



Priorities and Immediate Needs

2019 Call for Salmon Habitat Projects

Background

The Hood Canal and Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca Summer Chum Salmon Recovery Plan identified two primary populations needing to achieve recovery, Hood Canal and Strait of Juan de Fuca. Six sub-populations comprise the Hood Canal major population and two sub-populations make up the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

In August 2018, the HCCC completed a comprehensive review¹ of the status of Hood Canal summer chum which involves an evaluation of ESA delisting criteria and population/sub-population status. The comprehensive review concludes that habitat restoration and protection actions should address the continuing need to strengthen performance in the core subpopulations to bolster overall population abundance. These core subpopulations are the Quilcene, Dosewallips, and Union in the Hood Canal population and Salmon-Snow Creek in the SJDF population. The review recommends actions needed to reduce the performance gaps for subpopulations projected to be below viability thresholds. Very specific monitoring needs in relation to understanding the early marine growth and survival of summer chum salmon were also recognized in the review. Understanding the growth patterns of sub-populations with varying productivity in the marine environment will help us focus our work toward recovery as well as inform the recovery discussions and decisions. The recommendation for balancing restoration actions reflects an understanding of the importance of biological diversity, spatial structure, and population abundance and productivity to long-term viability.

The comprehensive review emphasizes that the quality of existing habitat is critical to success of summer chum recovery. Efforts must focus on restoring and protecting quality habitat and addressing data gaps in those geographic areas where work is in progress or projected to be implemented in the very near-term. This call for projects seeks to restore or protect habitat by:

- Addressing estuary restoration actions in the Big Quilcene and Duckabush watersheds.
- Addressing Hood Canal summer chum core subpopulations in both abundance and spatial structure including: mid and upper watershed process impairments such as sediment, road infrastructure, loss of riparian structure, and floodplain development in the Snow Creek, Salmon Creek, Dosewallips and Union River watersheds.
- Addressing protection of functioning quality habitat within the West Kitsap Ecological Diversity Group: Big Beef, Dewatto, Tahuya and Union watersheds.

The Hood Canal region is one of five bio-geographic regions needing to be recovered to ensure full recovery of Puget Sound Chinook Salmon. The Skokomish watershed houses the most critical Chinook population in Hood Canal. Extensive work is in progress to update the Skokomish watershed chapter and Skokomish Chinook Recovery Plan. Much work is in progress in the Skokomish to support Skokomish watershed Chinook salmon. Current evidence suggests that summer chum salmon benefit from the Chinook work in the system as summer chum spawners are determined to be robust after being extirpated. These summer chum likely recolonized, taking advantage of the improved habitat conditions

¹ Lestelle et.al. In Review. Recovery Goal Review and Updated Guidance for the Hood Canal Summer Chum ESU, August 2018



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in the lower Skokomish River. Consideration will be given to actions that support the primary Chinook population in Hood Canal while contributing to summer chum recovery in the watershed.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to identify the strategic priorities that provide the direction and guidance that will focus on the conclusions and recommendations presented above. These needs are the most immediate areas of focus to ensure that we continue progress towards recovery and delisting of summer chum salmon and support Chinook salmon recovery in the Hood Canal biogeographic region. The summer chum salmon recovery plan, the comprehensive review of that plan, and the prioritization guidance² combined, provide the foundation for this approach.

The 2019 HCCC Lead Entity grant round will use the *Priorities and Immediate Needs* as guidance and promotion of the 2019 Call for Salmon Habitat Projects.

2019 Call for Salmon Recovery Projects

The Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC), as the Regional Recovery Organization for Hood Canal and Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca Summer Chum Salmon and the Lead Entity for Hood Canal, is issuing a *Call for Salmon Habitat Projects* for the 2019 HCCC Lead Entity grant round addressing specific actions (Table 1) and watersheds (Figure 1). This *Call for Salmon Habitat Projects* will provide the basis for the selection of projects to be submitted to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) for the 2019 HCCC Lead Entity grant round.

Habitat actions that directly address the *Priorities and Immediate Needs* will be prioritized over 'other watershed actions' that support these objectives. Table 1 below, provides the guidance for eligible project submittals for the 2019 LE grant round.

² Guidance for Prioritizing Salmon Stocks, Issues, and Actions for the Hood Canal Coordinating Council, March 2015.



