Governor's Forum on Monitoring
Salmon Recovery and Watershed Health
Summary Minutes

Date: October 20, 2004 Place: JLOB HHRA
Time: 1:30 p.m. Olympia, Washington

Members Present:

Jeff Koenings, Co-Chair	Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Scott Redman	Designee, Puget Sound Action Team
Stu Trefry	Designee, Conservation Commission
Bruce Crawford	Program Manager, Office of the Interagency Committee
Laura Johnson	Director, Office of the Interagency Committee
Lee Faulconer	Designee, Department of Agriculture
Steve Leider	Designee, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Craig Partridge	Department of Natural Resources
Paul Wagner	Designee, Department of Transportation
Dick Wallace	Department of Ecology
Kate Benkert	Designee, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Rob Walton	Designee, NOAA Fisheries
Mike Dunning	Designee, Department of Health
Tom Karier	Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Bob Metzger	Designee, US Forest Service
Terry Wright	Designee, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

Co-chair Jeff Koenings opened the meeting at 1:31 p.m. by having everyone introduce themselves. He noted the new members present from Department of Health, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, NOAA Fisheries, Northwest Power and Conservation Council, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Forest Service.

SETTING RULES FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS

Co-chair Koenings explained the decision that was made at the first meeting to delay Meeting Rules setting and Charter decisions until this meeting.

The Forum agreed to use Robert's Rules of Order for meetings.

Charter

Discussion was held on the proposed charter. (See notebook for details.) Terry Wright believes one thing missing from the Charter is Puget Sound. Talks about monitoring watershed health but doesn't specifically mention Puget Sound health.

Co-chair Koenings thought that it was intended to be a statewide effort and not pinpoint any specific area.

Terry still believes this is leaving the Puget Sound out since it's not defined as a watershed.

Scott Redman believes that watershed health does incorporate Puget Sound, at least the Action Team.

Bruce Crawford noted that the Governor's Executive Order does specifically invite the Puget Sound Action Team to be a member of the Forum and so that is included.

Laura Johnson would prefer to keep the charter simple and if it is misleading then it should be clarified. The key word is coordination and this does include all aspects.

Co-chair Koenings noted that the Executive Order is statewide and the list of participants incorporates all the groups and areas.

Craig Partridge brought up an issue on the other end of spectrum. The charter states natural resources, which he believes includes fish, flora, fauna, minerals, forests, etc., which is more than Bruce would be able to keep up with.

Bruce reported that he is to blame for that wording, as he was trying not to repeat salmon and watershed health. Could replace natural resources with salmon and watershed health.

Kate Benkert noted that a report being due isn't a mission statement but an outcome. There may need to be a mission statement.

Dick Wallace believes the Executive Order is part of the Forum's mission statement and charter but the proposed charter is clearer. The Forum does need to coordinate the measures to be able to report to the public. Standards for measures need to be added to the mission to show what is needed.

Rob Walton asked about areas without salmon.

Bruce responded that this group is concerned with watershed health also, so it incorporates both areas with and without salmon

It was decided that the Forum would approve the general consensus of wording for the charter then staff will wordsmith and bring back for final approval at the next meeting.

Tasks
Bruce noted that the page of Forum Tasks was straight from the Executive Order and that the Forum may want to prioritize the tasks.

Co-chair Koenings responded that the Forum might want to partition out the duties to subcommittees. The Salmon and Watershed Information Management Technical Advisory Committee (SWIMTAC) is already in place for the data coordination portion.

Bruce explained the proposed chart in the meeting handouts for committee set-up. He also discussed use of the Independent Science Panel (ISP).

Dick Wallace noted the addition of tribes to the state and federal partners. He would like to make sure the Forum is structured to integrate federal, state, and tribal scientist work.

Bruce explained SWIMTAC to the group. The SWIMTAC has been doing good work for the last couple years without a policy group to report to, but now they will report to this group.

Tom Karier talked about the link between the NWPCC and Washington State. We shouldn't count fish differently from the other states included in the Northwest Region (Idaho, California, Oregon, and Alaska). He asked if fish are counted the same between Puget Sound and the Lower Columbia.

