

WRIA 8 Update and Committee Reports

November 17, 2016

- **Puget Sound Regional Update** – The **Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC)** held a two-day workshop on October 18 & 19. Day One of the workshop was focused primarily on the Chinook Implementation Strategy, which intends to craft *regional* actions to help achieve salmon recovery. Once finalized, this strategy will form the nucleus of the updated regional chapter of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan (WRIA 8’s recovery plan is one of the watershed chapters in this plan). Day Two of the workshop focused on funding for salmon recovery, with specific attention given to generating a sustainable, predictable funding source for the human infrastructure that is vital to salmon recovery in Washington. The PS SRC meets next on December 1. John Stokes, WRIA 8 SRC Vice-Chair and Bellevue Mayor, and Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz represent WRIA 8.
- The **South Central Action Area Caucus** met on October 5 and November 2. The meetings focused on developing a process for ranking near-term actions and selecting one to award \$100,000, discuss the possibility of restructuring the local integrating organization (LIO) model along watershed boundaries to more effectively engage local entities in Puget Sound recovery, hear a presentation on Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife’s land cover change map for Puget Sound. Caucus Group chair, King County Deputy Executive Fred Jarrett, has offered to come to WRIA meetings to discuss the possibility of restructuring LIO roles along watershed boundaries with watershed partners. See a memo discussing LIO restructuring in the meeting packet. He will likely come to the January WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council meeting. The Caucus Group will continue to hold regular meetings or workshops to advance these discussions. Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz currently attends to represent WRIA 8. The Caucus Group meets next in early 2017.
- **WRIA 8 Plan Update** – WRIA partners continue to work on the update to the WRIA 8 Plan. Chinook recovery strategies—initially discussed at a joint Technical and Implementation committee workshop in August—were refined by the WRIA 8 Technical Committee and discussed with the WRIA 8 Implementation Committee to bring a policy overlay to the technical basis. The Technical Committee is reviewing a draft of a monitoring plan and continues to work on developing goals and indicators of ecosystem health. Starting in December, WRIA 8 staff will convene work groups within watershed sub-basins to review and update the WRIA 8 Plan’s project list.
- **WRIA 8 letter to Governor Inslee highlighting legislative priorities** – At the September meeting, the Salmon Recovery Council approved a set of draft federal and state legislative priorities. Subsequently, the WRIA 8 Management Committee approved sending a letter to Governor Inslee highlighting WRIA 8’s state legislative priorities, including specific capital budget requests that will support salmon recovery. This letter was sent on November 2 and is in the meeting packet.

- **WRIA 8 E-news** – The WRIA 8 E-news sent out October 18 included articles on Salmon SEEson, fish returns to date, newly completed restoration projects in the watershed, use of recycled water at 60 Acres, and more. Partners are encouraged to send ideas for the December E-news to Polly Freeman at polly.freeman@kingcounty.gov by December 5.
- **Salmon estimates through Ballard Locks** – Official salmon counts at the Ballard Locks end each year on October 2. This year, 9,197 Chinook salmon were estimated to have entered the WRIA 8 watershed. This is 90% of the 20-year average and the largest run since 2012 (the pre-season forecast was 4,647 Chinook). For sockeye salmon, the pre-season forecast was 119,125; the actual estimate through the locks was 59,404. This is 32% of the long-term (20-year) average for sockeye. Chinook redd surveys are in progress in WRIA 8. Current estimates are running slightly below the 18-year average.
- **Chinook Book promotion** – Together with WRIA’s 7 and 9, WRIA 8 placed ads promoting salmon recovery in the Chinook Book—a regional coupon book. Print ads in appeared in 32,000 copies of the Chinook Book published September 1. Six months of “in-line content” was also included (viewed by those who use the Chinook Book app on their phones). For September and October, there were 18,900 views of the content, with a “clickthrough” rate to Salmon SEEson information of .9%. Industry standard is reported to be .2%.
- **“Salmon, Stormwater, and You”** – WRIA 8 was one of 16 partners contributing content and funding to an eight-page Seattle Times insert titled “Salmon, Stormwater, and You.” The insert was published on Sunday, October 30—print inserts were included in 287,780 hard copies of the paper, and 1,107,700 online readers received the electronic content. Additionally, 829 educators and 38,015 students at 481 locations received copies. See: <http://www.seattletimes.com/nwshowcase/newspapers-in-education/salmon-stormwater-and-you/> or <https://ad.seattletimes.com/FlippingBook/NIE/2016/PugetSoundStartsHere>.

WRIA 8 Committee Reports

- **WRIA 8 Technical Committee** – The Technical Committee met on October 12 and November 9. Meeting topics included: WRIA 8 recovery plan update – WRIA 8 monitoring framework and narrative, quantitative and qualitative habitat goals, and recovery strategies recommendations; adult Chinook counts at the Ballard Locks; Riverbend project design discussion; four-year work program project additions.
- **WRIA 8 Implementation Committee** – The Implementation Committee met on November 8th. Meeting topics included a review and discussion of updated Chinook recovery strategies, including how to operationalize the Technical Committee’s recommendations, and a discussion of outreach and education priorities and developing an outreach and education framework.