

## APPROVED DRMT Hybrid Meeting Notes October 12, 2022

Prepared by Todd Coward, Clallam County

**DRMT Members Present:** Matt Heins/Estuary-Tidelands, Tony Corrado/Protect the Peninsula's Future, Powell Jones\Dungeness River Nature Center, Tom Martin\PUD, Robert Beebe\Riverside Property Owner, Jenna Ziogas\Dungeness River Nature Center(alt), Judy Larson\Protect the Peninsula's Future(alt), Cathy Lear\Clallam County, Mike Auger\NOLT

**Others Present:** Jamie Tippet\Landowner, Neala Kendall\WDFW, Ben Smith\Water Users Association, , Phil Martin\Landowner, Aaron Brooks\Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Scott Gordon\Area Realtor, Danielle Zitomer\WDFW, Kara Cardinal, , Mike Dashiell\Sequim Gazette, Genie Mixson\Dungeness Meadows, Bruce Cornett\Landowner, Paul Moore\Landowner, Christopher Burns\JST, Alex Scagliotti\Graymarsh, Lance Vail/OPAS, Bob Phaener/OPAS,

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### I. Introductions

Matt opened the meeting at 2:00 pm with introductions. Introductions started around the table, moved to those in attendance in the audience and finished with those on Zoom.

Matt asked the group if there were any changes needed to the September meeting notes. No changes were needed, and a motion was made by Powell to approve the September 14 notes, which was seconded by Tony. The September 14 notes were approved.

### Public Comment

Jamie mentioned that the river level is low, and he has seen fish coming in. He stated that fishing is supposed to open this Sunday and is asking if this is still the plan or if WDFW is going to close the river to fishing. Jamie advised that the start be postponed.

Aaron stated that Jamestown S'Klallam and WDFW have a meeting scheduled for October 13 to discuss the opening of the river on Sunday. *Update: Aaron reported back on 10/13 that the co-managers decided to postpone the opening of the Dungeness for fishing until further notice due to the extremely low flows.*

Bruce Cornett and Paul Moore spoke from the audience regarding the reservoir project. They stated to the group that there was concern regarding height of the reservoir and the smaller footprint. Bruce also mentioned that he agreed with the project and that it will help mitigate possible future drought conditions. The concern is the safety of the reservoir during a seismic event. They asked that DRMT continue to support the reservoir but asked that the neighbors be better informed of future plans of the project.

Shawn mentioned that there is a public meeting scheduled in November with Carol and the County to discuss the project.

Further discussion included the accuracy of the 30% design and the difference in the 2016 plan.

Matt mentioned that this is a good forum for the DRMT to discuss the reservoir project and that a future presentation should be scheduled.

Shawn will consult with Executive Committee about scheduling Bruce and Paul to provide a presentation to DRMT explaining their concerns.

Ben mentioned that the group should contact Carol and get on the mailing list in order to be current on information regarding the reservoir.

Tom informed the group that there is a public meeting tonight (10/12) at the PUD building to discuss the Carlsborg water supply. The County and the PUD have been drafting a MOU for the Carlsborg water rights for the UGA and surrounding areas. The meeting is for the water customers to voice concerns to the commissioners.

He also stated that he will be retiring at the end of November and that next month's meeting will be his last. Tom will bring in a replacement to represent the PUD.

Tony asked when the meeting was scheduled to start and if it was a hybrid meeting. Tom answered that the start time was 5:00 pm and it was available on Zoom.

Judy asked if there was any feedback on the distribution of the Water Resources Technical Report. She stated that the report covered water supply and was wondering if the newspapers received a copy of the report. She also wondered if a link to the report was available on the County's website.

Judy also mentioned that she became aware of a culvert program grant and that she hopes that interested parties received a copy of the application.

Shawn mentioned that Don Hatler had recent health issues, but he will try and make to a future meeting. A Get-Well card was passed around to be delivered to Don.

Shawn also updated the group on the Ecology River Gage. Upgrades were made to the gage and that is now tracking well. Future changes to the gage may be needed due to the activity of the nearby levee project. *Update: Shawn wanted to add that the continuous temperature monitoring at the site is also now up and running. First time since 2014: [apps.ecology.wa.gov/continuousflowandwq/stationdetails?sta18a050](https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/continuousflowandwq/stationdetails?sta18a050)*

Cathy had an understanding that a doppler-type gage will be installed near the bridge in the future.

## **II. North of Falcon Process/Post Fisheries Season Review**

*Aaron Brooks, Fisheries Management Biologist, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe*

The North of Falcon Process is defined as co-manager process where salmon seasons are set. This is for tribal and non-tribal fishing. The process takes place in spring (Feb – Apr). The goal is for 50/50 sharing between tribes and state. Inter-tribal sharing is also managed at North of Falcon. The process manages for listed salmon species, which includes 13 Puget Sound Chinook stocks that are ESA listed.

