

EPS
D

REGIONAL PLANNING TEAM CHARTER
COMPREHENSIVE SALMON PLANNING
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

THE REGIONAL PLANNING TEAMS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE SALMON ENHANCEMENT EFFORT IN THE STATE OF ALASKA. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS CONSTITUTE THEIR MISSION, STATUS, AND OPERATIONS AND CONFIRM ROLES AND TASKS THAT, AS A MATTER OF PRACTICE, HAVE BECOME RECOGNIZED AS APPROPRIATE.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of a regional planning team (RPT) is to plan for the long-term future of the salmon resource within its region. The team's primary responsibility is to initiate and continue an orderly process that examines the full potential of the region's salmon production capacity.

LEGAL REFERENCE

Pursuant to AS 16.10.375-470, the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has designated salmon production regions throughout the state. In each such region, the Commissioner is responsible for the development and amendment, as necessary, of a comprehensive salmon production plan.

The RPT, which consists of representatives from ADF&G and the appropriate Regional Aquaculture Association, develops and amends the plan for the Commissioner. The team has ex-officio members as considered necessary by the individual RPTs. The RPT is ultimately responsible to the Commissioner. Any staff funded by the ADF&G to assist the RPT with planning may be administratively monitored by the association but will be supervised by the RPT in planning matters.

The RPT is the only statutorily-created planning group with legally-mandated ADF&G and private sector participation.

State statute defines certain duties of the RPTs. They are:

1. Plan development and amendment.
2. Review of private nonprofit (PNP) hatchery permit applications and recommendations to the Commissioner.
3. Review and comment on proposed permit suspensions or revocations by the Commissioner.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

The underlying premise of regional planning is to provide a means whereby private-sector user groups, represented through regional aquaculture associations, and the public sector, represented by ADF&G, may establish and maintain a cooperative, working relationship.

This relationship would facilitate and enforce the efforts being made in each region to contribute to the maintenance and enhancement of the salmon resource.

The major, initial role of the RPT is to develop a Comprehensive Salmon Plan. Comprehensive salmon planning has evolved since 1977 into three basic components: (1) Phase I Planning - a Comprehensive Plan; (2) Phase II Planning -- project specific planning; and (3) plan maintenance.

The RPT reviews PNP permit applications, as mandated by the statutes. The RPT review and comment on an application is based upon the objectives of the Comprehensive Plan. To conduct these reviews, the RPT must have current knowledge of private and public-sector proposals and operations. Public-sector hatcheries are to be included in the development of the Comprehensive Plan, pursuant to AS 16.10.375. The RPT reviews and comments on public-sector hatchery operations as well.

PLANNING, REVIEW, AND COMMENT PROCESS

Phase I Planning

The process begins with the development of a long-range Comprehensive Plan for salmon production in a region.

The Comprehensive Plan is a 20-year, strategic, regional plan that is generally consistent with the plan content outline that has been adopted by the Commissioner's Office. Since opportunity and need for salmon resource enhancement vary by region, variations within the outline categories may be necessary to address regional differences. While a 20-year time span was determined to be reasonable for long-term salmon development planning, amendments necessary to keep the plan current require shorter time frame planning. This is referred to as Phase II planning.

Phase II Planning

Phase II of the planning process occurs after the comprehensive plan is approved and addresses the plan's statutory update and amendment requirements. The Phase II plan develops detailed project descriptions and provides information for project implementation. The product of this effort may be a separate document or may be additional information or revisions incorporated into the comprehensive planning process through annual reports or plan updates.

Prior to Commissioner approval of the Comprehensive Plan, Phase II; Northern Southeast (NSPII) the future role of the RPT had not been defined. Chapter 9 of the NSPII addresses this matter:

"...since the beginning of the process, it has been recognized that the plan must not be considered fixed or static but, rather, constantly evolving; that, therefore, the RPT would have a continuing role in aquaculture planning. This continuing planning effort must relate actual events to the plan and make the plan responsive to new knowledge and ideas and changing conditions."

