity of suitable Chinook salmon prey, this population of whales now rarely visit the core waters of its designated Critical Habitat: Puget Sound, Georgia Strait, and the inland reach of the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

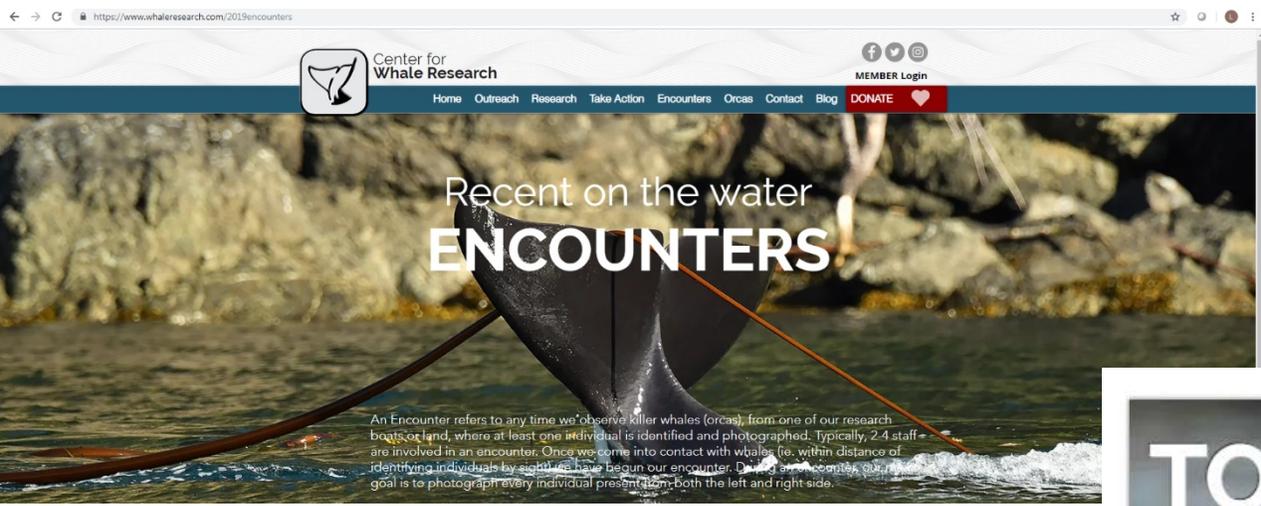
[Read more](#)



- Loss of J17, K25, L84
- New calves L124, J56 (female)
- Current population 73



NOAA FISHERIES



- DFO research Port Renfrew and Sooke, June-August, multiple encounters, all three pods

TOGETHER
we **CAN** help

Become a CWR Member »

The Southern Resident orcas need your help like never before. For these magnificent whales to survive, and for their community to grow, they need us to be their voice. **BECOME A CWR MEMBER;** together we will be a strong

2019 ENCOUNTERS

Enc # • Date • Pods

- « #58 • 30-Aug • J Pod - Offshore from False Bay
- « #57 • 26-Aug • Transients - Juan de Fuca Strait
- « #56 • 25-Aug • J Pod - Haro Strait
- « #55 • 23-Aug • Transients - Victoria Waterfront
- « #54 • 21-Aug • J, L Pod - Haro Strait
- « #53 • 16-Aug • J Pod - Haro Strait
- « #52 • 15-Aug • J Pod - Haro Strait
- « #51 • 11-Aug • J,K,L Pod - Clo-oose
- « #50 • 28-July • Transients - Haro Strait
- « #49 • 20-July • Transients - East Sooke
- « #48 • 16-July • Transients - Clark Island
- « #47 • 16-July • Transients - Waldron Island/Boundary Pass
- « #46 • 11-July • Transients - Haro Strait

September 2019

- Ongoing health research, observations, sampling (prey, feces, breath), photogrammetry.
 - Center for Whale Research
 - University of WA
 - NOAA NWFSC/SWFSC
- Research coordination to minimize impacts.