The process starts in February with the forecast exchange in which the regional co-managers put out their forecast. The forecasts are put in the FRAM (Fishery Regulation Assessment Model) model in order to evaluate the proposed fisheries. The model will predict an exploitation rate for each stock. There is a low abundance threshold, in which additional cuts and more protection must be made to protect that stock. A series of meetings and negotiations are then held in order to manage the upcoming season.

Every fishery north of Cape Falcon, which is on the Columbia River, belongs to the North of Falcon region. This region encompasses all of Washington. The Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) oversees all the fisheries from California to Washington. North of Falcon is a part of the PFMC.

Once North of Falcon is complete the upcoming salmon seasons are set. However there is still a need for in-season management of the fisheries. Fisheries can be closed once the quota is reached. .

North of Falcon works with terminal and pre-terminal fisheries. Terminal fisheries take place in the rivers or areas near the mouths of rivers and the fish are considered to be from the river itself. Pre-terminal fisheries take place in open water like the Strait of Juan de Fuca and contain a mix of stocks with fish from all over.

The annual fishing package must be approved by NOAA due to the ESA listing. If the package isn't approved no fisheries can take place until it is signed off.

Other species managed by North of Falcon are coho and chum fisheries. They are managed to maintain wild and hatchery escapement goals.

Aaron then explained the 2022 salmon forecast for the Dungeness River. Chinook is 906 with a 925-escapement goal and low abundance threshold is 500 well above the LAT and under the escapement goal. Wild Coho forecasted at 746 and hatchery coho is 10,530 and fall chum is 421 and is not a pink year, so no forecast is available. The presentation then detailed the other 2022 forecasts throughout the area.

The table showing the final package set by the co-managers was explained. This showed the exploitation rate and the low abundance threshold. The table also showed the variables that are used to make the management decisions regarding the fisheries.

Powell asked Aaron what the "LB" and "UB" stood for within the table. Aaron explained that the "LB" stood for lower bound, and which indicates that a threshold wasn't set in that area and had to meet NOAA standards. Lower bound is the same as (lower abundance threshold) LAT.

The 2022 North of Falcon package was easier than it has been in recent years because of the higher forecasts. This meant there were more fish on the table and there was less arguing. Chinook seemed to come back this season at or above forecast though some areas needed to close early because they reached their threshold.

A table showing the Chinook Recreational Fisheries Updated Estimates was shared with the group. Marine Areas 5/6 represent the Dungeness area. It shows the planned fishery dates, the sample design and the FRAM. It also the controls for fisheries management. Area 6 closed early due to it reaching its legal-size encounters. Area 5 closed in July to retain fish for August. A question was asked regarding how the legal-size encounters are stated. Aaron explained that the Full Murthy, which is creeling the docks and using aerial surveys, is the most accurate measurement that WDFW has available.

The presentation went on to explain that the northern diversion rate of the sockeye was up because most of the sockeye went through the Strait. The forecast was for 48% and the actual diversion rate was 34%.

Aaron updated the group on the Dungeness salmon news. Highlights of this are that the Dungeness Hatchery has re-started the captive brood program for Chinook. This is planned to last for ten years. The new release goal is 600k Chinook annually (200k supplementation and 400k broodstock). A question was asked regarding

the last time that a brood program was done on the Dungeness. Aaron believed that it was in the mid 2000's. Another question was asked regarding the timing of the capture of the broodstock. Aaron stated that the captures started over four years ago. Coho are in the Dungeness now and fishing is tentatively set to open on October 16. There is a meeting on 10/13 to discuss the opening. The second adult return of the new release goal of 800k. This up from 500k four years ago. Criteria for opening the Dungeness for fishing involves whether the hatchery coho being able to make it back up to the hatchery and meeting the egg take goals. Concern is for the low water levels.

The Dungeness Summer Chum co-managers are drafting a new supplementation program to submit to NOAA for approval. If approved, collection of adult donors will start in August and September 2024.

Matt mentioned that it would be interesting for NOSC come and have a talk on how the 3 Crabs project could play into that. If the estuary project is working, then it should be expanded.

Ben had a question regarding how foreign fishing is factored in when determining the thresholds. Aaron stated that the Alaskan and Canadian are factored, but Russia and China are not accounted for.

### **III. 2022 State of the Salmon WDFW Adult Abundance Analysis**

*Neala Kendall, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

Neala started her presentation by following up on Ben's earlier question regarding open ocean fishing for salmon. She stated that she attended a conference that included Japan, Korea, Canada, Russia and the United States. This group manages fishing in the open ocean and fishing for salmon using long line and gill netting has been closed since the 1970's.

