

**Washington Council of Salmon Recovery Regions  
Work Plan  
January 2018 – June 2019**

The Council of Salmon Recovery Regions (COR) works together to advance common interests. While recognizing the unique challenges each region faces, together, COR's voice provides a strong influence that can help shape policies and decisions to bring our salmon runs back to healthy, harvestable levels. As the guardians of the recovery plans, each region provides their respective recovery plan implementation guidance and direction. Regions are also the central point for leading efforts and supporting shared-responsibilities among its partners to strengthen Washington's salmon, steelhead and bull trout populations. Regions also partner in reporting the status of salmon populations, and coordinate statewide actions targeting risks associated with hatcheries, harvest, hydro-power, ecological interactions, ocean conditions and climate change.

COR agrees that in order to continue to move the dial toward recovery statewide, efficiencies need to be identified, cooperative measures need to be applied, and a more streamlined approaches need to be adopted to make the best use of our limited resources. To this end, over the next 18 months, the regional directors agree to partner with the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO), tribal leaders and state and federal agencies to advance effective decision-making by: strengthening salmon recovery partnerships; improving funding support for key program areas; broadening monitoring necessary to support broad-based recovery efforts; and, more effectively addressing emerging challenges affecting statewide recovery, including predation.

**GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS**

**GOAL: Work Together as Regional Organizations to Promote Common Interests and Advance Statewide Recovery Work**

**Objectives**

- Implement COR's Operating Principles;
- Build mutual understanding of key issues affecting salmon recovery;
- Respect the characteristics and local priorities unique to each region;
- Identify common issues and shared priorities for action;
- Identify opportunities to achieve efficiencies through sharing of resources and work products;
- Develop, coordinate and communicate shared implementation messages; and
- Serve as an independent advisory body to the GSRO, and Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), SRFB, and other agencies on statewide issues, policies and decisions affecting salmon recovery.

**Action Plan:** The directors will maintain regular monthly conference calls to coordinate on salmon recovery efforts and implementation of the work plan. Calls may be cancelled if

there is no urgent business to discuss. In-person work sessions will be scheduled as needed and as time and resources permit.

**Actions:**

- Hold standing monthly meetings with the following agenda items:
  - SRFB items - RCO staff presentations on SRFB issues, group discussion of COR responses to SRFB requests for feedback, partner report contents, and identification of issues to propose for future discussion by the SRFB.
  - GSRO items
  - High priority issue discussion (e.g., monitoring, orca recovery, predation, etc.)
  - Updates on COR representation to SRNet, FBRB and other forums as needed
  - Region-by-region information sharing
  - Agency meeting preparations, outcomes and follow-up
  - Metric Alignment:
    - Review and continue to refine agreed upon allocation metrics.
    - Coordination with agencies on any data gaps or inconsistency in reported metrics across state
  - Next steps

**GOAL: Maintain COR’s Common Voice in Statewide Forums**

**Objectives**

**General**

- Promote the incorporation of recovery plan priorities into statewide policies, planning, and decision-making.
- Promote awareness and understanding of the unique issues facing regional organizations both individually and collectively.
- Identify and gain efficiencies in work.
- Improve alignment of monitoring and reporting programs with regional recovery needs.
- Stabilize and expand funding for regional operations, capital projects, and monitoring.

**Action Plan:** One or more regional directors will represent COR in a variety of forums, including: Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet), RCO LEAN study, Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), WA Salmon Coalition (WSC), Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBRB) and Columbia Basin Partnership. COR will engage in additional forums as opportunities arise.

**Actions:**

- Actively engage in scheduled meetings to represent the common interests and goals of COR.
- Coordinate with regional directors to secure endorsement on common recommendations and report to COR on progress, achievements and challenges, and seek feedback to adaptively manage engagement.

## **GOAL: Strengthen Collaboration with Our Key Salmon Recovery Partners**

### **Objectives**

#### **General**

- Promote a greater awareness and understanding of the statutory role of regional organizations in the coordination and implementation of salmon recovery plans.
- Promote the importance of collaborating with federal and state agency, and tribal representatives in matters affecting salmon recovery within regions and across the state.
- Identify and discuss specific needs and issues of mutual interests that will help advance salmon recovery.
- Provide a better framework for partnerships with local organizations including fisheries enhancement groups, lead entities and special purpose districts.
- Identify, prioritize and address recovery plan implementation gaps, including those relating to funding and monitoring.
- Agree on actions that can be taken to address and support specific regional recovery needs and issues.