The Commissioner, in approving NSPII, sanctioned the process used to develop that document as a guide for the plan amendment process. Chapters 9 and 10 of the NSPII provide one format to accomplish the amendments and to respond to plan maintenance needs.

Plan Maintenance

The RPT will meet at least once a year to update the Comprehensive Plan. These updates may include identification of new projects, and assessment of progress of ongoing projects toward achievement of the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan. Some vehicles that provide the RPT with necessary information to accomplish the update include PNP Annual Reports and FRED and PNP Basic and Annual Management Plans.

Update of the annual report should be a process involving both the RPT and the implementing agencies. The RPT will seek the best biological advice available from those agencies and formulate recommendations. The updates will be submitted to the Commissioner as an annual report. The Commissioner or his representative will consider the report recommendations.

Review and Comment

To execute legally mandated review and comment responsibilities and to arrive at recommendations for permit approval, revocation, or suspension, the RPTs require criteria that can be applied equitably to all permit applications and ongoing operations. The Commissioner and the RPTs have arrived at a general consensus that the review, comment, and evaluation criteria, designated and elaborated on in Chapter 9, pp. 76-86, NSPII, will "...be consistent with the language and charge provided in AS 16.10.400 (a), (f), (g)..." and will serve as a model to conduct reviews and make recommendations. RPT participation will not be limited solely to these criteria.

BASIC OPERATIONAL DUTIES

The Regional Planning Team (RPT) will:

1. Develop a Comprehensive Salmon Plan for the region it represents and submit the draft document to the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) for review and approval.
2. Develop and submit for ADF&G Commissioner review and approval, a Phase II planning process or document to serve as a vehicle for the implementation and amendment of the Comprehensive Plan.
3. Establish and implement a maintenance program that is at least inclusive of items #6 through #14 below.
4. Review private nonprofit (PNP) hatchery permit applications and make recommendations to the Commissioner.
5. Review and comment to the Commissioner on PNP permit suspensions or revocations proposed by the Commissioner.
6. Review and comment on both PNP and ADF&G Annual Hatchery Management Plans, Annual Reports, and, at Commissioner's discretion, proposed permit alterations. This review could provide information for conducting performance analysis and evaluation for plan amendment purposes.
7. Apply regional criteria modeled in Chapter 9, pp. 76-86, Comprehensive Plan, Phase II, Northern Southeast Alaska to all review, comment, performance evaluation, and analysis activities.
8. Meet at least once annually, but as many times as necessary, to discuss:
 - A. Ongoing, enhancement and rehabilitation projects.
 - B. New projects being considered for implementation.
 - C. New opportunities which may be investigated as potential projects.
9. From the meeting or meetings addressed in paragraph #8, the RPT will prepare an annual report or plan update which will address the following items in relation to the Comprehensive Plan:
 - A. Summarize the basic conditions of the Comprehensive Plan.
 - B. Present events and trends of the immediate, past five years with comparisons and contrasts to basic conditions.
 - C. Present major events of the immediate past season with comparisons and contrasts to basic conditions.
 - D. Project events for the coming five years and relate them to immediate goals and objectives of the Plan.
 - E. Summarize conditions at the end of the year with reference to all goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan, current year's accomplishments, and relevant RPT commentary.

10. Provide the general public an opportunity to review and comment on current Phase II projects and to suggest new projects.
11. Consider and incorporate, where appropriate, the public comments on suggested revisions to the Phase I and Phase II Plans.
12. Annually transmit to the Commissioner the draft report, resulting from the above considerations, for review and approval.
13. Incorporate the Commissioner-approved annual report into the Phase II planning process.
14. Make periodic recommendations to the Commissioner concerning potential changes in the Charter and perform such other tasks as are deemed advisable and desirable by the Commissioner.