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Table 1: 2019 Salmon Habitat Actions to guide project development and implementation

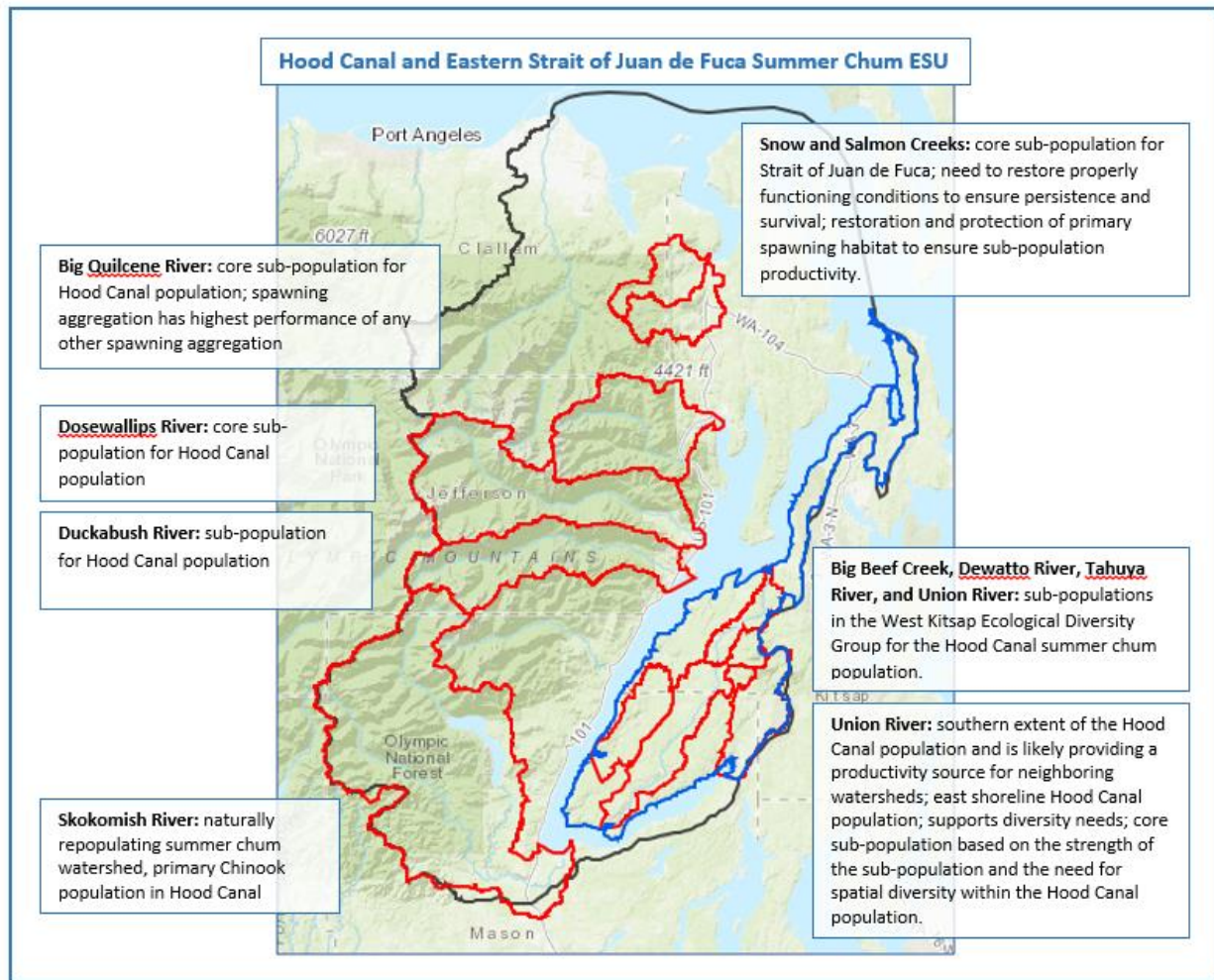
WATERSHED	PRIORITIES AND IMMEDIATE NEEDS	OTHER WATERSHED ACTIONS
SNOW CREEK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank control measures to improve incision issues • Channel pattern • Transportation infrastructure impairing flow and processes • Assess and model sediment processes, deposits, and reconnection with Salmon Creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore floodplains • Protect riparian • Restore riparian • Non-road sediment • Watershed analysis • Estuarine channel rehabilitation
SALMON CREEK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve channel pattern • Transportation infrastructure impairing flow and processes • Assess and model sediment processes, deposits • Reconnection with Snow Creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road crossings • Protect riparian • Invasive flora
BIG QUILCENE RIVER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuarine and lower river floodplain restoration projects in-progress need continued support • Protect and restore riparian 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Channel pattern • Channel migration zone • Road crossings • Transportation infrastructure
DOSEWALLIPS RIVER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect riparian buffers • LWD structures • Restore floodplains • Channel migration zone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank protection • Restore riparian • Transportation infrastructure • Assess restoration needs within the Lazy C Ranch subdivision
UNION RIVER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore riparian buffers • Protect riparian • LWD structures • Restore floodplains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road crossings • Watershed analysis
DUCKABUSH RIVER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect riparian buffers • Large restoration project in estuary needs continued support to address the highway 101 causeway infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank protection • Restore floodplains • Restore riparian • Channel migration zone • Forest maturity
SKOKOMISH RIVER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued support for ACOE restoration project in Skokomish River valley 	<p>Extensive work is in progress for the Skokomish Watershed. An updated recovery plan for Skokomish chinook salmon has been completed and an updated Skokomish watershed chapter for the Puget Sound Chinook Salmon Recovery Plan are in review. These works provide guidance and direction for projects that will likely address Chinook salmon and summer chum salmon recovery.</p>