Co-chair Koenings noted that that is a good question and an issue. WDFW does try to count the fish the same but he doesn't know if it is the same in all data systems. May not be coordinated but should be compatible.

Scott Redman would like a goal for the standardization of the fish counting methods.

Bruce talked about Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP) efforts and the groups involved in this effort. People have asked Bruce how the Forum is different from PNAMP. The Forum needs to be clear about the differences. This Forum becomes the focus for coordination of PNAMP efforts too. PNAMP is the scientific side of Forum policy issues. The Forum is a subset of the larger issues.

The group discussed the need to start developing standards for the data gathering and protocols and standards for the local groups doing data gathering.

Tom Karier noted that Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds (PCSRF) and Bonneville Power Association (BPA) are two of the biggest fund sources of watershed health and salmon recovery and so there should be a way that when

they adopt performance measures these performance measures will need to be followed to get the funding.

The group discussed the best way to divide the tasks into subcommittees and whether they should be task oriented, topical, or some other option. Co-chair Koenings would like to have options brought back to the Forum at the next meeting for decision.

Steve Leider pointed out that the proposed subcommittees are the same groups that were presented in the comprehensive monitoring plan - one group that the PNAMP has that is missing here is the validation monitoring. Bruce noted that it may be clearer what is needed once the tasks are divided up.

Terry Wright believes that validation monitoring would be a good task for the ISP to tackle and the Forum may want to present this to the ISP as their assignment. Steve Leider noted that it would depend on what the work product ends up being.

Bruce discussed the make-up of PNAMP, reporting that he and Steve Leider have been the representatives on this group. They haven't represented all the state agencies involved but now this Forum is the representation on PNAMP assigned by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO). In the future, broader coordination of efforts and policies will be addressed through this Forum to provide feedback to PNAMP.

Steve noted that the comprehensive monitoring strategy has given him and Bruce a tool that no other state involved in PNAMP has.

The Forum would like an overview of PNAMP at a future meeting.

2005 Meeting Schedule
It was decided to wait to approve the 2005 meeting schedule until the next meeting.

REVIEW OF PROGRESS SINCE 2002 IN IMPLEMENTING THE WASHINGTON COMPREHENSIVE MONITORING STRATEGY

Bruce Crawford provided a PowerPoint presentation on this topic.

Bruce explained the project list and gave a status report on several – explaining how these tasks are being worked.

Rob Walton asked about an assessment on a statewide level of where the money is going and how it is being spent.

Bruce responded that the intensively monitored watersheds (IMW) are a way of proving fish in and fish out numbers. We can't do this level of monitoring statewide since the cost is prohibitive.

Laura Johnson reported that Washington is trying to do this level of monitoring where it can afford to and can physically do it. The SRFB is very committed to getting this done and to do the best job possible.

Steve Leider asked if there are any high priority projects that haven't seen any action yet.
Bruce reported that most are underway or could be underway in the next biennium with funding.

Dick Wallace appreciates the work that Bruce did on this list and would like to see this list kept up for future reference.

Budget Requests
Bruce reviewed the agency budget requests, pointing out that the Conservation Commission presented their information differently and it should be $650,000 not $1.3 million for items 3 and 4.

Stu Trefry talked about another $250,000 for monitoring water quality in the Conservation Commission request that was buried in another request.

Scott Redman noted that it is very helpful to see this information in one place. He would like to see another column on what can the Forum do – how can it help or are there tasks involved that the Forum can do?

Rob Walton pointed out that there are other groups also involved with funds that are in the state but not part of the state budget.

Co-chair Koenings noted that this is a living document and will evolve as the process advances.

Terry Wright noted that money provided to tribes has strings attached to use certain standards in data gathering.

PRESENTATION BY THE SWIMTAC
Joy Paulus presented this agenda item.

SWIMTAC is a statewide database providing a way to gather information from one web site. This Web site is currently getting about 1,400 hits a month, this is a relatively small number compared to other agency Web sites but is up from 700 per month back in February. At this time most of the hits are coming from Washington and Oregon. Although the site has mostly state agency data, Joy

would like to include local and federal watershed information as well. Entities can add their data to this Web page by filling out a short information form. The first phase of this project has been completed. Phase 2 would provide more interactive tools, mapping, and canned reports to get the information. Would go out to the agencies and find the data bring it into one report, and then would start doing the analysis.

