

**West Coast Salmon GSI Collaboration**  
**Portland, Oregon**  
**December 11 & 12, 2007**

*Meeting Overview, Vision & Goals, and Strategic Implementation*

**OVERVIEW**

Representatives from the California Salmon Council, the Oregon Salmon Commission, West Coast Genetics, Fisheries Managers, and Scientific Communities, and the NW Indian Fish Commission met for a two-day workshop and agreed to form a dynamic working partnership. A high priority of this meeting was to develop a vision for the collaboration, and strategies to achieve goals and objectives. We now have the core elements of a three year cooperative plan drafted although not complete. Operational aspects were discussed, and it was agreed that attendees of the meeting would provide oversight for the collaboration. Some of the technical aspects will be worked on by committees over the next few months and their recommendations will be presented to the oversight group.

The remainder of this document is divided in two sections, “West Coast Salmon GSI Collaboration Visions and Goals” and “Strategic Implementation”. This is all in draft form, listing basic agreements within the context of a working partnership and strategic planning, and does not list subjects in the order they were discussed at the meeting (see attached Agenda). Items requiring strategic actions are highlighted throughout the document as “**Action**”.

**I. WEST COAST SALMON GSI COLLABORATION VISION & GOALS**

Identifying a vision for the WCSC was a high priority of this meeting. The following draft vision statement was developed by identifying goals and objectives, narrowing what is and is not included as goals of the collaboration, and by identifying benefactors of the project. At this point the vision statement needs to be finalized. At the meeting it was suggested that the 2008 at-sea sampling committee rework the vision statement and present it to the WCSC oversight group at the next WCSC meeting in March.

**Action:** 2008 At-sea Sampling Committee re-work vision statement and present it at WCSC meeting in March

The draft vision statement (below) is followed by several other rough-draft versions, goals, objectives, what the Collaboration is about, who benefits, and how.

**Draft vision statement:**

*Establish a dynamic working partnership between fishermen, scientists and managers that will strengthen west coast salmon fisheries by improving management practices and economic opportunities through better understanding of stock specific ocean distribution and migration patterns of Chinook.*

V1: It’s our first chance to get fishermen, managers, and scientists working together for common goals to develop best data sets for improved management decisions and economic opportunities.

V2: Working together to provide a better understanding of the stock specific ocean distribution and migration patterns of Chinook salmon to better inform management and conservation for the benefit of the fish and fisheries.

V3: We saw it. We believe it. We'll do it.

V4. Improve our understanding of stock specific temporal and spatial patterns of distribution and abundance of salmon at sea.

### **Goals**

1. Integrate management strategies across multiple disciplines and geo-political boundaries
2. Improve the economic conditions of all those who benefit from the fish
3. Increase our understanding of where fish are and their distribution patterns
4. Improve understanding of the ocean ecology of adult salmon

### **Objectives**

1. Integrate genetics into operational models and apply to fisheries management
2. Record fishing effort for use in stock abundance estimates
3. To provide near real-time information that is valuable to all user-groups
4. Fishermen and managers work together to establish principles to collectively manage West Coast fisheries
5. Increase confidence in policy decision(s)
6. Genetic information is used for fish harvest management beyond the west coast
7. Ecosystem management is developed and defined and is relevant to the collaboration
8. Continue to improve the GAPS baseline so that genetic variation present in the system is reflected in the baseline
9. Establish trust among partners
10. Wild-caught salmon is still available and for sale

### **What we do**

1. Develop GSI for multiple uses
2. Gather and analyze oceanic samples of Chinook
3. Engage fishermen as partners, meaning involved in all levels (in multiple ways)
  - Advising
  - Using
  - Informing
  - Deciding
4. Aspire to use scientific research and its results in context

### **Who benefits**

1. Direct/Primary
  - Scientists
  - Managers
  - Fishermen
  - Conservation Concern Stocks (Fish)
2. Indirect/Secondary
  - General Public
  - Seafood Buyers
  - Green groups

## What are the benefits:

### Fishermen

1. ability to track fish and better understand their environment
2. new opportunities for using real-time information to make better management decisions
3. improves the health of the fishery
4. provides information that allows the fishermen to improve their economic position through increased efficiencies
5. opportunity for new marketing propositions
6. opportunity for telling our story of stewardship (P.R.)
7. track line information will lead to improved practices and better understanding of our impacts on the fishery

### Scientists/Researchers

1. share information with others to know how better to use/apply that information in new ways
2. improves management through new collaboration
3. able to study fish distribution at a spatial scale that is biologically meaningful
4. provides a whole new avenue of investigation
5. establishes trusts between managers, scientists and fishermen
6. increases our depth of understanding
7. presents a new way for multi-agencies and disciplines to share information, research and ideas that when joined together deliver stronger potential.
8. cuts across the geo-political boundaries
9. informs policy decisions

### Managers

1. more specific information on where stocks are encountered
2. better manage stocks
3. learn more about population boundaries, ecosystem processes, etc.

