

Fish Tagging Forum

November 16, 2011

Note: Items added through group discussion at the meeting are in *Blue Italics*

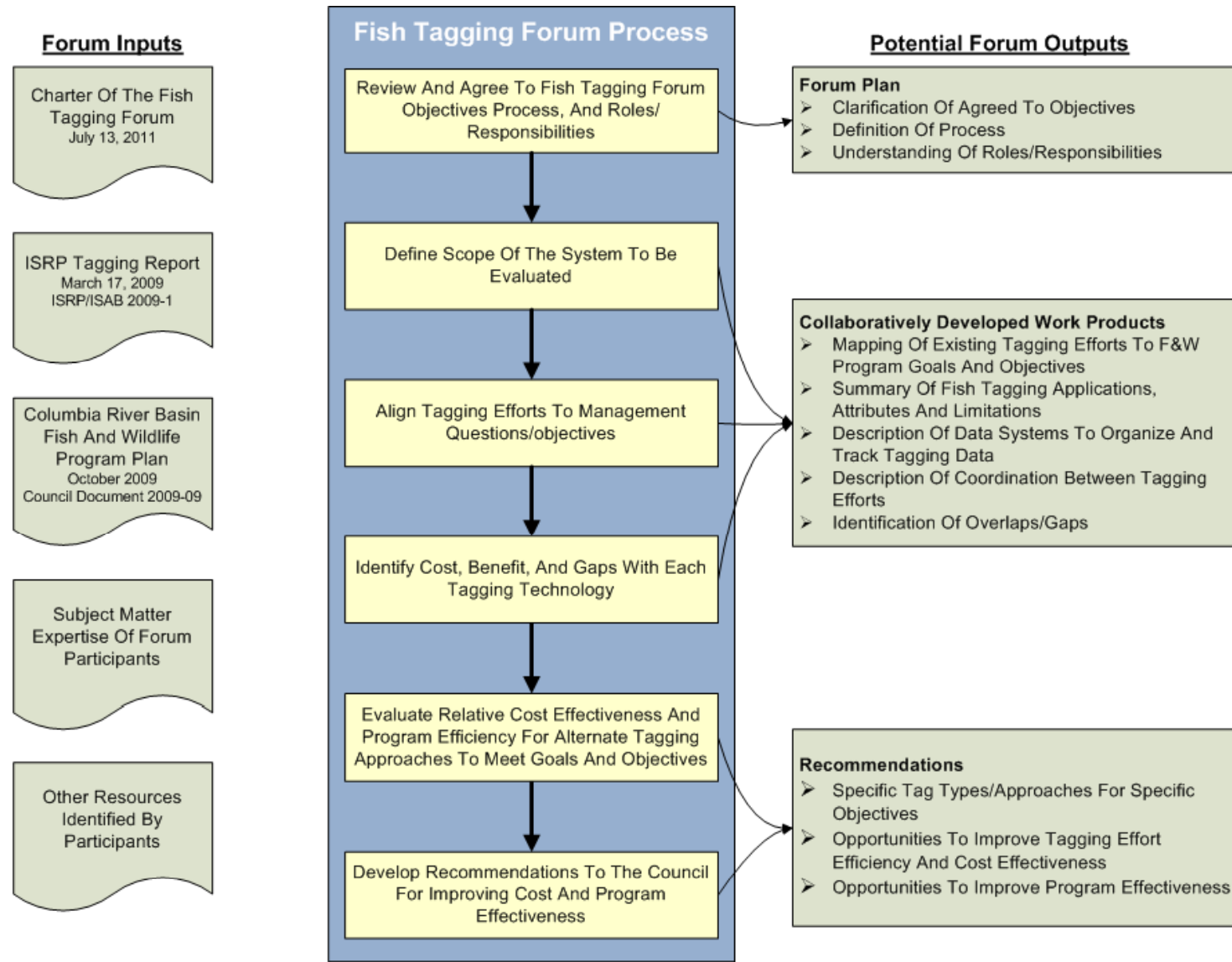
Ground Rules

- Follow the Rule of Reciprocity (i.e., Golden Rule)
- Treat all people and perspectives with respect
- Avoid “side-bar” conversations - limit disruptions by leaving the room for private conversations
- Let folks finish their statements
- Be patient with those who are asking clarifying questions
- Silence cellular phones

