Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Sub-Committee: Joint State Columbia River Fishery Policy Discussions

CPB quantitative goals VS Smolt to Adult Survival Rates (SARs)

Tucker Jones

CBP Goals Revisited

Columbia River Run Total @ High Goals

8.0 million

Includes spawners, hatchery returns, and harvest

Numbers in millions
CBP Goals Revisited – Snake River sp/su Chinook

Spring Chinook Status - Revisited

Wild Snake River Spring/Summer Chinook at Lower Granite Dam

2021 Forecast: 8,150
SARs revisited

• Recall that population growth rates, aka productivity, are an important measure of performance of fish populations. They let us know if, in response to external factors, the population is increasing or decreasing. An effect that can be masked if the focus is purely on abundance.

• Smolt-to-Adult Return rates (SARs) are an easily understood indicator of productivity, determined by the number of returning adults per 100 juveniles, e.g. if 2 adults return from 100 smolts you have a SAR of 2%

• The NW Power and Conservation Council has long had established goals of 2-6% with an average of 4% (SARs > 4% = sustained population growth; SARs 2-4% = mixed population response; SARs < 2% = sustained population decline)

• Are Council productivity goals compatible with the abundance goals in the partnership?
Current Snake River Spring Chinook SARs

10-year average SAR = 0.65%
Addressing the Gap: Columbia Basin Collaborative

A regional approach to achieving the Columbia Basin Partnership goals

- Sovereigns and other Regional Entities
- Project Team
- Integration/Recommendations Group
- Topic Specific Work Groups

Draft as of 5/17/21

*Soliciting input from Sovereigns & Stakeholders
Projected SARs for Snake River Spring Chinook

Snake River yearling Chinook

Questions?
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Vision of Oregon, Washington, Montana and Idaho Organizational Workshop February 2021

Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force

Path forward: Create inclusive collaboration to develop actions to reach goals

• Call to action to address fish declines urgently; embracing a salmon ethic, strong leadership and collaboration
• Address complex social/cultural/economic/ecological factors necessary for bold actions
• Integrate strategies and actions across management entities
• Key message: Science plus accountability delivers healthy ecosystem and vibrant quality of life
Four State Agreement

- Signed by WA, OR, ID, MT governors October 2020
- Acknowledges roles of Tribes, Stakeholders, and Federal Government
- Advances the CBP (Columbia Basin Partnership) qualitative and quantitative goals
- Commitment to establish a collaborative framework to advance goals
  - Holistic regional context to explore short and long-term opportunities
  - Broad-based participation
  - Accountable, transparent, science-based
  - Uphold tribal rights
  - Support fisheries and river-dependent economies
  - Support state clean energy goals and an efficient, reliable and affordable energy system

Letters to Governors

June 23, 2020: Letter from a group of utilities, ports and NGOs encouraging state leadership to:
- Support development of comprehensive solution that recovers salmon and moves everyone forward together;
- Maintain their commitment to a collaborative process;
- Support dialogue among key stakeholders;
- Identify ways state government can help address problems and obstacles; and
- Encourage the support and engagement of congressional delegation.

Fall 2020 letters
- October 26, 2020: Letter from 28 environmental and fishery NGOs
- December 17, 2020: Letter from 18 environmental, fishery and clean energy NGOs
- December 23, 2020: Letter from 10 Northwest Utility General Managers
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Guiding Principles

Regional Scope
- Focused on outcomes
- Nimble and opportunistic
- Effective
- Inclusive
- Knowledgeable
- Timely

A regional approach to achieving the Columbia Basin Partnership goals

Sovereigns and other Regional Entities
Role: Review recommendations and make independent decisions to implement/support actions

Project Team
Role: scope, agenda assignments, process coordination

Integration/Recommendations Group
Role: Assess feasibility and develop recommendations for implementation; strives for consensus

Recommendations and feasibility assessments

Proposals to Congress

Consideration/Implementation by regional forums and processes – state, federal, tribal, international

Implementation by regional sovereigns: federal, state, tribal

Regional and Sector Caucuses
Members in the Integration Table will coordinate with respective caucuses for input and alignment.

Subject Specific Input from Regional Forums

Topic Specific Work Groups
Role: provides scientific, technical and other analyses per assignment from Integration/Recommendations Group

(1) Proposed biological-based priority actions for further focus and (2) draft feasibility assessments and recommendations on implementation paths.

Suggested Membership*
States (Gov. Office Staff/Expert agency staff), federal agencies, Columbia Basin Tribes, Environmental NGOs, Utilities, River Economies, and Fisheries

Suggested Expertise Membership*
- Fisheries
- Agricultural
- Transportation Infrastructure
- Recreation
- Energy
- Environmental
- Tribal Cultural
- Blocked Areas
- Habitat
- State Agencies
- Federal Agencies
- Tribal Government

*Seeking Input from Sovereigns & Stakeholders

Draft as of 5/17/21
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Moving Forward

The States of Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Montana, through their ad hoc convening group and in collaboration with federal, tribal and stakeholder partners, will:

- Establish Work Group and I/RG (i.e., Plenary) membership;
- Develop options for CBC funding;
- Draft CBC Charter;
- Stand up CBC by early fall 2021.
A Vision for Salmon and Steelhead: Goals to Restore Thriving Salmon and Steelhead to the Columbia River Basin

Phase 2 Report of the Columbia River Partnership Task Force of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee

CLICK HERE for the Executive Summary of the report (pdf, 8 pages)
CLICK HERE for the full report and Appendix A and B (pdf, 319 pages)
CLICK HERE for Appendix C (pdf, 87 pages)
CLICK HERE for Appendix D (pdf, 29 pages)
CLICK HERE for Letters of Support (pdf, 16 pages)