Species in the Spotlight Award

- Biennial Report to Congress on status of all ESA-listed species
- Recognize Species in the Spotlight Partners



**NOAA
FISHERIES**



Species in the Spotlight Partner

Southern Resident Killer Whale Distinct Population Segment

Presented to:
Governor Jay Inslee and the Washington State Orca Task Force

For exceptional efforts related to the conservation and recovery of
NOAA Fisheries Species in the Spotlight



Barry Thom, Regional Administrator, NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region



**SPECIES
in the
SPOTLIGHT**

July 2019





POPULATION GROWTH SUBGROUP UPDATE

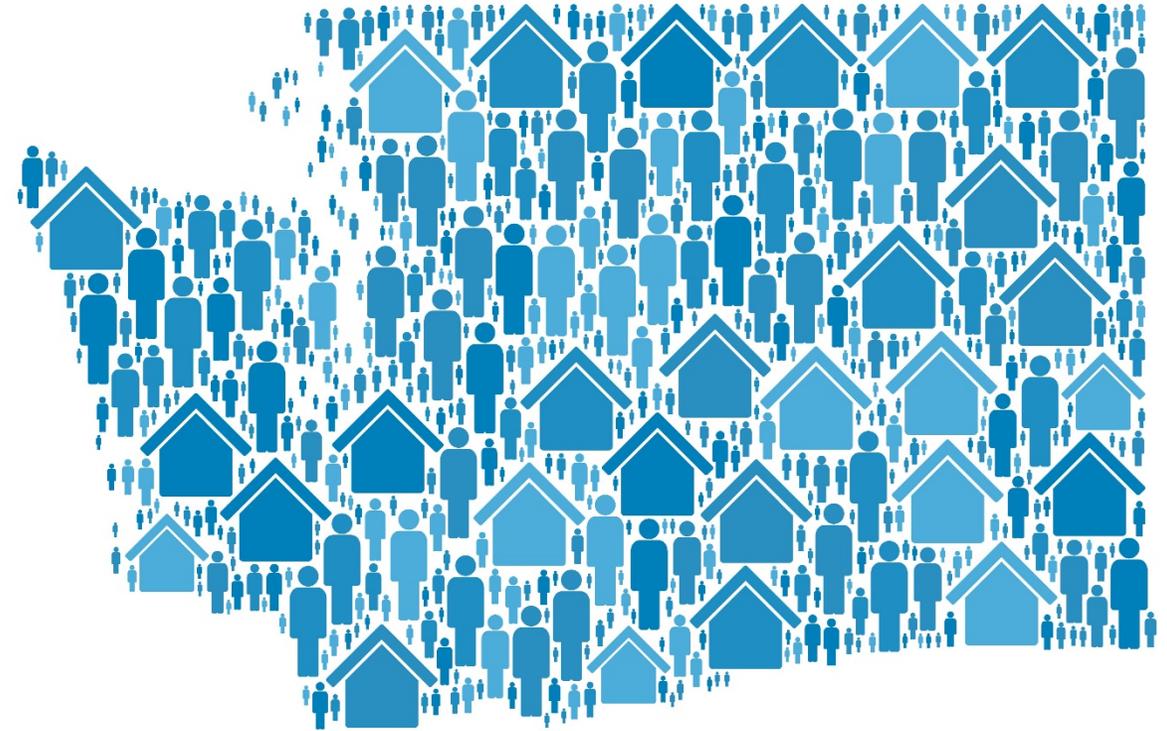




POPULATION GROWTH SUBGROUP MEETING

Wednesday - September 11, 9:30AM-11:30AM

- **Goal:** Develop informed recommendations for Task Force consideration at the October 7th meeting.
- **Guest panelists from...**
 - The William D. Ruckelshaus Center
 - Washington State Department of Commerce
 - Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
 - Puget Sound Regional Council
- **Want to join or have questions?**
 - Email angela@cascadiaconsulting.com





NUTRIENTS UPDATE





LOWER SNAKE RIVER DAM STAKEHOLDER PROCESS UPDATE





CLIMATE CHANGE & OCEAN ACIDIFICATION





CLIMATE CHANGE - PURPOSE

Address the impact of a changing climate and ocean acidification on the survival of Southern Residents and their prey.

- Communicate the linkages between Southern Resident wellbeing and climate change, including the urgent need for action.
- Provide a concise summary of the best available science.
- Provide recommendations that build on/amplify the work of others.
- Adopt a long-term view.