The goals of the State of Salmon report is to report on the status and trends of the ESA-listed salmon and steelhead in Washington State. It also categorizes the overall conservation risk for each ESA-listed ESU/DPS.

The data used for the report comes from WDFW's new SPi database, which is a shared database between the State and the Tribes. This database has better field definitions and can indicate the best datasets. The data filtering looks only at abundance data in Washington. Make sure that the whole population is surveyed. NOAA also requires that natural origin, naturally spawning data is accounted for.

Neala then explained the Dungeness River summer Chinook salmon, winter steelhead and summer chum abundance status using several graphs. The graphs show the abundance starting in 2000 up to present year data. The summer chum graph showed that there is not an abundance of summer chum in the Dungeness.

The presentation then explained how the raw data is categorized and trends determined using specialized models. The model determines whether the populations are above or below the recovery goals. This was done by dividing the recent geomean smoothed abundance by the recovery goal in order to achieve a geomean percentage.

Neala then shared several graphs showing the 5-year Geomean percentage of Recovery Goals for Chinook and Steelhead. They indicated that the Dungeness River recovery goals are less than 10 % for Chinook. The analysis also looks at the trends by population, which there is not a lot of change in the Chinook population.

The data is then displayed in a boxplot of the population-level trends. This is then compared using the Status and Trend in order to show the overall recovery goals. The last analysis is to check future status as a function of quantitative status and trend. This is done by applying the 5-year median growth rate with annual compounding to median status to show the percent change per year.

The last item regarding the report was the data availability for the analysis. Puget Sound Steelhead was below the 60% of usable data. This lack of usable data. This may be due to composite data or not surveying the entire population. A quantitative analysis is then placed into four categories. These are In Crisis, Not Keeping Up, Making Progress and Approaching Goal. Puget Sound Chinook and Puget Sound Steelhead were categorized in the In Crisis category. Though the data was not complete for the Steelhead.

Neala concluded by explaining the data depository (GitHub), which is written in R and the data and analysis can be shown.

#### **Q/A/Comments:**

Danielle asked about the different metrics and making comparisons within the differing watersheds. Neala explained that each population is determined similarly, so it takes the amount of habitat available to figure the recovery goals.

Danielle then asked how a population within Dungeness can be compared to a population in Puyallup. Neala stated that the current analysis can be used to compare populations over different geographic regions because the same criteria and analysis is used.

#### **IV. Irrigation Season Update**

*Ben Smith, Sequim-Dungeness Water Users Association*

Joe Holtrup assisted Ben with the presentation. The regional irrigators submit an annual report to the Department of Ecology each year, and this presentation is a summary of that data. Ben indicated that the median 2022 snowpack was 134% in April, 129% in May and 206% in June. This was well above last year's median totals for each month.

The snowpack helped during the irrigation season, but tailed off towards the end, which left the region in a low water situation with no irrigation outtakes.

Rainfall for 2022 was 19.44 inches, with 5.50 inches coming during the growing season (April 1 – September 30). Ben compared the totals from 2019 which was a drought year, which was 14.67 with 6.25 inches during the irrigation season.

Joe asked a question regarding the rainfall totals and if they were for the calendar year or for the irrigation year. Ben stated that it is for the calendar year, but the totals are preliminary since the year hasn't ended.

Ben then shared a graph of the irrigators acre feet of water used per year. It shows a downward trend which is due to underground piping and water conservation measures.

Joe then discussed the piping projects that were done in 2022. Unfortunately, the data was from last year. Joe did mention that Agnew is working on the Barr Road lateral. It became too wet this winter to continue and they had to wait through the irrigation season to start back up. They re-started work on the lateral last week.

Sequim Prairie Tri-Irrigation installed 1300 feet of pipe on the Eureka Independence which is behind Costco and MAT Clinic.

Joe shared a story regarding the piping near the MAT Clinic where Jamestown was excavating under a road with many utilities. A deal was struck with the Conservation District in which grant money paid for the materials and Jamestown handled the excavation for the new piping which eliminated 1300 feet of ditch and joined two separate systems into one. Phase one of two phases has been completed. Phase two of the project is awaiting the federal grant's contract to be executed. This same grant will also be used to pipe 9,000 feet of Sequim Prairie mainline at Priest Road and a permanent diversion structure will be built at the river for Dungeness and Sequim Prairie.

That concluded the presentation and Ben asked the group if there were any questions. Matt mentioned that piping helps save water and improves the water quality, which eliminates pollutants from entering the bay. Matt wanted to thank the irrigators for their efforts.

Joe mentioned that while reading the notes from last month's meeting on the Water Quality Assessment and Candidate 303(d) list, he noted that there are several unnamed ditches on the 303(d) list that no longer exist. These unnamed ditches are now piped from the river to the end of the line.

