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May 3, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee members

FROM: Nancy Leonard and Tony Grover

SUBJECT: Discussion of 2nd NOAA Regional Partnership Workshop

BACKGROUND:

NOAA Fisheries convened a 'Columbia Basin Partnership Workshop' on February 7, 2016. While NOAA is assessing how Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) requirements might influence the process, they held the first gathering of the full Partnership as a workshop as opposed to a formal meeting. Since then NOAA convened a second workshop on May 4th. The purpose of the second workshop was to begin to share existing technical information for the purposes of getting all participants to a common level of basin understanding concerning Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead and their limiting factors

Presenter: Participating Council members, Nancy Leonard, Tony Grover

Summary: The second NOAA regional partnership workshop focused on the following topic areas concerning salmon and steelhead in the Columbia Basin:

- current status and trends
- tributary habitat
- ocean and estuary
- ecological Interactions

Relevance: Implements the Council's 2014 emerging priority 2, adaptive management, through setting program objectives for natural spawning salmon and steelhead.

Background: The purpose of the Columbia Basin Partnership (Partnership) is to lead a science-based, results-driven, transparent, and publicly-embraced effort to establish integrated goals for listed and non-listed Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead that optimally balance long-term conservation and harvest and integrate and support regional and local efforts.

NOAA Fisheries envisions this process to generate quantitative, adult return goals at the species, stock, major populations group, and population levels for both listed and unlisted stocks. The goals would address both conservation and harvest/fishing aspirations, hatchery mitigation goals and others. The process would also consider habitat capacity and climate change.

In addition to enhanced engagement and understanding among members, the outcome of shared goals will be a concise, common definition of success. Numerical adult return goals would allow a means to measure progress, and a clear way to maintain public support for regional efforts. Additionally, chances of achieving success will be enhanced through better coordination and effective use of resources.

While the Columbia Basin Partnership will not result in a regulatory decision or commit any party to a set of activities, it is NOAA's hope that the prospect of a common, long-term set of goals for salmon and steelhead would inspire the region's partners to integrate efforts and seek efficient ways to achieve common goals.

More Info: The agenda for the May 4th workshop is attached.

COLUMBIA BASIN PARTNERSHIP WORKSHOP
MAY 4, 2016; 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM
AMBRIDGE EVENT CENTER, BALLROOM
1333 NE MARTIN LUTHER KING JUNIOR BLVD.
PORTLAND, OR 97232

PROPOSED AGENDA

- 9:30 – 9:45 Coffee and Sign-In
- 9:45 – 10:00 Welcome, Opening Remarks, Introductions, Agenda, and Materials
- Welcome, opening remarks, and introductions – *Barry Thom, NOAA Fisheries*
 - Review proposed agenda, materials, and ground rules – *Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West (K&W)*
- 10:00 – 11:30 Current Status and Trends Information/Presentations
- Salmon and steelhead life cycle – *Kurt Fresh, Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC)*
 - ESA Listed Species:
 - Populations status from 2016 five-year status reviews – *Tom Cooney, NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region*
 - Threats status from 2016 five-year status reviews – *Scott Rumsey, NWFSC*
 - Non-listed fish – *Guy Norman, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)*
 - Clarifying questions/answers
- 11:30 – 12:15 Tributary Habitat Information/Presentations
- Common habitat impairments/limiting factors – *Rich Zabel, NWFSC*
 - Limiting factors and productivity/capacity/density dependence
 - Potential to improve limiting factors
 - Challenges (i.e. implementation obstacles, benefit quantification, and climate)
 - Clarifying questions/answers
- 12:15 – 1:15 *Break for lunch*
- 1:15 – 2:15 Ocean and Estuary Information/Presentations
- Use of estuary by ocean/stream type fish – *Kurt Fresh, NWFSC*
 - Habitat loss and estuary habitat improvements
 - Timing and location of Columbia River Basin salmon and steelhead in ocean
 - Decadal oscillation/El Nino
 - Ocean indicators and SARs
 - Climate
 - Clarifying questions/answers
- 2:15 – 2:30 *Break*
- 2:30 – 3:45 Ecological Interactions Information/Presentations
- Bird predation – *Mike Langeslay, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*
 - Fish predation and non-natives - *Dave Roberts, Bonneville Power Administration*
 - Pinnipeds - *Michelle Rub, NWFSC*
 - Clarifying questions/answers
- 3:45 – 4:00 Next Steps and Summary
- Review upcoming workshop

- Acknowledgements and summary

4:00

Adjourn