## II. STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION

### A. Operational Aspects: partnership, oversight, working groups (subcommittees) and coordination

Workshop participants agreed to form a working partnership for a West Coast Salmon GSI Collaboration (WCSC). Oversight of the collaboration would be provided by all present at the meeting. Other interested parties can join by request. See the accompanying flow-chart for visual representation of the coordinating group.

Several working groups (sub-committees) were charged with developing strategies to achieve goals and providing these recommendations to the central WCSC oversight group for approval (see attached Subcommittee organizational chart).

A need was identified to designate a central coordinator to coordinate a WCSC and be a point-person for a West coast project (0.5 FTE). Nancy and David will discuss this with PSMFC to determine if this position can be funded with disaster relief.

In the short-term, it was agreed that the California Salmon Project and Project CROOS would work together on a coordinated at-sea sampling project in 2008 using any funds available from disaster-relief and the S-K grant program. A *2008 at-sea sampling committee* was formed to discuss methodologies, data-sharing, and long-term goals for efficient data management. Methods proposed by the 2008 at-sea sampling committee will be reported back to the WCSC oversight group for comment and approval.

#### **2008 At-sea Sampling Committee**

(Disaster-relief and S-K funded CA/OR projects)

1. Oregon CROOS advisory committee, which includes Nancy Fitzpatrick, Jeff Feldner, Michael Banks, Renee Bellinger, Pete Lawson and Gil Sylvia
2. California CA GSI Project advisory committee, which includes David Goldenberg, Jim Anderson, Eric Chavez, Carlos Garza and Michael Mohr
3. Washington Paul Moran, NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center & Scott Blankenship, WDFW

### B. Technical Aspects of Strategic Planning

We now have the core elements of a three year cooperative plan drafted, although not complete. The next four sections of this document (Applications of GSI to Management, Communication, Methodologies, and Goals for Efficient Data Management) list technical aspects and committees that have been charged with fleshing out strategies for implementation, and highlights key action items.

The final section of this document lists information on funding strategies.

## 1. Application of GSI to Management

Applying GSI to fisheries management was recognized as an important component of the Collaborations' vision. The question "how to get this incorporated into management?" was raised by the group. An *Application of GSI to Management committee* was formed (some nominees not present, indicated by italics) to address some of the considerations listed below.

### Application of GSI to Management Committee

Michael Mohr, Pete Lawson, *Robert Kope*, Alan Grover, Eric Chavez, *Larry Lavoy*, *Jim Packer*, Ethan Clemons, Washington Tribal Rep

**Action:** Application to Fisheries Management Committee needs to meet prior to March meeting

### Considerations for Applications of GSI to Management

- In the context of federal management, i.e. PFMC
- Evolution and not revolution
- Multi-year time horizon
- Engage the PFMC members of the SST and SSC who formulate and validate the management advice
- Not replace the existing system based on CWT and assessment models, but enhance it
- Initially providing stock-distribution information for inclusion in assessment models
- Mohr, O'Farrell, Lawson and Kope are those who will incorporate into analytical phase
- Bring PFMC and various advisory bodies along to make them comfortable with the project and information generated and how to use it (presentations)
- Get PFMC staff to attend GSI meetings

## 2. Communication

Communication of results internally, to benefactors and to funding agencies was identified as a requisite for a successful collaboration. A *Communications Committee* was charged with developing methods and processes for distributing results and products.

### Communications Committee

Industry (Nancy and David), Scientists (Pete, Carlos), Management (Eric Chavez and Eric Schindler)

**Action:** Communications Committee needs to meet prior to March meeting to discuss strategies to communicate results and products to constituencies and agencies. A draft document should be complete for presentation at the March meeting.

### 3. Methodologies

Standardized sampling methodologies were identified as an important component of a West Coast Collaboration. At-sea sampling, associated fishing effort, and genetic stock identification were listed as key aspects of research essential to meet the Collaboration's vision and goals.

A committee, the "2008 at-sea sampling committee" was formed to discuss methods, data standardization, and data-sharing. Preliminary recommendations will be presented to the central WCSC oversight committee at the March meeting. Other groups involved in fisheries management, but not directly involved in the WCSC, will be contacted to discuss broad sampling and methodological issues.

#### 2008 At-sea Sampling Committee

(Disaster-relief and S-K funded CA/OR projects)

1. Oregon CROOS advisory committee, which includes Nancy Fitzpatrick, Jeff Feldner, Michael Banks, Renee Bellinger, Pete Lawson and Gil Sylvia
2. California CA GSI Project advisory committee, which includes David Goldenberg, Jim Anderson, Eric Chavez, Carlos Garza and Michael Mohr
3. Washington Paul Moran, NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center & Scott Blankenship, WDFW

**Action:** Carlos Garza will work with the 2008 at-sea sampling committee to schedule a call with Brody Cox to discuss appropriate formats for key data.