### **Key Partners**

#### **Governor's Salmon Recovery Office**

Support the GSRO in their efforts to: *(Note: the following aligns with the draft GSRO work plan)*

- Assist in improving relationships with state and federal agencies, elected officials, Tribes, and the Governor's office to strengthen support and coordinate efforts to implement the statewide strategy ("Washington Way") and to endorse the regional approach to salmon recovery.
- Coordinate single voice/shared response from state agencies on issues related to salmon recovery and watershed health.
- Facilitate data and information exchange between regional organizations and other key partners in advance of the 2021, NOAA 5-year stock status update.
- Promote salmon recovery priorities (actions, policies, programs, and monitoring) based on the five threats criteria and VSP criteria (abundance, productivity, spatial structure, diversity).
- Coordinate monitoring programs, policies and projects, and provide opportunities to share lessons learned to advance watershed restoration effectiveness.
- Review key work products of the SRFB's Monitoring Panel, and provide comments and recommendations for future work.

#### **NOAA Fisheries**

- Identify ways the regional organizations and NOAA-Fisheries can work to exchange data and other information in advance of the 2021 status review, and support Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Ecology efforts to compile necessary information.
- Identify a timeline and expectations for regional engagement in the status review.

- Secure greater involvement and participation by NOAA-Fisheries in regional and statewide recovery actions, policies, programs and monitoring, where gaps exist.
- Improve integration of recovery plan priorities into NOAA decision making relating to Endangered Species Act consultations, harvest and hatchery management, predation, monitoring, research and evaluation, and funding.

#### **WDFW**

- Identify ways regional organizations and WDFW can work to coordinate, compile and interpret species population data and information to support the NOAA-Fisheries 2021 status review, and to gage and report on recovery progress on an ongoing basis.
- Expand involvement and participation by WDFW in regional and statewide recovery actions, policies, programs and monitoring.
- Ensure recovery plan priorities are integrated into WDFW decision making relating to harvest and hatchery management, land use permitting decisions, and engagement in local planning processes.

#### **Ecology**

- Identify ways regional organizations and Ecology can work to coordinate, compile and interpret data and information to support the NOAA-Fisheries 2021 status review, and to gage habitat (e.g., water quality/quantity, instream, etc.) status and trends on an ongoing basis.
- Expand involvement and participation by Ecology in regional and statewide recovery actions, policies, programs and monitoring.
- Ensure recovery plan priorities are integrated into Ecology decision making relating to land use decisions (e.g., shoreline, water right and wetland permitting) and funding programs (e.g., Floodplains by Design).

### **Action Plan: Meet Regularly with State and Federal Agencies to Accelerate Salmon Recovery Efforts**

In partnership with GSRO, the directors will meet at least annually with each of the key partners identified above. Meetings with other state and federal agencies (e.g., U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Natural Resources, etc.) may occur periodically. Through regular communications with these agencies, COR will foster a stronger understanding of statewide salmon recovery issues, challenges and opportunities, and work to overcome barriers and address recovery gaps.

#### **Actions:**

Coordinate and collaborate with the GSRO to:

- Identify areas of common interest and find ways to participate in upcoming discussions;
- Agree on topics for agency meetings;
- Prepare talking points for agency meetings;
- Arrange meeting times and help ensure agency leadership will attend; and,
- Actively engage with agencies in their efforts to address regional recovery needs.

## Summary of Key Tasks

Actions	Tasks
State agency meetings	GSRO will take the lead on convening a state agency policy workgroup, and ensure COR representation.
NOAA meetings	GSRO will take the lead on convening a NOAA agency policy workgroup, and ensure COR representation.
Monitoring Panel Feedback	COR will work with GSRO to review key work products the Monitoring Panel develops.
COR Meetings	COR will meet regularly via conference calls and in-person.
SRNet	COR will continue to participate in SRNet.
Fish Barrier Removal Board	COR will continue to hold a seat in the FBRB.
Columbia Basin Partnership	CBCOR and GSRO will actively participate in the development of recovery goals and other work products under consideration.