CLIMATE CHANGE – KEY FINDINGS

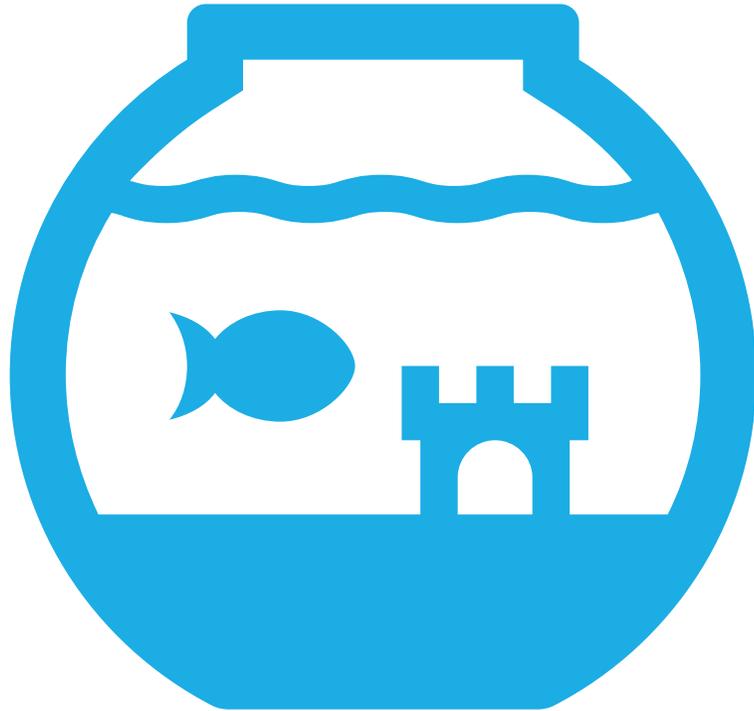
- **The changing climate and ocean acidification threaten the survival of Southern Residents and their prey, compounding existing stressors and undermining recovery efforts.**
 - Human-caused greenhouse gasses are warming the planet.
 - Even at 1.5°C, major ecosystems changes will occur.
- **25% of CO₂ emissions are absorbed by the ocean, causing ocean acidification (OA).**
 - OA is caused by both global emissions and local sources.
 - OA adversely affects the food web.
 - Sea level rise will further threaten habitat and the food web.
- **We are already seeing:**
 - Less snowpack, lower summer streamflows, heavier winter rainstorms, increased flooding, and warmer ocean and inland waters. These effects undermine the food web, increase predators and diseases, cause toxic algae blooms, increase runoff, and reduce abundance of forage fish and salmon.



CLIMATE CHANGE – RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. Take aggressive, comprehensive, and sustained action to reduce human-caused greenhouse gas emissions, with the goal of achieving net zero emissions by 2050.
- B. Increase Washington’s ability to understand, reduce, remediate, and adapt to the consequences of ocean acidification.
- C. Mitigate the impact of a changing climate by accelerating and increasing action to increase the resiliency and vitality of salmon populations and the ecosystems on which they depend.
- D. Provide leadership to reduce emissions and noise from vessels.
- E. Identify and mitigate increased threats to Southern Residents from contaminants due to climate change and ocean acidification. Prioritize actions that proactively reduce exposure where the increased impacts are expected to be most severe.





FISHBOWL CLIMATE CHANGE

- Do you support the draft recommendations?
- What revisions would you suggest and should be discussed at today's meeting?
- Do you have other high-level suggestions about the draft report?

Please provide detailed edits and wording revisions via email.

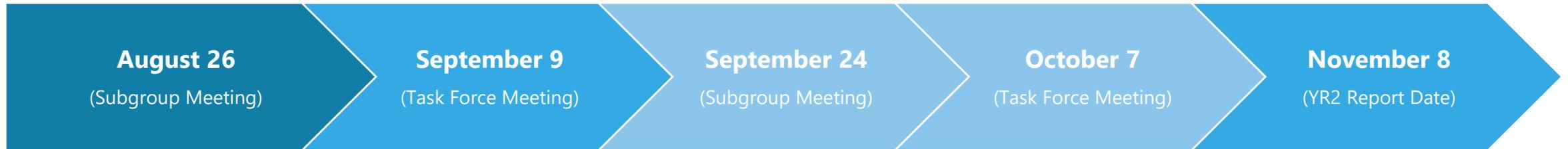


LIFE AFTER THE TASK FORCE





LIFE AFTER THE TASK FORCE – SUBGROUP UPDATE



- Subgroup reviewed survey results.
- Subgroup developed potential hybrid options for consideration.

