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May 9, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council members

FROM: Tony Grover

SUBJECT: Update on NOAA Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee, Columbia Basin Task Force, April meeting

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Staff and Council members

Summary: The Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force (CBPTF), a special task force organized under NOAA Fisheries' Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC), met for the second time April 18 and 19, 2017. The goal of the CBP Task Force is to make recommendations on common goals and helping to define a shared path to long-term salmon recovery.

The proposed outcomes of the April meeting were: finalize operating principles, review and refine a [work plan](#) or roadmap, continue discussions towards a shared vision and introduce the [pilot study](#) concept. The Task Force did finalize operating principles describing the purpose and procedures of the CBPTF. This is a significant accomplishment for such a diverse group, representing nearly all sectors of society with a stake in salmon and steelhead abundance in the Columbia Basin. The other three outcomes were successfully introduced, explored and are currently under discussion by the CBPTF members.

Relevance: The Council's 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program ([Page 31](#)) calls for a collaborative regional effort to survey, collect, identify, and refine a realistic set of quantitative objectives for program focal species, beginning with adult salmon and steelhead. The CBP Task Force has very similar goals using a similar process. On [February 3, 2015](#) the Council decided to merge the Council's objectives process with NOAA's regional assessment process, which has ultimately resulted in Council member and staff participation in the CBP Task Force. The Council's natural origin salmon and steelhead objectives mapping tool can be found [here](#).

Background (from in-meeting draft revisions to Operating Principles - MAFAC CBP Task Force):

NOAA Fisheries has Endangered Species Act (ESA), tribal trust, and sustainable fishing responsibilities that require integrating conservation and harvest needs. The discussions and products of the Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force (CBP Task Force) will help advise the Marine Federal Advisory Committee (MAFAC), and through MAFAC, NOAA Fisheries on ways to integrate those responsibilities. NOAA Fisheries anticipates that the work of the CBP Task Force, through MAFAC, will help inform decisions and consultations on viable ways to recover listed species while meeting NOAA's tribal trust and sustainable fishing mandates and ensuring an opportunity to consider regional views.

Purpose

The purpose of the CBP Task Force, as tasked by MAFAC, is to provide for a science-based, results-driven, transparent, and publicly embraced process to recommend broad-sense recovery goals for Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead, listed and non-listed, that incorporate long term conservation and provide harvest/fishing opportunities, while also satisfying tribal treaty / trust responsibilities. This task is a living marine resource matter that is a responsibility of the Department of Commerce, and falls within the scope of MAFAC per its charter.

Scope

- All listed and non-listed salmon and steelhead in the Columbia Basin, including some extirpated populations, above and below Bonneville Dam; and including the upper, middle, and lower basins, and the estuary.
- Ocean, main stem, and tributary fisheries that harvest Columbia Basin stocks, including commercial, recreational, and tribal fisheries.
- Multiple geographic scales (Basin-wide, sub-basin, evolutionarily significant unit (ESU), and major populations groups (MPG)).
- Multiple temporal scales (e.g. 100-, 50- or 25-year goals).
- All impacts across salmon and steelhead life-cycle (e.g. habitat (main stem, tributary, estuary, and ocean), harvest, hatchery, and hydro).
- Ecological functions, conditions and current and future habitat capacity.

Products

MAFAC has tasked the CBP Task Force to provide advice and recommendations for quantitative goals for salmon and steelhead at the Evolutionary Significant Unit, stock, and major population group (MPG) levels for Pacific salmon and steelhead in the Columbia Basin. The CBP Task Force will consider the best available science, habitat capacity, climate change, impacts to resident fish and other species, and other ecosystem conditions. The Task Force will also consider restoration potential of the currently blocked historical salmon and steelhead habitat.

In addition to enhanced engagement and understanding among CBP Task Force members, the outcome of its advice may be a concise, common definition of success. Numerical adult return goals may allow a means to measure progress and a clear way to maintain public support for regional recovery efforts and investments. Additionally, chances of achieving broad-sense salmon recovery maybe enhanced through better coordination and effective use of resources.

The recommendations of the CBP Task Force will not obligate any CBP Task Force member to undertake certain activities or diminish treaty/trust responsibilities.

Teams

NOAA has formed a Working Team and a Coordinating Team to work on issues, agendas and to help review or develop products for the task force to consider at full CBPTF meetings. These teams are comprised of task force member volunteers or their technical support staff.

Future meetings:

- June 27-28, 2017 - Wenatchee
- September 26-27, 2017 - Boise
- December 5-6, 2017 - Spokane
- February, 2018 - Astoria ?
- May, 2018 - Pendleton ?
- August, 2018 - Portland

More Info: [Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force website](#)