

STATEWIDE SALMON STRATEGY UPDATE

Background: Twenty years ago, Governor Locke adopted the "Statewide Salmon Strategy - Extinction is not an Option," and Governor Gregoire added to it in 2006. This Strategy was put in place to address a growing crisis: the listing of salmon under the federal Endangered Species Act. The development of this strategy was unique and the first of its kind in the nation, a collaborative initiative to restore and protect salmon runs across Washington State anchored in local expertise, experience, partnerships, and on-the-ground leadership. Over the last 20 years, there have been significant advances in salmon recovery through regionally specific, scientifically rigorous, and locally produced recovery strategies. Partnerships have matured and Washington has made great strides, with some species showing signs of recovery. Yet some salmon runs are continuing to decline. And while many factors have changed across the social, political, and physical landscape, the sense of urgency has remained. In 2018, Governor Inslee launched the Southern Resident Orca Task Force, and now in 2019, the Governor has committed to updating the Statewide Salmon Strategy. Salmon are Washington's legacy, and a rededication of energy and an updated strategy is needed to protect and restore this legacy and to put all salmon runs on the road to recovery.

The goal of this process is to bring the statewide salmon strategy to recover salmon up to date, while honoring the achievements and investments made over the last 20 years. This includes acknowledging necessary improvements, new approaches, and new perspectives.



Who will be Involved:

The Washington Legislature has provided funding to identify gaps in the current strategy, based on the regional recovery plans, court decisions, National Marine Fisheries Service's five-year review and data needs, Treaty obligations, Orca Task Force recommendations, and other emerging priorities.

The Governor's Office is the lead for this process, supported by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO), and the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW). A steering committee has been convened to lead the update, and a third-party facilitator selected through a competitive process (Triangle Associates). The Governor's Office will be reaching out to Tribes directly.

As part of the update to this Strategy, the leads will solicit input, engage in collaborative and focused conversations to build new partnerships, conduct a gap analysis, and develop recommendations to update and amend the Strategy. Triangle Associates will be reaching out to stakeholders to gather information to inform the Strategy update. This effort will include stakeholders in all the salmon and steelhead management sectors of habitat, harvest, hatcheries, and hydropower (All-H) with the ultimate goal of reinvigorating salmon recovery in Washington State.





SALMON STRATEGY UPDATE

PROPOSED PROJECT TIMELINE

FALL 2019

- CONVENE STEERING COMMITTEE AND ENGAGE WITH TRIBES TO DESIGN A COLLABORATIVE AND INCLUSIVE PROCESS
- AUGUST 2019 SEPTEMBER 2019

WINTER 2019-2020

- CONDUCT WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS, AND SURVEYS WITH SALMON RECOVERY STAKEHOLDERS AND TRIBES TO CAPTURE INPUT
 - ANALYZE AND SYNTHESIZE INPUT
- OCTOBER 2019 FEBRUARY 2020

SPRING/SUMMER 2020

- PRODUCE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT
 - PRESENT FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO GOVERNOR'S OFFICE AND NATURAL RESOURCES CABINET
- MARCH 2020 AUGUST 2020

FALL 2020

- INCORPORATE FEEDBACK FROM GOVERNOR'S OFFICE AND NATURAL RESOURCES CABINET AND FINALIZE STRATEGY UPDATE
- SEPTEMBER 2020 NOVEMBER 2020

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