

Integrating tools to manage steelhead fisheries

Thomas Buehrens, WDFW

Declining biological status and increasingly complex governance structures and social preferences have necessitated the development of new methods to manage steelhead fisheries. New management methods should be scientifically rigorous, transparent, inclusive, and collaborative, and must have the ability to quantify risks associated with tradeoffs of diverse objectives. To address these needs, we structured two sessions of talks on steelhead management at this year's PSMFC Steelhead Managers Meeting: the first covers the latest methods for assessing steelhead population dynamics and the second covers the evolving science around the tools used to implement fisheries, such as estimating catch, mortality and escapement. Finally, we provide an example from the Skagit River winter steelhead catch and release fishery, of one approach to integrating modern fishery management tools to enable integrated risk-based fishery management.