- Task Force reviews potential hybrid options.
- Task Force provides direction on path forward.

- Subgroup uses Task Force input to fill information gaps.
- Subgroup crafts recommendation language.

- Task Force discusses subgroup recommendation language for potential adoption.

- Life after the Task Force recommendation is included in YR2 final report.



LIFE AFTER THE TASK FORCE – HYBRID OPTIONS

	Orca Recovery Council	Gov. Salmon and Orca Recovery Office	Gov. Salmon and Orca Leadership Team	Identified Gaps:
Reporting structure	Report to the Governor or RCO, analogous to the Salmon Recovery Council.	Expand GSRO statutory authority to include orca recovery (GSORO).	Executive level leadership.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost comparison • Funding + resources • Risks • Timeline • Input from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tribes ○ WDFW ○ NOAA ○ Canada ○ AK, ID, OR, CA
Leadership	Led by a scientist. Council prioritizes and evolves Task Force recommendations.	Executive board or council oversees coordination of Task Force recommendations.	Representative composition (same sectors as current Task Force).	
Working groups	Keep working groups intact as “think tanks” for Orca Recovery Council.	Keep working groups intact as “standing committees” under GSRO Orca Recovery Committee.	Existing Working Groups + new Working Groups for climate, population growth, and other gaps continue to provide technical information to Leadership Team.	
Puget Sound Partnership Recovery System				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science and monitoring • Tracking/updating recommendations • Vessels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications • Coordination with Canada, Columbia, and the Coast 		

LIFE AFTER THE TASK FORCE

POST-IT NOTE EXERCISE

For each hybrid option:

- What questions do you have?
- What additional information would you need to support it?

Other:

- General gaps, concerns, recommendations, and input.

Orca
Recovery
Council

Gov. Salmon
& Orca
Recovery
Office

Gov. Salmon
& Orca
Leadership
Team

OTHER



LUNCH BREAK – 45 MINUTES





REPORT FROM WORKING GROUPS





PREY – HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS TO DATE

- State, Tribes, and PUDs received funding to increase hatchery production starting in July 2019 [**Rec. 6**].
- New legislation passed in 2019 that addressed habitat protection of shorelines and waterways, specifically increasing WDFW's civil enforcement authority around Hydraulic Project Approvals and removing key exemptions (2SHB1579) [**Rec. 3 & 4**].
- In May 2019, Ecology initiated a rulemaking process to update Washington's Total Dissolved Gas criteria for the lower Columbia and lower Snake Rivers allowing spill up to 125% TDG. If adopted, the timeframe would allow the Environmental Protection Agency the regulatory timeframe to approve revised TDG water quality criteria by the 2020 spring spill season [**Rec. 8**].
- New legislation passed in 2019 aims to decrease impacts of predatory fish on salmon, directing WDFW to develop rules to increase bag limits for certain species that overlap with and prey on salmon (2SHB1579) [**Rec. 14**].
- The Endangered Salmon Predation Prevention Act was signed into law, giving state and tribal resource managers more flexibility to manage sea lion predation in the Columbia River to minimize impacts to salmon. The law allows NMFS to approve permits for Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and several area tribes that will streamline the removal process of a designated number of sea lions from a portion of the Columbia River and adjacent tributaries each year [**Rec. 13**].



PREY – IMMEDIATE FUNDING ACTIONS

- Increase funding to fully implement salmon recovery plans, with a focus on implementing habitat restoration and protection projects that local experts have prioritized in each salmon recovery region and will benefit Chinook and SRKWs. Ensure funding includes administration and local capacity building to accelerate projects already underway or with committed resources. Ensure greater collaboration between hatchery and habitat restoration efforts so that habitat is available for newly produced hatchery fish [**Rec. 1, 2, 6, 34**].
- Provide funding to (1) determine if pinniped predation is a limiting factor for Chinook in Puget Sound and along Washington's outer coast and evaluate potential management actions, and (2) more effectively manage pinniped predation in the Columbia River [**Rec. 12 & 13**].
- Increase consistent, dedicated funding for natural resource agencies and conservation as a whole now, while also exploring the development of a new revenue stream for the near future [**Rec. 34**].
- Increase funding for marine survival research and monitoring projects through the Puget Sound Action Agenda such as Puget Sound Atlantis Modeling, zooplankton monitoring, salmon and forage fish sampling, and pinniped predation work to ensure that results may be integrated into appropriate recovery and management plans as appropriate [**Rec. 12, 15, 16**].
- Increase funding for northern pike eradication and containment efforts to prevent predation impacts to salmon in the Columbia River [**Rec. 14**].



