

Summary

Meeting dates: August 2015, Commission Meeting

Agenda item: Commission Overview of Steelhead At Risk Report – (Briefing)

Presenter(s): Erik Neatherlin, Science Division Manager, Fish Program

Background summary:

In 2008, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) completed a Statewide Steelhead Management Plan (SSMP) that outlined policies, strategies, and actions (WDFW 2008) to address steelhead conservation and recovery. The SSMP highlighted WDFW activities that would contribute directly to recovery of steelhead populations and reduce threats to wild steelhead viability. One of the requirements of the SSMP was to provide a report on at-risk stocks of wild steelhead to the Fish and Wildlife Commission and Director.

The purpose of the briefing is to provide an overview of the Steelhead At Risk Report including which populations are most at risk, summary of statewide and regional threats, and key management strategies and actions to address those threats.

Steelhead trout, the anadromous form of *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, are the state fish and are of tremendous cultural and economic value in Washington State. Unfortunately, steelhead have declined significantly in abundance throughout their range and are currently at a fraction of their historic abundance and distribution across the Pacific Northwest. In the late 1990's many steelhead populations were federally listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), with the most recent federal listing occurring in Puget Sound in 2007. NOAA has identified several factors that contributed to steelhead decline including fishery management, hatchery practices, habitat degradation, dams and culvert barriers, disease and pathogens, inadequacy of regulatory mechanisms, and natural and other manmade threats. Currently, five of the seven steelhead Distinct Population Segments (DPS) in Washington State are listed as federally threatened under the ESA.

Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

None

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

None required

Action requested:

None, briefing only

Draft motion language:

NA

Justification for Commission action:

NA

Communications Plan:

NA

Commission Request to Department

"Blue Sheet"

Date of Request: Feb 7, 2015

Title of Request: statewide Steelhead Plan + Implementation

Commissioner: Wecker

Priority Level (put one check in each row):

Importance: High Medium Low

Urgency: High Medium Low

Request Due Date: after NOF when practical

Knowledge or Action Being Requested (narrative). Describe what you want to know. Be specific.

Description of Steelhead Management Plan + status of implementation.

Key Steelhead issues by region + proposed responses
- Skagit River Steelhead, Olympic Peninsula, Puget Sound, Columbia River

Output Requested (e.g., telephone call, memo, material from files, new report, presentation, other):

Briefing

For Commission Executive Assistant Use	
Date Assigned: _____ [At Debrief]	Assigned To: _____ [Program]

revised 8/07/12 -eg