Participation

- Open to interested parties – varied input and perspectives are welcomed
- Meetings are intended to be working meetings where we collaboratively work to develop our outputs
- There may be “homework” between meetings
- We will be working towards developing recommendations to the Council so we will seek alignment/consensus

General Process



Forum Objectives

(as revised in meeting)

Objectives and Scope of Activity: The Fish Tagging Forum will advise the Council regarding the following issues. Activities of the Forum will include:

- A. Developing and recommending to the Council a commonly accepted description of fish tagging funded by Bonneville Power Administration, including what fish are tagged and released and recovered, in what numbers, where, and by what entity, and for what purposes. *Additionally, the forum participants will describe similar efforts in the Columbia Basin that are outside of the BPA funded programs including their connection to answering multiple management questions. The descriptions will include identification of the obligation or authority that drives the tagging effort.*
- B. Recommendations to the Council on ways to improve the cost effectiveness of fish tagging under the Fish and Wildlife Program.
- C. Recommendations to the Council on ways to improve the program effectiveness* of fish tagging to address key management questions under the Fish and Wildlife Program.
- D. *Recommend “fair share” allocation of responsibilities for funding fish tagging relative to each management question.*
- E. *Respond, as appropriate, to 2009 ISRP recommended actions.*

Related efforts to support the primary objectives above:

- 1. *Originally Objective (D):* Describe the various data systems used to organize and track tagging data including recovery information.
- 2. *Originally Objective (E):* Describe the degree of coordination within and among tagging efforts and recommend improvements in coordination within and among tagging efforts where efficiencies and cost effectiveness may be improved.
- 3. *Originally Objective (F):* What is the objective of each tagging effort and are the right tags being used, or proposed to be used, to accomplish that objective.
- 4. *Originally Objective (G):* Review issues related to fish tagging, such as the adequacy of geographic coverage, span of species diversity, *adverse biological impacts* or completeness of life cycle tracking. The forum could provide recommendations on cost efficient, technologically practical and acceptable changes to current tagging programs.
- 5. *NEW: Description of future considerations related to management questions and related fish tagging efforts.*

NOTE: “Tagging” includes: Tagging, Release, Recover, and Assessment – full life-cycle.

** considerations/attributes of “effectiveness” will need to be defined as part of the forum.*

Outcomes

- Common understanding and documentation of relationship between current tagging efforts and management questions
- Identification of opportunities to improve coordination, efficiency and cost-effectiveness
- Recommendations to the Council for improving cost and program effectiveness

Scope of the Evaluation

- Species
 - *spring/summer chinook, sockeye, fall chinook, steelhead, sturgeon, lamprey, coho, chum salmon, bull trout, cutthroat, red band, burbot, smelt,*
- Geography
 - *Columbia River Basin, Willamette River Basin, Pacific Ocean (includes Puget Sound) – not just BPA funded programs (PUDs, private utilities, Feds, States, Tribes, Counties?)*
 - *Varies by species and program*
- Technology (includes life-cycle activities and infrastructure)
 - Coded Wire Tags, PIT Tags, Radio Tags, Acoustic Telemetry, Data Storage (*Archival*) Tags, Genetic Markers, Otolith Marks, Natural Marks and Tags (Otoliths, Scales, and Parasites), *Visual Implant Elastomer Tags, Fin Clipping, chemical marks (oxytetracycline), balloon tags,*
 - *tags are recovered in the Columbia Basin from other programs (high seas, Deschutes (Floy tags)).*
- Timeframe
 - *Short (research) and long-term (status and trend)*
 - *Periodic and continuous*

Note: Participants indicated that this scope definition is very comprehensive and prioritization of discussions will be necessary to effectively work through the process.

Evaluation Framework

At the meeting a “top down” vs. “bottom up” approach was discussed. The path forward for December will be for the forum to discuss primary Drivers (e.g., FCRPS Biop, NW Power Act, etc) and associated Management Questions, followed by a “bottom up” discussion of Acoustic Tagging technologies.

