

James Yost
Chair
Idaho

W. Bill Booth
Idaho

Guy Norman
Washington

Tom Karier
Washington



Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Jennifer Anders
Vice Chair
Montana

Tim Baker
Montana

Ted Ferrioli
Oregon

Richard Devlin
Oregon

September 5, 2018

DECISION MEMORANDUM

TO: Council members

FROM: Tony Grover, Director, Fish and Wildlife Division
Dr. Nancy Leonard, fish, wildlife and ecosystem M&E report manager

SUBJECT: Council decision on Council staff comments to NOAA fisheries on the provisional goals developed by the Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force.

PROPOSED ACTION: Authorize transmittal of staff letter to NOAA Fisheries.

SIGNIFICANCE: NOAA Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee's Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force has developed provisional quantitative and qualitative goals for salmon and steelhead and proposed the next steps in the process. At the August meeting of the Council NOAA Fisheries and the Task Force members requested comments on the provisional goals and next steps.

BACKGROUND

The Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force (CBPTF), a special task force organized under NOAA Fisheries' Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC), will be making recommendations on common goals and helping to define a shared path to long-term salmon recovery. The CBP Task Force will recommend a shared vision for Columbia Basin salmon and quantitative goals to meet conservation needs and provide harvest opportunities.

Protecting, restoring, and effectively managing our salmon and steelhead is one of the Northwest region's greatest responsibilities and is one of the greatest challenges. The

challenge is so great, it warrants a comprehensive and integrated approach to crafting common goals for both listed and non-listed Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead. To this end, the CBPTF engages a broad range of stakeholders and regional experts as CBPTF members, as well as through its public outreach process during the summer of 2018, to inform the development of its recommendations to MAFAC.

ANALYSIS

The attached staff comment letter distills discussions among Council members and staff that have occurred over the last couple of months.

The CBPTF provisional quantitative and qualitative goals are deeply rooted in work long supported by Council processes and products such as the 1987 loss assessments and the 2004 subbasin plans that, in turn, led to recovery plans, which are the source of many of the quantitative goals. The CBPTF has and will continue to consider work by the ISAB conducted on behalf of the Council such as the Density Dependence report, the Food Web Report and other Council sponsored scientific products.

Task Force members have worked to ensure the provisional goals build on past efforts and are informed by locally developed state and tribal salmon and steelhead goals and objectives throughout the Columbia basin. The CBPTF will meet again in early October to consider comments and question from a wide range of stakeholders, tribes, states and others in the Columbia River Basin.

It is likely the provisional goals will be recommended to the Council for inclusion into the upcoming amendment to the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

ATTACHMENTS

- Letter from Council staff to NOAA Regional Administrator Barry Thom
- Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force [webpage](#).

James Yost
Chair
Idaho

W. Bill Booth
Idaho

Guy Norman
Washington

Tom Karier
Washington



Northwest **Power** and **Conservation** Council

Jennifer Anders
Vice Chair
Montana

Tim Baker
Montana

Ted Ferrioli
Oregon

Richard Devlin
Oregon

September 12, 2018

Barry Thom
Regional Administrator
NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region
1201 Northeast Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Mr. Thom

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council received a briefing in August by Katherine Cheney and others on the NOAA Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee's Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force (partnership) provisional products and next steps. Ms. Cheney and the task force members requested comments on the provisional goals and next steps.

Based on the presentation and discussions since, the Council staff offers the following comments and suggestions for consideration by the partnership as it completes Phase 1 and begins Phase 2 of its' work.

Considerations for the phase 1 provisional goals:

- We encourage the partnership to continue to engage a wide range of stakeholders.
- The partnership should ensure the goals remain integrated with tribal, state and federal, recovery plan and broad sense recovery goals.
- The Partnership should consider adding milestones or check-ins within the first 25-yr time period to both ensure and communicate progress in smaller time periods and keep people engaged.
- The partnership should consider using a 25-year average abundance as well as a 10-year average abundance to provide perspective on bad and good years related to ocean conditions.

- The Partnership should clarify that the natural production numerical abundance goals represent a 10-year average and will experience year to year variations in returns.
- The partnership should clarify that the low range of goals (delisting) may be surpassed for some stocks and watersheds.
- Do the Partnership's hatchery goals include all programs that are currently producing salmon and steelhead as well as programs expected to be added in the future?
- How does the level of hatchery production represented in the Partnership's goals compare with the historical hatchery production in the basin?

Considerations for Phase 2 efforts

- The Partnership must determine what changes in habitat carrying capacity would be required to achieve the 25-year goals given existing and future constraints (climate change, toxins, etc.) in the Basin that may limit carrying capacity.
- The Partnership should incorporate future ocean effects and likely changes in freshwater runoff timing and temperature on survival and abundance.
- The Independent Scientific Advisory Board should review the outcome of Phase 2.

I encourage the partnership to discuss how to package the provisional goals or substantial conclusions reached in Phase 1 as recommendations to the Council for consideration during the upcoming amendment to the 2014 Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. The due date for recommendations is December 13, 2018.

Thank you for considering these comments. I hope you find them helpful as the partnership continues its' important work.

Sincerely

Tony Grover
Director, Fish and Wildlife Division