

**State Perspective on Regional Salmon Recovery**  
**Philip Miller, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office**  
**March 21, 2007**

**Purpose of Salmon Recovery Regions and Regional Organizations**

- Recover salmon at the scale at which populations are grouped by the responsible federal agencies
- Address all factors necessary for salmon recovery at a regional scale
- Encourage and support people working together to achieve salmon recovery from the bottom up

**Salmon Recovery Region and Regional Organization Formation**

- There are 8 salmon recovery regions, including the Washington Coastal Region
- WA Coastal Region includes 10 ESUs/DPSs for 6 salmon species; 2 ESA-listed (Lake Ozette sockeye, Coastal Puget Sound bull trout)
- Six regional salmon recovery organizations are currently recognized
- Recognition of a new regional organization by GSRO would require:
  - agreement by the lead entities in the area
  - requests for regional organization recognition from the affected lead entities
  - identifying regional salmon recovery functions that lead entities are willing to undertake
  - designating an entity that could serve as a contracting agent for the organization

**Potential Regional Salmon Recovery Functions**

- Continuing participation in Council of Regions
- Allocating salmon recovery funding within the region
- Developing regional plan or strategy
- Coordinating and tracking implementation of a regional plan or strategy
- Supporting implementation of recovery plan(s) within the region (e.g. Lake Ozette sockeye)
- Developing regional habitat project lists, schedules and priorities
- Influencing federal or state salmon recovery activities affecting the region
- Identifying funding options and obtaining funding for salmon recovery activities
- Participating in activities to guide monitoring of salmon and their habitat

**Current Regional Salmon Recovery Organization Models**

- General principles for regional salmon recovery organization operations include operating in an open, inclusive, and collaborative manner
- Four regional organizations also operate as a single lead entity for their area; 2 include more than one lead entity
- Two regional organizations are specifically recognized in statute; 3 operate under Interlocal Agreements; one is a private nonprofit corporation
- Membership in regional boards varies; and consistently includes local government and tribal officials
- All regional organizations now have Executive Directors; an Executive Director or regional staff is not a requisite for regional organizations

## **Selected State Law and Policy for Formation and Function of Regional Salmon Recovery Organizations**

### **State Law (Salmon Recovery Act, RCW 77.85)**

1. A regional salmon recovery organization is an entity formed for the purpose of recovering salmon and recognized in statute or by the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office. (RCW 77.85.010)
2. Lead entities within a salmon recovery region that agree to form a regional salmon recovery organization may be recognized by the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office. (RCW 77.85.090)
3. In awarding funds for projects the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) shall give preference to projects that are in a regional or watershed-based salmon recovery plan, give consideration to projects that are part of a region-wide list developed by lead entities, and shall also determine an equitable minimum amount of funds for each recovery region. (RCW 77.85.130)
4. Regional recovery plans and local watershed initiatives are the principal means for implementing the statewide salmon recovery strategy. (RCW 77.85.150)
5. Legislation has passed the Senate that amends RCW 77.85 and would strengthen regional salmon recovery organizations relation to state agency programs for recovery plan implementation and monitoring. (SSB 5224)

### **State Policy (Statewide Strategy to Recover Salmon; Salmon Recovery Funding Board Manual 18)**

1. To achieve recovery objectives, regional salmon recovery plans are needed that build upon watershed plans and data to address all of the factors necessary for salmon recovery within each region. (SSRS, Sept., 1999)
2. "We took our own initiative to develop salmon recovery plans that come from the bottom up, not the top down. As Governor, I am proud of this tradition and call it working together – the Washington Way." (Governor Gregoire, SSRS, January, 2006)
3. Funding decisions will include reliance on regional salmon recovery plans and lead entity strategies. (SRFB Manual 18)
4. Policy principles include: a regional funding approach is important and, there will be regional allocations. (SRFB Manual 18)
5. It is desired but not required that regions create a prioritized project list. At least, the region must provide an explanation for the region's recommendation for funding its component lead entity lists. (SRFB Manual 18)
6. Describe the process and criteria used to develop allocations across watershed within the region. (2007 Draft SRFB Manual 18)
7. The SRFB envisions regional technical review processes that address the fit of lead entity project lists to regional recovery plans. (2007 Draft Manual 18)

### **State Funding**

1. From 1999 through June 2007 the SRFB has provided \$12.5 million for regional salmon recovery organization operations for developing and implementing regional salmon recovery plans. Most of this funding has come from the federal Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund.
2. The regional salmon recovery organizations have requested \$5.3 million from the SRFB for operations from July 2007 through June 2009 to continue refining and implementing regional salmon recovery plans.

## Washington Regional Salmon Recovery Organization Models

Organization	Form/Structure	Legal Status	# of Lead Entities	# of Board Members	Board Composition	Executive Director
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board <a href="http://okanogancounty.org/water/Salmon%20Recovery.htm">http://okanogancounty.org/water/Salmon%20Recovery.htm</a>	Management Board	ILA* under RCW 39.34 to form Public Nonprofit Corporation	3	5	3 County Commissioners 2 Tribal Officials	Yes
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board <a href="http://www.snakeriverboard.org/">http://www.snakeriverboard.org/</a>	Management Board	ILA under RCW 39.34 to form Joint Board	1	18	5 County Officials 4 Citizen Representatives 5 Landowner Reps. 1 Irrigation District 3 Tribal Officials	Yes
Yakima River Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board <a href="http://www.ybfwrb.org/">http://www.ybfwrb.org/</a>	Board of Directors & Management Board	ILA under RCW 39.34 to form Public Nonprofit Corp.	1	9 Bd. of Dirs.  21 Mgt. Bd.	3 County Commissioners 1 Tribal Official 17 City Elected Officials	Yes
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board <a href="http://www.lcfrb.gen.wa.us/">http://www.lcfrb.gen.wa.us/</a>	Management Board	Established by RCW 77.85.200	1	15	5 County Officials 5 Citizen Representatives Legislator, Hydropower, Tribal, City, Environmental (1 ea.)	Yes
Hood Canal Coordinating Council <a href="http://www.hccc.wa.gov/">http://www.hccc.wa.gov/</a>	Council of Governments	Recognized by RCW 90.88.030(1)(a) Public Benefit Corp. Nonprofit Corp.	1	5	3 County Commissioners 2 Tribal Officials	Yes
Shared Strategy for Puget Sound <a href="http://www.sharedsalmonstrategy.org/">http://www.sharedsalmonstrategy.org/</a>	Board of Directors & Policy Council	Nonprofit Corporation	15	6 Bd. of Dirs.  32 Council	5 State Officials 4 Federal Officials 4 Tribal Officials 13 Watershed Reps. 3 Non-government Orgs. 3 Business/Ag. Reps.	Yes

\*Interlocal Agreement under Interlocal Cooperation Act (RCW 39.34)