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WATERSHED	PRIORITIES AND IMMEDIATE NEEDS	OTHER WATERSHED ACTIONS
BIG BEEF CREEK, DEWATTO RIVER, TAHUYA RIVER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the West Kitsap Ecological Diversity Group: Protection of highly functioning habitat – while a current comprehensive review is seeking spatial structure clarification continue with actions ensuring functioning habitat protection. 	

Figure 1: Watersheds for 2018 2019 *Call for Salmon Habitat Projects*





2019 Call for Salmon Recovery Projects Letter of Intent Submittal Process

Individuals and entities wishing to propose a salmon habitat project aligning with the habitat actions identified in the *Table 1: 2019 Salmon Habitat Actions to guide project development and implementation* are asked to complete a *Letter of Intent* (LOI) for the project utilizing the LOI template and submit the completed template to Alicia Olivas, Lead Entity Program Coordinator aolivas@hccc.wa.gov by **February 11, 2019**.

The LOI is a means for project sponsors to communicate all pertinent information about their project and will be used for initial screening to determine if the project can be submitted through the 2018 HCCC Lead Entity grant round. A project is defined to be a specifically designed activity implemented to achieve the basic intent of one or more actions, over a given footprint, and over a specific timeframe to achieve a specific outcome. The information provided in the LOI should be concise and provide all information needed for initial project review. Importance will be placed on the following elements:

- The project is clearly and adequately described;
- The project aligns with Table 1 above;
- The project will address the watershed process impairment;
- Project goals and objectives are clearly articulated addressing the *Specific Measurable Achievable Relevant and Time-bound (SMART)*³ components;
- Goals and objectives are feasible and appropriate to address the identified habitat action;
- Phasing of project, if appropriate, appears reasonable.

The LOI is not the grant application and should be no longer than five pages (including maps and photos). Missing information will delay the review of the project or may prevent the project from being eligible for the current grant round. HCCC staff will conduct the initial review. Projects will be considered for the 2018 HCCC Lead Entity grant round if it is determined that the project adequately addresses a habitat action identified in the *Table 1: 2019 Salmon Habitat Actions to guide project development and implementation*. Project sponsors will be contacted by the HCCC Lead Entity Program Coordinator by February 20, 2019, to notify them of the selection status for the 2019 HCCC Lead Entity grant round.

Once a project is approved through the initial LOI review process, a project application will be requested in which continued project review, ranking and selection for funding will take into consideration project factors such as: ability of project to address habitat process restoration, project fit to identified action, project feasibility, project scale, and cost effectiveness. The HCCC Technical Advisory Group (TAG) will evaluate accepted project application proposals through the 2019 HCCC Lead Entity grant round and the HCCC Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) will develop a prioritized list of projects to recommend to the HCCC Citizens Committee. Information on deadlines for submittal to the HCCC Lead Entity grant round can be found on hccc.wa.gov and through the HCCC Lead Entity Program Coordinator.

³ Cramer, Michelle L. (managing editor) 2012. Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines. Co-published by the Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife, Natural Resources, Transportation and Ecology, Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, Puget Sound Partnership and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Olympia, Washington.



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Process for Request for Actions Not in Call for Projects

Should HCCC not receive sufficient process restoration based proposals to complete the top actions as identified in the *Table 1: 2019 Salmon Habitat Actions to guide project development and implementation*, HCCC will conduct a second call for projects.

Phased Projects

Projects which have been previously reviewed, Lead Entity approved, and previously funded utilizing a phased implementation approach will be considered for funding in 2019. However, projects addressing the habitat actions identified in the *Table 1: 2019 Salmon Habitat Actions to guide project development and implementation* will be given preference.