CONCLUSIONS

The RPT is the instrument of active cooperation between the regional aquaculture associations and the ADF&G and its various divisions. To accomplish that cooperation, regular exchange of information and discussion of objectives are necessary. A regular meeting schedule is important to maintain the relationship. The work of the RPT should support the best interest of the resource and be based on the best professional fisheries information. It should also recognize the interests of the salmon users. To this end, regular participation from the users should be solicited, and those groups should be advised concerning the decisions and recommendations of the RPT. This dialogue is a key element of the regional planning process.

THEREFORE, REGIONAL PLANNING TEAMS ARE, BY MEANS OF THIS DOCUMENT, CHARTERED TO PERFORM THE BASIC OPERATIONAL DUTIES WITHIN THE GENERAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK OUTLINED ABOVE AND TO REGULARLY REPORT THEIR PROGRESS TO THE COMMISSIONER OF THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME.

GLOSSARY

ADF&G -- Acronym for Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Annual Report -- Summary of results of plan update.

Commissioner -- Principal executive officer of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Commissioner approval -- Formal acceptance of a salmon development plan or other RPT products by the Commissioner.

Comprehensive Plan, Phase II, Northern Southeast Alaska -- Document produced by Northern Southeast Regional Planning Team and approved by the Commissioner on December 6, 1982.

Comprehensive Salmon Production Plan -- A statutory-mandated, strategic plan, spanning 20 years, for perpetuation and increase of salmon resources on a regional basis.

Criteria -- Accepted measures or rules for evaluation of program and project proposals and operations.

Five-year action plan -- The section of Phase II which recommends projects for implementation within the next five years (Chapter 10 of NSPII).

NSPII -- Acronym for Comprehensive Plan, Phase II, Northern Southeast Alaska.

PNP -- Acronym for private nonprofit.

Phase II Plan -- An analytical document or process that addresses salmon production development by geographic unit, project, and site and makes recommendations concerning both long and short-range opportunities (usually 20 and 5-year time frames).

Plan amendment -- Analyzing and evaluating a planning document with the option of changing the plan.

Plan content outline -- A document that defines topics and gives guidance and shape to comprehensive salmon plans.

Plan development -- Composing, drafting, revising, and finalizing a planning document.

Plan maintenance -- Process through which the RPT reviews and comments on existing plans to preserve, continue, and expedite planned salmon production.

Plan, The -- Comprehensive Salmon Plan.

Plan update -- The process and results of RPT review and changes of a plan document.

Private nonprofit -- Legal and/or operational status of a private sector organization without a profit motive.

Private nonprofit hatchery permit application -- A request presented by a private nonprofit corporation to the Department of Fish and Game for a permit to operate a private nonprofit hatchery.

Private sector -- That group active in salmon resource development which is not employed by government.

Production -- Perpetuation or increase of the salmon resource through maintenance, rehabilitation or enhancement programs and techniques. The Salmon Production Plan addresses stock perpetuation and increase through appropriate balance and integration of program and techniques.

Project -- A unit of work having a beginning, middle, and end that functions according to defined performance criteria.

Public sector -- That group active in salmon resource development that is employed by government.

RPT -- Acronym for Regional Planning Team.

Regional Aquaculture Association -- A statutory-based, nonprofit corporation comprised of representatives of fisheries user groups and organized for the purpose of producing salmon.

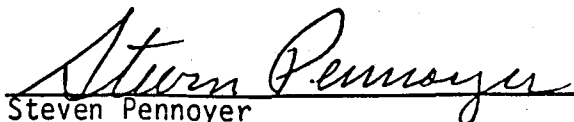
Regional Planning Team -- A statutory-mandated planning group, comprised of Department of Fish and Game staff and Regional Aquaculture Association representatives, designated to develop the Comprehensive Salmon Plan.

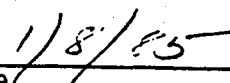
Review and comment process -- A collection of accepted procedures to solicit and generate examination and remarks.

Revised plan -- A document resulting from incorporation of Commissioner-approved material into a plan.

Uniform procedures -- Those practices that have been accepted by planning participants as appropriate for conducting or accomplishing a task.

APPROVE:


Steven Pennoyer
Deputy Commissioner


Date