PREY – URGENT AGENCY/LEG. ACTIONS

- Encourage Ecology to proceed with language in new rules around increasing the standard for dissolved gas allowances that will ensure the durability of the new rule [**Rec. 8**].
- Revise Growth Management Act and Shoreline Management Act standards to a 'net ecological benefit' instead of the current 'no net loss' standard to better protect salmon and orcas [**Rec. 4**].





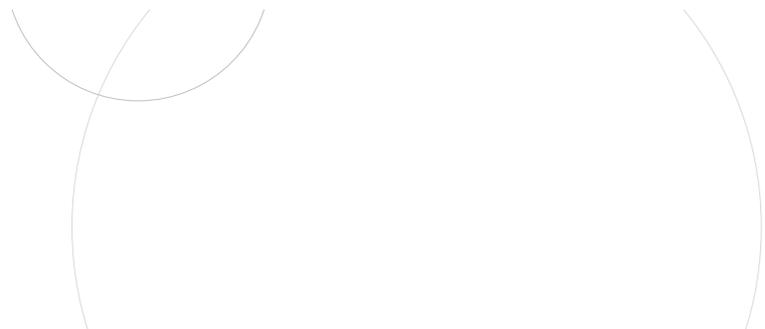
VESSELS – HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS TO DATE

- Passed new laws for recreational boats and commercial whale watching [**Rec 28**].
- Broad, coordinated outreach on new laws to boaters via Be Whale Wise [**Rec. 19**].
- Established safe, voluntary guidelines to limit echo sounder use near orcas [**Rec 21**].
- Immediate implementation of most new laws.



VESSELS – IMMEDIATE FUNDING ACTIONS

- Increase funding to DFW enforcement for additional officers and equipment [**Rec. 20**].
- Add capacity for Governor's Maritime Blue to pursue shipping innovations that also benefit SRKWs [**Rec. 22**].
- Evaluate effectiveness of Task Force recommendations through monitoring and adaptive management [**All Recs**].





VESSELS – URGENT AGENCY/LEG. ACTIONS

- Create and charter a transboundary forum to integrate and coordinate US/WA and Canadian actions for waterways management and SRKW conservation AND Evaluate cumulative impacts of vessel traffic [**Rec. 24 & 27**].
- Help ensure SEPA review of marine facilities is routinely applied to atypical changes in use, ownership, etc. that may lead to increased vessel traffic [**Rec. 27**].
- Redirect boater education and enforcement to central Puget Sound in fall; seek vessel mitigation opportunities on outer coast [**Rec. 19**].



VESSELS – EMERGING ISSUES/POTENTIAL FUTURE RECS.

- Minimize potential collision risks posed by (and underwater noise from) growing fast-ferry sector in central Puget Sound [**no current rec**].
- Enhance and extend US shipping sector's compliance with the interim (feeding) sanctuary zone located near Swiftsure Bank in Canada/mouth of Strait of Juan de Fuca.





CONTAMINANTS – HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS TO DATE

- The recommendation to accelerate the implementation of the ban on PCBs is driving the market and setting a new standard for reporting on contaminants in products [**Rec. 29**].
- There are new state authorities to prioritize chemicals—including new authority to prioritize for “species” and to develop caps and ban chemicals in products [**Rec. 30**].
- Funding was provided for water quality enforcement staff and municipal stormwater permits now require smaller jurisdictions to implement local source control [**Rec. 32**].



