



DATE: July 8, 2002
 TO: Anadromous Fish Committee (AFC)
 FROM: John Palensky, Vice-chair  for
 SUBJECT: Revised DRAFT Action Notes for the June 20, 2002 AFC Meeting

If there are no objections within five days, these actions will be considered final.

**Anadromous Fish Committee Meeting
 June 20, 2002
 Riggins, Idaho**

Revised Draft Action Notes

- Attendees:** John Palensky (NMFS, vice-chair), Pete Hassemer (IDFG), David Johnson (WDFW), Dave Statler (NPT), and Tom Iverson (CBFWA)
- By Phone:** Gary James (CTUIR, chair), Doug Taki (SBT), Bob Foster (NMFS), Ron Boyce (ODFW), Chris Fisher (CCT), Carter Stein (PSMFC), Dave Fast and Bill Fiander (YN), Dan Warren (NWPPC consultant), and Neil Ward (CBFWA)
- Time Allocation:**
- | | |
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| Objective 1. FY 2003 Renewal Process | -0% |
| Objective 2. Rolling Province Review and Subbasin Summaries | -0% |
| Objective 3. FY 2002 Adjustments | 100% |
- ITEM 1: Review and Approve Agenda**
- The NWPPC has requested that CBFWA comment on the ISRP review of the Echo Meadow Project. The request was handed out at the meeting and added to the agenda. Also, two requests were made to discuss specific projects at certain times today to facilitate project sponsor schedules.
- ACTION:** The agenda was approved as written with the addition of Echo Meadows and some scheduling adjustments were made for project sponsors.

ITEM 2: Within Year Budget Modification Process - Criteria

The sub-committee for developing uniform criteria for the within-year budget modification process has developed a draft document “Guide to Within-year Modification Requests”. The document was provided to AFC prior to the meeting for comment.

The AFC had significant discussion regarding the within year process. The main missing component in the document is a process for dealing with exceptions to the Quarterly Review Schedule. First, the within year process schedule should be revised to be completed within each quarter. As the schedule currently stands, the decision from one quarter will not be made prior to initiating the process for the following quarter. This will make it impossible to determine the available funds in the placeholders for the successive quarter. Second, an exception needs to be defined for projects that need a decision prior to the scheduled quarterly review schedule. A committee could be used (i.e., the Executive Director of CBFWA, the Director of Fish and Wildlife Division at NWPPC, and Deputy Manager of the Fish and Wildlife Division at BPA) to determine whether an individual project review and decision should be moved ahead of the next scheduled Quarterly Review decision date. A consensus by these three individuals would identify an exception to the process and allow a project to proceed on an accelerated schedule. Several additional specific comments were provided to the subcommittee.

Ron B. also suggested some definitions for project requests that would help the AFC manage their review of projects. Projects would be assigned to 1 of the following 4 categories: 1) Unanticipated need for change in scope of ongoing tasks and urgent, 2) Unanticipated NEW needs out of sequence with the rolling review and urgent, 3) Request initially approved by NWPPC and CBFWA but not funded by BPA (i.e., new project from rolling review process or anticipated expansion of ongoing work), 4) Unanticipated need but not urgent. Gary J. suggested adding on additional category: 5) Exceptions to the previous categories (i.e., anticipated urgent need supported by CBFWA and ISRP but not funded by BPA or NWPPC). Assigning requests to one of these categories will assist in framing the AFC review during the within year process.

ACTION: The AFC requested that the comments on schedule and exceptions to the within year process be forwarded to the subcommittee for inclusion in the document.

ITEM 3: Review Request for Funding for Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans

The NWPPC staff has requested a within-year budget modification for Project Number 200204700, *Artificial Production Review and Evaluation*. This project funds the Artificial Production Review Evaluation (APRE) currently being executed by the NWPPC. The request is for \$462,000 to complete draft Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans (HGMP’s) for all

anadromous artificial production programs in the Columbia River Basin. Within this project an effort is being undertaken to consolidate the NWPPC and NMFS processes for reviewing hatcheries. The 2000 FCRPS Biological Opinion RPA 169 calls for approved HGMP's by the Fall of 2003. This proposal is for the data collection phase to develop draft HGMP's by the Fall of 2002. These draft documents will feed into the APRE, NWPPC Subbasin Planning and NMFS Technical Recovery Team efforts, which will result in regionally coordinated HGMP's by the Fall of 2003.

ACTION: The AFC conditionally approved the request for \$462,000 for modification to Project Number 200204700, *Artificial Production Review and Evaluation*, to complete draft Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans for all anadromous artificial production programs in the Columbia River Basin. This approval is contingent on the identification of available funds in the unallocated placeholder that incorporate and accommodate projected capital investments for all ongoing projects.