OTHER DATA SYSTEM PRESENTATIONS

The Forum was provided three different presentations on data management systems:

- Integrated Reporting of State Salmon Recovery Data by Information Builders
- NOAA Fisheries NED System by Stewart Toshach
- Connecting Local Databases by Paladin

Each data system provided a different level of data – local, watershed, and statewide.

The Forum asked SWIMTAC to review each system and come back to the Forum with recommendations on continuing work with the three different systems. The questions posed to the SWIMTAC included:

- Should the Governor's Forum on Monitoring sign the Northwest Environmental Data-Network (NED) MOU?

- How does Paladin's technology solution relate to the SWIM Decision Package that was submitted by IAC to OFM?

- How does the Information Builders Inc (IBI) technology solution relate to the SWIM Decision Package that was submitted by IAC to OFM?

- What does each vendor offer the state as it relates to information management in state government today?

- What does SWIMTAC think of the Conservation Commission's proposed pilot project with Paladin? What about the WDOT, WDFW and NWIFC efforts?

- What's needed to make these pilots most compatible with the Portal concept and distributed databases?

To find out more about Information Builders, see their web site at WWW.Informationbuilders.com.

The NED PowerPoint presentation is attached for your information.

To find out more about EKOSystem (Environmental Knowledge Organizer), which is used by Paladin, see WWW.eko-systems.us.

SUMMARY AND NEXT AGENDA

Co-chair Koenings requested a short decision-making meeting in November to:

- Get recommendations from SWIMTAC on data systems,
- Adopt Charter,
- Review prioritized agency budget and task lists, and
- Adopt 2005 meeting schedule

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

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Jeff Koenings, Co-Chair

Next Meeting: November 29, 2004
Natural Resources Building, Room 172
Olympia, Washington

North-West Environmental Data-Network

(NED)

-for fishery, wildlife & water-

10-20-04

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This Presentation

- **Background to NED & why we need it**
- **NED Principles**
- **What NED is doing**
- **How can you participate in NED**

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We have many documented data management problems

- The 2000 National Science and Technology Council Committee recommendation: "Monitoring and data systems need to keep pace to facilitate improved quantitative approach to salmonid recovery and restoration."
- The 2001 Annual Report of the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program: despite "fish and wildlife expenditures totaling $3.48 billion...the confusing state of fish and wildlife data collection and reporting in the basin...must improve. When it does, accountability to the public for the Council's program and Bonneville's expenditures will also improve."

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More Documented Data Problems

- GAO report 02-612…"The data to quantify the effects of these [salmon recovery] actions on fish populations are generally not available…"
- U.S. Congress Conference Report (108-10) "The conferees note the lack of accountability and performance standards for resources distributed to restore endangered and threatened salmon through the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund…..The conferees understand that some mechanism is necessary to assure legal and fiscal accountability for distribution of funds to States with listed salmon species."
- The 2000 Independent Scientific Review Panel's Review of Databases Funded through the Columbia Basin River Fish and Wildlife Program.

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Background to NED

- **In 2002 NPCC and NOAA Fisheries cooperated research data needs assessment using Science Applications International Corp.**
- **Established project team (then called CBCIS)**
- **Completed surveys, focus groups and interviews**
- **Solicited input from the public and a Coordinating Committee including State, Federal agencies and stakeholders**
- **Made recommendations (43) for improvements to our regional data capabilities (2003)**