CONTAMINANTS – IMMEDIATE FUNDING ACTIONS

- Toxics control funding provided through the state's Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) should be maintained for preventing and cleaning up toxics [**Rec. 31**].
- Additional funding should be provided for Ecology staff to support contaminants recommendations, including local source control inspectors [**Rec. 30, 31 and 32**]. Funding should also be provided for incentives to reduce stormwater threats [**Rec. 31**].
- Increase funding to specific accounts that support infrastructure improvements, including the Water-pollution control state revolving fund, Stormwater Financial Assistance Program, Public Works Trust Fund and increase the caps on utility fees to help fund improved wastewater treatment, stormwater, and other contaminants sources [**Rec. 31**].



CONTAMINANTS – URGENT AGENCY/LEG. ACTIONS

- Prioritize stormwater management and cleanup based on evidence of toxic impacts on salmon [**Rec. 31**].
- Ecology should update aquatic life water quality standards focused on pollutants most harmful to Southern Resident orcas and their prey [**Rec. 32**].
- Monitoring should be woven into each recommendation to provide data on effectiveness [**Rec. 33**].



CONTAMINANTS – EMERGING ISSUES/POTENTIAL FUTURE RECS.

- The Growth Management Act needs to be more responsive to the needs of the ecosystem, and adaptable to a changing climate. 'No net loss' is an insufficient standard, and local governments should be responsible for 'net ecological gain' [**general**].
- Executive order for WA Department of Transportation to do more on stormwater [**Rec. 31**].
- Increase funding for Attorney General's Office to pursue the PCB case against Monsanto [**Rec. 31**].
- Ecology require local governments to conduct facilities planning through 2070 that looks at population growth through a wastewater (centralized and onsite sewage), CSO, and stormwater lens, and ensure increased contaminants loads don't impact salmon and orcas [**general**].
- Add temperature increases to the climate problem statement as heat is a pollutant and harmful to salmon [**Rec. 32**].
- Protect against regulatory rollbacks at the federal and state level [**Rec. 32**].



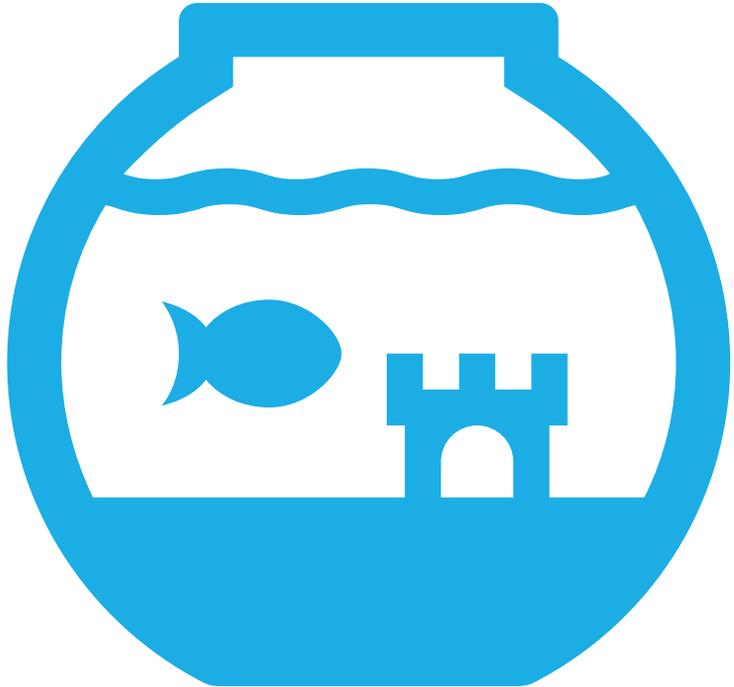
NORTHWEST INDIAN FISHERIES COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS





BREAK – 15 MINUTES





FISHBOWL – YEAR 2 REPORT

*Refer to the discussion guide on **page 50** of your meeting packet.*





WRAP UP & NEXT STEPS





WRAP UP & NEXT STEPS

- **Population Growth Subgroup Meeting:**
 - September 11
- **Life After the Task Force Subgroup Meeting:**
 - September 24
- **Task Force Meeting:**
 - October 7
- **Year 2 Report:**
 - WG to review elements of report (8/23)
 - Draft complete (9/30)
 - Public comment (10/11 – 10/25)
 - Final report (11/8)



PUBLIC COMMENT

*Please limit comments
to **two minutes** each.*





ADJOURN

