INCORPORATING RESULTS OF THE SALISH SEA MARINE SURVIVAL PROJECT INTO SALMON RECOVERY PLANS

The Salish Sea Marine Survival Project (SSMSP) is an initiative to determine the primary factors affecting the survival of juvenile Chinook, Coho, and steelhead in the marine waters of Puget Sound and Strait of Georgia. Long Live the Kings (LLTK) supported lead entities (and other relevant parties) to incorporate project results into their local salmon recovery plans. This new science will bring in new strategies and actions to expedite recovery.

WHAT WE’RE DOING

LLTK hosted geographically based (virtual) workshops to relay the findings of the project and provide guidance to assist in updating recovery strategies and actions. As a result, Lead Entities, Local Integrating Organizations, and other local stakeholders now have the information required to update their Chinook and steelhead recovery plans. We also created and will distribute a guidance document, outlining how to translate project findings into recovery strategies and actions.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

This effort provides critical guidance for salmon recovery in our region. If successful, this effort will ensure recovery is conducted in an ecosystem context, with priorities accounting for the implications of changes to salmon diversity and to food web interactions and addressing the impacts we humans have on these natural processes.

ABOUT LONG LIVE THE KINGS

Long Live the Kings has worked since 1986 to restore wild salmon and steelhead and support sustainable fishing. Our programs combine on-the-ground fieldwork with scientific innovation and broad partnerships to help decision-makers advance salmon recovery while balancing the needs of fish and people.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.marinesurvivalproject.org
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Project based on NTA 2018–0600

Chinook captured during research. Credit WDFW.
Project outcomes
The following project outcomes were achieved:

- A presentation to the Puget Sound Partnership’s Salmon Recovery Council, reaching approximately 44 members;

- Two geographically based (virtual) workshops focused on sharing the SSMSP findings and recommendations at the local and regional levels, reaching approximately 125 individuals; and

- A guidance document for Lead Entities, Local Integrating Organizations, Marine Resource Committees, and project sponsors to incorporate recommendations for marine survival into recovery plans and adaptive management processes.

Feedback and implementation
The geographically based (virtual) workshops received great feedback and participation from attendees. Breakout groups during the workshops were productive, and several watersheds noted they have already started incorporating recommendations into their salmon recovery strategies and plan updates.

Additionally, some Lead Entity Coordinators have already reached out for additional information for their technical committees prior to the release of the guidance document.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES
In early 2022, LLTK will distribute the guidance document to LEs, LIOs, MRCs, and other relevant partners to use as a tool for updating their recovery plans. The guidance document will also be made available on the project website.

Despite the SSMSP wrapping up, now is the time to implement the findings into management actions. LLTK recommends that critical research to address key questions about the impacts to salmon marine survival continues and supports testing management actions now in response to what we’ve learned to date.

LLTK and project partners have already started testing solutions to recover young salmon and their prey. We hope you will join us and support these efforts moving forward.