

Ocean Forum Report – possible draft outline *(draft Feb 27, 2015)*

(From the charter: Prepare a final report summarizing the recommendations and accomplishments of the forum. This report will be prepared by Council staff and provided to the Council)

Introduction

Overview of the importance of ocean, plume, estuary(OPE) in Columbia River basin
anadromous fishes status and management

Importance of ocean in the F&W Program

Overview of the Forum's role and objectives

Overview of key management and science issues

Overview of the report goals and objectives and why they are important

Brief description of what is known about the objectives(science)

Summary of recent efforts related to the Forum(Ocean plume workshop, forum and other efforts)

Overview of the goals and objectives for this report

Summary of report content and organization

How the report could be used in adaptive management decision making

Report Objectives

Determine what changes have occurred in the estuary, plume and near ocean ecosystem functions, processes and relationships?

Determine why or how have changes in estuary plume and near ocean ecosystem functions and process occurred (mechanisms of change)? (emphasis should be on human-induced changes and be specific about the mechanism)

Determine what has been the effect of changes in estuary, plume and near ocean ecosystem functions and processes? (Take a species-specific approach – should be salmon)

Determine what management actions can be taken to improve salmon survival and management effectiveness based on knowledge of estuary, plume and near ocean ecology and dynamics?

Determine critical uncertainties in our knowledge
Determine gaps in knowledge
Identify potential management actions and associated benefits and risks
Identify critical uncertainties in management actions, benefits and risks
Identify key information needs
Identify high priority future research and monitoring needs
Describe essential information sharing and coordination needs
Recommend a process for incorporation of report findings into management decision making

Approach

Description of how data and information were collected (lit review, Ocean Plume workshop etc.), analyzed and summarized for each report objective.

Findings

Narratives from the first four report objectives and subobjectives.

Narrative of gaps in knowledge and critical uncertainties

Description of potential management actions and benefits and risks

Summary of key information needs

Conclusions and Recommendations

Synthesis of the information from all objectives with focus on potential management actions, key information needs, future high priority ongoing and new research and monitoring, information sharing needs, coordination needs and processes for sharing information and getting report results into adaptive management decision processes