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February 3, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council members

FROM: Tony Grover

SUBJECT: Update on the NOAA Regional Assessment process and coordination with Council Objectives process

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Barry Thom, NOAA Deputy West Coast Regional Administrator

Summary Mr. Thom will talk about the status of the NOAA regional assessment process and opportunities to coordinate with the Council objectives identification process called for in the 2014 Fish and Wildlife program.

Relevance Part Three.III.A.1 of the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program proposes how the Council will collaborate with the region to compile and refine the program goals and quantitative objectives.

Workplan: The collaborative objectives refinement process is a high priority in the Council's strategic work plan

Background: to be provided by Mr. Thom

More Info: See the Fish and Wildlife Committee agenda topic for this Council meeting titled: "Proposed workplan and schedule for adult salmon and steelhead objectives."



NOAA
FISHERIES

Conceptual Approach for Developing Columbia Basin Salmon and Steelhead Goals February 10, 2015

Background

- NOAA Fisheries' Situation Assessment, completed in 2013, confirmed support for establishing regional, long-term goals.
- NOAA Fisheries, along with other fish and wildlife managers, recommended a basinwide goals & objectives process to the NPCC.
- To be successful, it is clear that both NOAA Fisheries and the NPCC need to engage deliberatively with the region to move forward collaboratively.
- Today, I would like to outline NOAA Fisheries' views as they reflect the regional discussions we've had to date and talk about next steps.

Purpose

Establish long-term, goals for Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead that optimally balance long-term conservation and fishing.

Scope

- All ESA-listed and non-listed salmon and steelhead in the Columbia Basin, above and below Bonneville dam;
- Ocean, mainstem, and tributary fisheries that harvest Columbia Basin stocks – commercial, recreational, and tribal;
- Multiple geographic scales (basinwide, ESU, and MPG);
- All impacts across salmon and steelhead life-cycle (e.g., habitat, hydro, hatcheries & harvest); and
- Consideration of ecological conditions, and current and future habitat capacity

Principles:

- Meet ESA requirements
- Meet tribal treaty/trust obligations
- Science based
- Inclusive process - sovereigns and stakeholders

Approach to Columbia Basin Salmon Goals



Current Conditions

- Natural escapement
- Habitat capacity
- Hatchery production
- Harvest

Existing Goals, including

- ESA recovery plans
- NPCC sub-basin plans
- Tribal plans
- State plans
- Mitigation agreements

Hatchery Production

- Harvest
- Broodstock
- Natural spawning

Natural Production

- Harvest
- Hatchery broodstock
- Spawning

Discussion

- Alignment of existing goals
- Common needs/objectives
- Need to identify process/forums for these discussions

Natural Production

- Natural escapement
- Harvest
- Hatchery broodstock

Hatchery Production

- Harvest
- Broodstock
- Natural escapement

Iterative discussions with stakeholders about how to reach long-term goals (need to identify process / forums for these discussions)



Approach to Columbia Basin Salmon Goals

STEP: 1

Identify/map existing ESUs/DPSs of listed and non-listed salmon & steelhead and collect existing information at population scale

Current Conditions

- Natural escapement
- Habitat capacity
- Hatchery production
- Harvest

Existing Goals, including

- ESA recovery plans
- NPCC sub-basin plans
- Tribal plans
- State plans
- Mitigation agreements

Hatchery Production

- Harvest
- Broodstock
- Natural spawning

Natural Production

- Harvest
- Hatchery broodstock
- Spawning





Approach to Columbia Basin Salmon Goals

STEP: 2

Discuss existing goals with stakeholders
(regional/local scales)

Discussion

- Alignment of existing goals
- Common needs/objectives
- Need to identify process/forums for these discussions



Approach to Columbia Basin Salmon Goals

STEP: 3 Seek common long-term goals

Natural Production

- Natural escapement
- Harvest
- Hatchery broodstock

Hatchery Production

- Harvest
- Broodstock
- Natural escapement





Approach to Columbia Basin Salmon Goals

STEP: 4

Discuss strategies for meeting common long-term goals (regional/local scales)

Iterative discussions with stakeholders about how to reach long-term goals (need to identify process/forums for these discussions)



Benefits of Shared Regional Goals

- Opportunity to increase abundance, distribution, and diversity of salmon and steelhead basin-wide
- Goals more likely to be achieved as a result of working together on coordinated strategies
- Opportunity to address ESA, state, and tribal treaty/trust goals
- Long-term goals provide framework for shorter-term actions
- Clear goals encourage wise investments in high value projects and promote certainty regarding costs
- Long-term planning helps to prepare for emerging threats, such as climate change
- Long-term planning helps to protect stronger populations and functioning habitats

Process & Next Steps

- NOAA Fisheries has started collecting information for all listed species of salmon and steelhead, including current conditions, existing goals from various plans, hatchery and natural production.
- Proposal for next collaborative steps:
 - Jointly, with others, develop a charter to describe purpose and outcomes, and to establish a steering committee (early Spring).
 - Set up a steering committee to further develop the process (Spring).
 - While developing charter and steering committee, continue to gather existing information so that work can begin promptly.