

APPROVED DRMT Meeting Notes, May 10, 2017

Prepared by Chad Theismann, Clallam County

DRMT Members Present: Robert Brown/Dungeness Beach Association, Robert Phreaner/Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, Peter Walker/Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (alt), Robert Beebe/Riverside Property Owners, Matt Heins/Riverside Property Owners-Estuary Tidelands, Shawn Hines/Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (alt), Ann Soule/City of Sequim, Judy Larson/Protect the Peninsula's Future, Cathy Lear/Clallam County, Scott Chitwood/Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Ben Smith/Water Users Association, Mary Ellen Winborn/Clallam County DCD (alt)

Others Present: Phil Martin, Michael L. Blanton (WDFW), Forest Koehler, Carrol Hull (League of Women Voters), Marguerite Grover (Sequim Realtors), Chad Theismann (Clallam County)

I. Introductions/Review Agenda/Review and Approve DRMT Draft Meeting Notes

Scott Chitwood called meeting to order. Introductions were made, sign in sheets circulated. Ben moved to approve April notes as provided, Judy seconded. None opposed, motion carried.

Public Comment:

- Powell announced this meeting is being videoed to document room usage.
- Special birthday announcement for Powell.
- A citizen commented they would like a follow up presentation from Mike Gallagher regarding water availability.
- Question was asked regarding fishing enforcement on Dungeness River noting concerns over snagging salmon. Scott mentioned the DRMT could ask the WDFW Enforcement unit for a report on their Enforcement efforts on the Dungeness River.

II. 2017 Salmon Season Setting (North of Falcon) Update, Scott Chitwood, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

- Purpose of presentation is to provide a quick overview and description of how the fishing seasons are set North of Falcon.
- North of Falcon is a geographic region for setting management objectives. It includes all of the water north of Cape Falcon, which is just north of the Town of Manzanita, Oregon.
- Annual management cycle provides the framework for setting the fishing seasons. It begins with two things; the fishing management package from the previous year and then the abundance estimates for the next year. This provides a starting point for co-managers to begin their negotiations.
- FRAM- Fishery Regulation Assessment Model is used for each species to assist with determining abundance.
- Co-managers include State of Washington, Tribes, and Federal Government if there are listed species.
- Season setting is a give-and-take between co-managers using the results of the FRAM.
- Ben asked are poachers accounted for in season setting and if so, how? Scott can't speak for the State, but from the JKST perspective, they have a relatively small amount of fisherman so it's pretty easy for the Tribe easy track and manage fishing activities. When it does happen, it's generally a matter of providing information on seasons, species, etc. Scott also noted it may be a good topic for a future presentation- do fisheries manager's account for unlawful harvest and how do they adjust for those takings.
- Robert asked how Canadian stocks accounted for when co-managers are setting domestic fishing seasons? Scott responded North of Falcon process only considers the area North of Cape Falcon to the Canadian boundary. The season setting north of the Canadian boundary is a completely different process and is still going on for 2017 season but it is incorporated into the North of Falcon harvest plan.
- Ann asked if there are representatives from wildlife groups or organizations on management councils? For example, resident orcas dependence on chinook. Scott answered only in the sense that ESA management guidelines protect populations as well as the food chain and it is part of the management plan.

III. Ocean Conditions in the NE Pacific, Scott Chitwood, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

- Purpose of is to provide an overview of the ocean conditions plays a large part in ocean survival in local salmon populations.
- This presentation is a summary of the presentation Laure Weitkamp gave to the Pacific Salmon Coalition in February 2017.
- This area was warm in 2016 but things are appear to be starting to cool off.
- Anomalies are a change from normal.
- Peak El Nino November 2015, weak La Nina 2016= poor ocean conditions from a salmon standpoint.

- When water is warmer near equator, it affects global weather through a complex interaction of wind patterns and the jet stream.
- Lots of extreme events in 2015/2016:
 - Snowpack low in 2015, back to normal in 2017.
 - River temperatures lower in 2016 than in 2015.
 - In 2015, Salmon (in general) had small body size, low abundance, and low fecundity.
 - Unusual fins sightings- for example, swordfish in Oregon.
- Forecasts- short term- more precipitation in rainfall, short in seasonal patterns
- Forecasting salmon returns in 2017- National Marine Fisheries Service developed a model for estimating chinook returns in the Columbia River. This model projected poor returns.
- Forecasted sea surface temperatures along the equator-
- Climate change projections- snowfall is projected to melt earlier and more precipitation in the form of rain.
- Chinook returns conclusions presented to Salmon Coalition- poor returns in 2015/16 are expected to return in 2017/18.
- El Nino and La Nina Oscillations are important because of the ways the currents respond which directly impact ocean salmon survival.
- A relationship exists between copepod populations and ocean salmon survival. Copepod survival depends on a complex relationship of ocean temperatures, currents, and ocean physical conditions such as salinity.