Joe added that he has submitted comments to the Department of Ecology regarding the mistake. They have yet to make the necessary edits.

## **V. Other Orders of Business, Announcements & Standing Agenda Items**

Matt moved the meeting onto Other Orders of Business. He asked Shawn for clarification regarding the first Standing Agenda Item: *Water Resources Planning Topics*. Shawn explained that this Standing Item is based off the WTRG planning document and time is to be used to discuss any actions or updates from the recommendations in that plan. She also asked if there were any suggestions as to how to make the format for this particular Standing Item more productive.

The list of the thirteen topics from the WTRG plan is on the back of the meeting agenda.

Tony stated the need to try and bring everyone up to date as to any activities that are projected or ongoing. Ben added that the organizations need to remember to update the working group on any progress on projects that would fit within the goals of the group. Alex mentioned that it may be a good idea to have action items associated with the Standing Agenda Items. Tony added that it would be a good idea to reinstate the WTRG meetings in order to report on activities.

Matt stated that it may be a good idea to read each of the 13 topics from the plan one by one and bring them to the DRMT to see where each item stands. Tony suggested picking one or two topics per meeting and not reviewing the entire list.

## **VI. Standing Items**

### Levee Setback Project Update

*Cathy Lear, Clallam County*

Cathy shared with the group that the two levees have been attached at the north end and the Creamery. There is now one continuous levee. She shared photos of the Engineered Log Jam that is being installed at the truncated meander. There are three that are being installed here and three being installed near the gate.

The flood return channel and bridge tie-in are complete. This is used as a way out for fish during flood conditions. The next thing to do is to raise the levee. This was being done at 1 ft/week due to soft conditions. It was found that the ground water was stabilizing so the rate could be increased to 1 ft every three days, which will speed up the levee building process. The removal of Towne Road will begin in several weeks.

Matt had a question regarding a sediment control program during the first few rains. Cathy mentioned that the banks have been hydroseeded and that water is currently moving through the channel. In addition, there will be a water monitoring program in place which will be headed by Joel Green.

Matt mentioned the first flush is a concern. He also stated that the Dungeness has been crystal clear during the construction process.

Mike asked Cathy when she thought the project would be completed. Cathy mentioned that it may be tentatively scheduled for November 1.

## **VII. Announcements**

Matt asked if the Reservoir could be placed on the Standing Items so the group can be updated on its status. Joe mentioned that there will be an open house for the reservoir during either November or December. Matt hoped that the County could update the group. Cathy offered to ask Carol if she could update the group regarding the reservoir. *Update: Carol Creasey agreed to do standing update at DRMT on reservoir progress.*

Shawn informed the group that the Phase 3 log jams were installed last week on RM 13 to 13.4 and included 10 huge helicopter installed jams.

Powell updated the group that the bridge was complete and open at the Nature Center and are finishing the lower ramp. The next phase is to tear out the road and asphalt.

Shawn mentioned that Joel Green with Streamkeepers is scheduled to present at November's meeting. She then asked the group if there were any other requests for agenda items.

Matt asked for an update from the Department of Health regarding the some of the stations that are changing.

Powell asked if the group was going to hear from the Forest Service regarding the upper Dungeness. Shawn said that she has tried to reach them, but that the representative is working on an emergency fire project and is unavailable at this time.

Tom mentioned that the City of Sequim is updating their system plan and he would be interested in hearing more details. Matt then mentioned that it would be a good idea to review some of the past projects that have been completed and see if they are functioning as planned. He said that he would compile a list of the projects for review by the group.

Judy asked for an update on the Hurt Creek Hatchery. She also had a question concerning the anniversary of the DRMT and had received information from the Nature Center regarding a presentation on 10/27. She wanted to know if the presentation was to be videotaped and preserved. Powell answered that the presentation would be on Zoom and would be preserved.

#### **Public Comment**

Robert asked about work being done at the hatchery at Taylor Cut-off. Joe mentioned that he spoke with Hilton with Jamestown Tribe, and they are working on a log jam and side channel in the area. *Update: Hilton confirmed that the instream project Robert asked about on the Tribe's property near Fish Hatchery is a floodplain connection project to boost instream and off-channel fish habitat on the parcel known as "Caldero". Hilton will give an update to DRMT later in winter.*

Danielle mentioned that there is work being conducted at the Dungeness hatchery. She then asked Robert to specify his question regarding the work. Robert had people asked him about the project and wondered if the river was being re-routed. Powell mentioned that the public thinks that the restoration of the side channel is actually re-routing the river. He mentioned that more public outreach may be needed.

Bruce Cornett mentioned that the neighbors near the reservoir are available to be on future agendas.

Shawn stated that November is the month to nominate the 2023 Chair and Executives. This can be done via email. Matt has submitted his recommendation for his alternate.

#### **Meeting Adjourned**