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Study Participants

- **Federal**
  - EPA
  - NMFS
  - USGS
  - BPA
  - USGS
  - USFWS
  - BREC
  - USACE
  - USFS
  - BLM
- **Washington**
  - Ecology
  - DFW
- **Oregon**
  - ODFW
  - OWEB
  - ODEQ
- **Idaho**
  - IDFG
  - ITRMC
  - IDEQ
  - IOSC
  - IDWR
- **Montana**
  - MFWP
  - NRIS (State Library)
- **Regional organizations and NGOs**
  - NPPC
  - PSMFC
  - CBFWA
  - FPC
  - LCREP
  - NHI
- **Private Industry**
  - Timber
  - Consulting
  - Bateile
- **Tribal**
  - CRITFC
  - UCUT (Colville, Spokane, Coeur d'Alene, Kalispell)
- **Academia**
  - Univ. of Washington
- **Canadian Organizations (Transboundary Conference)**

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Principle: Managers and others have very different data needs: eg

- To account for regional <u>project performance;</u>
- and, to <u>answer scientific questions</u> on regional management and recovery of salmon, other species and their habitats

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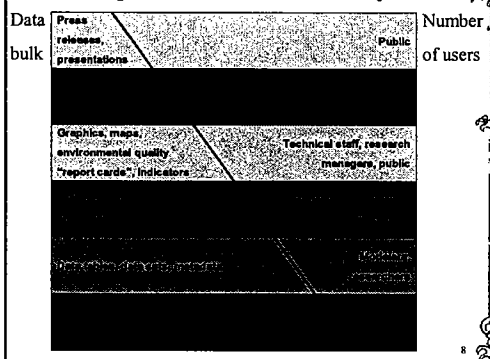
Principle: collect once for many uses



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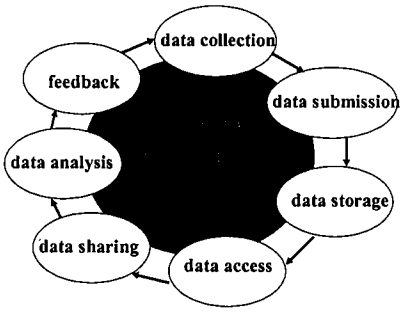
Principle: Focus on the entire data cycle



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Principle: Data Sharing Options (except status quo) depend on improved standards

1) Business as usual – each entity & some programs have their own standards or no standards at all
2) Regional data repository with improved data standards
3) Regional distributed database network with improved data standards
4) Combination of repositories and distributed network with improved data standards

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NED Work Plan

- Build on existing regional efforts
- Develop a long term regional administrative and organizational arrangement for a regional data network
- Focus on the foundation of network data management – Adopt regional standards to better locate and share data and improve data quality

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Work Plan Continued

- Identify a regional data spatial and metadata approach that is nationally/state compliant: ie with State Frame-work efforts, FGDC, NBII, IRICC and others

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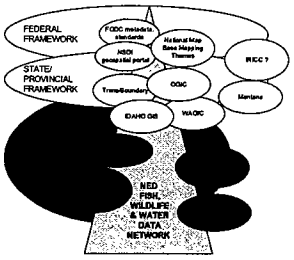
How NED fits in the Region



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NED Work Plan Continued

Work with content groups to identify:

- **Business rules for networking, data sharing**
- **Data management standards, eg for collection, data quality etc.**

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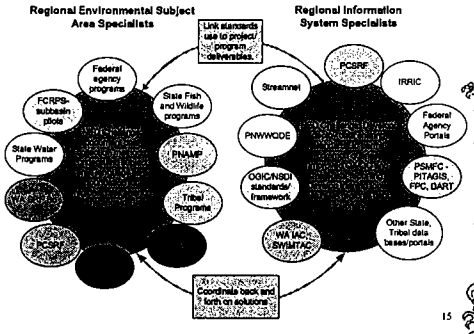
NED Operational Model



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NED Products:

Research, Coordinate and Support Development of Regional:

- Data dictionary/standards
- Linked Metadata servers
- Dynamic data inventories
- Training and education – especially on data quality
- Data networking plan and funding

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Standards Needed for Fisheries, Habitat and Water Data

Project level information
Data collection
Data reporting
Data sharing
Quality assurance/control
Metadata reporting
Document deliverables
Locational data (GPS)
Map coordinate projection
Names e.g. sampling stations
Calendar date
Other??

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How to Participate in NED

- Sign the NED MOU and participate

as a Co-Chair
on the NED project Team
on a NED work group/s, or
in all of the above

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