IV. Benthic Index of Biological Integrity (B-IBI), Dr. James Karr, Professor Emeritus and Ed Chadd, Streamkeepers of Clallam County

- Overview of presentation- first, review what is B-IBI, review 5 factor multi-variate index, spend some time going through examples of where it has been used.
- B-IBI is used to evaluate river conditions without just chemical indicators.
- Can be used to identify restoration locations or determine the impact of restoration.
- The development of B-IBI was precipitated by the realization that chemical measures of water quality are inadequate or don't provide a complete picture of the health of streams and rivers.
- First developed for fish, now it includes benthic macroinvertebrates. Dr. Karr prefers using benthic macroinvertebrates because they are always present, whereas fish have larger and more variable ranges. Furthermore, in general, good bug life is representative of good fish life.
- B-IBI has been used in a wide variety of watersheds and can be easily adapted to different indicators. It has been used in many different environments- from terrestrial to aquatic; it has even been used in cave environments.
- Five factor multi-variate analysis looks at chemical, energy source, habitat, structure, flow region, and biotic factors.
- Puget Sound Partnership has adopted B-IBI as an indicator of freshwater quality.
- B-IBI developed using an adaptive management model that includes planning, doing, check, and adjust accordingly.
- Ohio EPA did a study that analyzed how money is allocated in watershed management. They found that 68% goes to point source permits and compliance, 11% non-point source monitoring and assessment, 5% administrative
- B-IBI uses an adaptive management process that entails planning, doing, checking, and assessing. Repetitive, iterative cycle until you get things right.
- Ed Chadd, Clallam County Road Department- Streamkeepers, provided a brief overview of B-IBI results in the Dungeness River Watershed.
- Displayed map with colored dots. Green dots equals healthy, red impaired. Methods for calibrating these dots and ranking the sites are outside the scope of this presentation. This presentation objective is to display a summary of relative rankings of stream health in the Dungeness Watershed using B-IBI. Color of the dots is based on Ed's professional judgement.
- When viewing these rankings, it is important to keep one caveat in mind- it is very difficult to compare a stream the size of the Dungeness River with a stream like Meadowbrook Stream. To really explore stream health you really need to look at the complete set of data for each independent stream. Further, the B-IBI calibration was based on smaller streams in the Dungeness River watershed and not on streams the size of the Dungeness River.
- EPA has developed a guidance document titled stressor identification. It is designed to assist in identifying stressors in biologically impaired sites.
- Puget Sound Partnership has identified B-IBI as one of their target metrics.
- Clallam County considered using B-IBI as a metric to determine the effectiveness of the Critical Areas Ordinance but never adopted anything.

- B-IBI is a relatively inexpensive tool to give you a snapshot of the current stream health.

V. Riparian Restoration- Update on Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe Projects, Robert Knapp, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe

- Purpose of presentation is to provide an update on projects in the last year.
- Purchased property near Otter Way and Serenity Lane. This purchase permanently preserves approximately 30 acres. There were 4 homes and 5 septic systems on the property that has been removed.
- JKST is working with the County Road Department to put in a gate that would keep vehicles out but still allow for pedestrian access.
- JKST worked with the Washington Conservation Corps to plant Willow and Cottonwood trees to jump start the revegetation.
- Preserved, by purchasing, approximately 8 acres on Kinkade Island.
- The JKST has not received funding for purchase of Kinkade Island property- that money will be on next year’s budget- but 2 properties were on the market so they purchased ahead of the budget cycle. Removed home, other infrastructure, as well as some bank armoring.

VI. Other Business/Announcements/Follow-ups

- Response letter from Clallam County RE Golden Sands and Pet Waste Stations. Any additional comments from the DRMT?
 - Robert stated that he didn’t see the relationship of the County Parks Department and the Pet Waste Station at the Dungeness Landing Park as it relates to comments in the Commissioners response. He was wondering if the Parks Department was referring to any specific park or incident. Robert would like to see Carol Creasey continue to organize volunteers to assist with maintenance of the Pet Waste Stations. Matt suggested perhaps some National organization Corporate sponsorship program like Petco may have the manpower to assist with this.
 - Judy questioned whether the Parks Department and the Environmental Health Department could work together. Perhaps, another letter should be written. Scott would like to give the Commissioners some time to respond to their concerns. Mary Ellen responded but the tape broke out and I could not hear her response.
 - Matt expressed gratitude to the Commissioners and the Environmental Health Department for their response and hard work.
 - Robert questioned Commissioners and County follow-up to the Pet Waste Stations issue? Scott reiterated that the letter is only a couple of weeks old and they need to give them some time. Judy agreed with Robert and perhaps another letter stating some other ideas. Ed C. stated that Jacob Melly has been assigned many of Carol’s duties and planning discussions are taking place at the County. Matt H. mentioned that perhaps WSU Extension could get involved.
- Any other DRMT Field Trip Ideas- Golden Sands, Andy P. from Environmental Health Department noted that they will be holding an open house on PIC program results, so that would be another opportunity for a DRMT representative to be involved.
- Robert stated that he was concerned about Department of Ecology enforcing their rules relating to expiring water rights and the required water meters not working with no apparent action from the Department.
- Comment from Jim Karr expressing his appreciation for the DRMT and all their hard work.
- Ann would like to know from Ed or Jim any ideas about potential funding for additional B-IBI stream monitoring. Ed stated he believes many other justifications fund stream monitoring through their general fund. Matt mentioned that he believes King County does through a special taxing assessment and with some political will perhaps that would work in the Dungeness Watershed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Robert B. motioned to adjourn the meeting, Judy seconded, none opposed, meeting adjourned 5:16.