**Action:** 2008 At-sea Sampling Committee needs to set a date in mid to late February for a conference call to discuss sampling protocols, methodology, and possibly to refine vision statement.

A number of sampling issues and considerations were identified, as listed below. This will serve as framework for discussions by the 2008 at-sea sampling committee in discussions that will occur over the next few months. The below list was compiled and briefly discussed by the group.

#### Sampling issues and activities

1. Sampling considerations
  - a. Random
  - b. Sample size (age?)
  - c. Spatial scale
  - d. Temporal scale
  - e. Coast-wide
  - f. Closed areas, EFP?
  - g. At sea / dockside
  - h. Training / quality
2. Data
  - a. Tissue
  - b. Capture location and time
  - c. Total catch

- d. Fishing effort
    - GPS trackline
    - Hours fished, days fished
    - For Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE)
  - e. Size-limit
  - f. Scales
  - g. Coded-wire tags (CWTs)
  - h. Oceanographic
  - i. Parasites?
  - j. Otoliths?
3. Assessment / management
- a. Scales – accuracy
  - b. Genetic Stock Identification (GSI) – misclassification, “confidence”
  - c. Reporting groups vs. managed stocks
  - d. Management models
    - Validation of current models
    - Integration of GSI data
4. Spatial scale
- a. Tracklines (CA-WA)
    - a. Other science (GSI, scales, oceanography, CWT, others?)
    - b. GSI

Methods of genetic analyses were briefly discussed at this meeting. A *Genetics Committee* has been working together over the past year and will continue to work together to identify shared methods and differences. In the short-term, the CA Salmon GSI Project and Project CROOS are planning to submit a joint report for 2007 at-sea research. In the past, committee members have included:

#### **Genetics Committee**

Eric Anderson, Michael Banks, Renee Bellinger, Scott Blankenship, Denise Hawkins, Linda Park, Mike Ford, Carlos Garza, Paul Moran, David Teel, and Robin Waples and Ken Warheit

**Action:** The California GSI project, Project CROOS, and representatives from NOAA-NWFSC will submit a combined report summarizing 2007 at-sea research. This will serve to highlight shared methodologies and differences, and stimulate discussions on standardization of data analysis.

#### 4. Goals for efficient data management

Strategies for long-term data management were briefly discussed. The following lists considerations the group raised:

- Plan for eventual deposition of data in Coast-wide database being developed by Pacific Salmon Commission logistics group, but recognizing that they may not want all the types of data we are collecting therefore an internal shared database may also be required.
- Avoid interim set of standards that we will need to redo once PSC logistics group has made recommendations, however, recognizing that data collected in 2008 needs to be standardized
- 2008 at-sea sampling committee will address efficient data management

**Action:** **Carlos Garza** will contact Brody Cox and schedule a conference call to discuss appropriate formats for key data. 2008 at-sea sampling committee will be invited to this call.

**Action:** **2008 at-sea sampling committee** will discuss data standardization and data management

#### C. FUNDING

Strategies for long-term federal funding were discussed with Jennifer Wagner from Congresswoman Darlene Hooley's office. She recommended appropriations (earmarks) as the best-bet strategy and suggested that leveraging with non-federal funding sources would strengthen the proposal. In-kind contributions are considered match. Offices need to have proposal by late January 2008 for appropriations in the 2009 funding cycle. Jennifer will ask if an appropriations could go in the Farm Bill, since the Commodities Commissions are in the Department of Agriculture.

**Action:** **Gil Sylvia** will draft proposal for a 2009 earmark and submit to staffers for their review. Meeting with staffers is set for January 11, 2008.

##### Disaster funds

1.5 mil (CA) Industry and the CA Salmon Council will work together to develop and fund projects (disease research, GSI, etc.)

900k (OR) Oregon GSI research

##### Saltonstall-Kennedy

1 mil Was favorably reviewed in initial review process and has been sent to HQ.  
(*update: was included in FY 08 Omnibus Budget but has not been granted yet*)

##### Earmark for 2008 budget (Oregon)

\$500 k In Senate bill (*update: was included in FY 08 Omnibus Budget and funded at \$485*)

##### Earmark for 2009 budget

The group discussed submitting an earmark for around 6 million dollars.

Handouts at meeting (and links where available):

Agenda <http://projectcroos.com/west-coast-collaborative>

2007 Salmon GSI Proposal (EFP) <http://projectcroos.com/files/docts/gsi2007proposal.pdf>

Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Proposal (David Goldenberg et al.)

<http://projectcroos.com/files/docts/strategies-to-minimize-catch-of-klamath-river-chinook-salmon-narrative.pdf>

CA Chinook Stock Status (Michael Mohr)

WDFW GSI and Sample Collection Activities

Documents pertaining to the West Coast Collaboration (organizational charts, these notes, agenda from December 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> meeting) can be found at:

<http://projectcroos.com/west-coast-collaborative>

Submitted respectfully by Renee Bellinger