ITEM 4: Within-Year Budget Modification Request: PTAGIS

The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) is requesting \$812,475 for Project Number 199008000, *PIT Tag Information System (PTAGIS)*. The growth in number of interrogation sites, number of coils, and types of interrogation data is stressing the core infrastructure of the PTAGIS project. Several funding decisions with other projects in the Fish and Wildlife Program have directly impacted these factors. There are four specific areas that need addressing within PTAGIS in order to maintain their infrastructure: 1) upgrade systems hardware and software, 2) hire software developers to support separation by codes, 3) hire a field technician to provide support for O&M of interrogation sites, and 4) hire consulting services to implement internet based services to answer data requests. With these upgrades in their 2002 contract, PTAGIS can continue to provide the level of support that is expected from the Region for PIT tag services and can prepare for future additions to the PTAGIS resulting from expansion of smolt interrogation sites and the addition of adult interrogation sites coming online in the near future.

The annual contract origination date for this project is March 1. The outyear impacts from this request will be reviewed in the Mainstem and Systemwide Province rolling review. This request has not been reviewed by the Fish Passage Advisory Committee (FPAC). The AFC approved the funding for this project, although they would like FPAC to perform a more thorough technical review of this request prior to funding.

ACTION: The AFC conditionally approved the request for \$812,475 for Project Number 199008000, *PIT Tag Information System (PTAGIS)* to upgrade their infrastructure and continue their PIT tag information support for the Region. This approval is contingent on the identification of available funds in the unallocated placeholder that incorporate and accommodate projected

capital investments for all ongoing projects. The AFC also requests that FPAC provide a technical review of the request prior to the next MMG meeting on July 11, 2002.

ITEM 5: Within-Year Budget Modification Request: Birch Creek Passage Project

ODFW is requesting \$300,000 each year for 2003 and 2004 for Project Number 26031, *Improve Upstream Fish Passage in the Birch Creek Watershed*. This project was an Action Plan project that the ISRP deferred to the Columbia Plateau Province for review. The CBFWA rating was High Priority and the final ISRP rating was Fundable. This project was included in the final recommendation for funding by the NWPPC in the Action Plan category. This project was also submitted in the Columbia Plateau Province as Project Number 25081 where it again received a High Priority ranking from CBFWA and a Fundable rating from the ISRP.

The Action Plan category for funding was created due to lack of spill in 2001 and the resulting potential harm to fish. The funds were provided outside the Fish and Wildlife Program from BPA. According to BPA's records, very few projects have actually been funded out of this placeholder. Since this project provides immediate benefits to fish, the AFC strongly supports funding this request out of the Action Plan category. If insufficient Action Plan funding exists, the Unallocated Budget Placeholder could be used to fund the balance of this request. The AFC urges at a minimum that the 2003 funding be provide by the Action Plan category.

ACTION: The AFC conditionally approved the request for \$300,000 for 2003 and \$300,000 for 2004 for Project Number 26031, *Improve Upstream Fish Passage in the Birch Creek Watershed*. Funding for this project should be provided from the Action Plan category of funding. If insufficient funding exists in the Action Plan category, the balance of funding should be provided from the unallocated placeholder. This approval is contingent on the identification of available funds in the unallocated placeholder that incorporate and accommodate projected capital investments for all ongoing projects.

ITEM 6: Within-Year Budget Modification Request: Schlee Ranch Acquisition

WDFW is requesting \$3.4 million for Project Number 27025, *Acquire South Fork Asotin Creek Property*. This project can be separated into two components: Mainstem Riparian/Buffers for \$2.3 million and Upland Habitats for \$1.1 million. This project was proposed in the Blue Mountain Province and received a CBFWA High Priority ranking and an ISRP fundable rating. This project was not recommended by the NWPPC in the final funding decision in the Blue Mountain Province.

BPA has stated that they do not support funding the Upland Habitats portion of the project since there are no remaining wildlife credits available

for this project. BPA is interested in the Mainstem Riparian/Buffers portion of the project for ESA protection credits and that is why the AFC is being asked to review this project.

The AFC had significant discussion regarding this project. There apparently are some outstanding funding issues in the Blue Mountain Province in regards to capital projects and outyear needs (i.e., Northeast Oregon Hatchery). Also, several of the habitat projects in the Blue Mountain have been questioned by BPA. With six provinces remaining in the rolling review process, this may not be the time to enhance the budget in the Blue Mountain Province.

This request raised some fundamental policy issues that need to be addressed at MMG. This is a substantial budget request that could impact the unallocated placeholder in a regional way. This project was not supported by NWPPC in the Blue Mountain Province. Funding this request could impact funding levels in the final six provinces.

ACTION: The AFC decided to move the WDFW request for funding Project Number 27025, *Acquire South Fork Asotin Creek Property* to the MMG on July 11, 2002 without a recommendation from AFC. The MMG needs to address the budget implications of this request in relation to the remaining provincial review budgets and the notion that the project was not supported by the NWPPC in their Blue Mountain Province funding decision.

ITEM 7: Within-Year Budget Modification Request: Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project Training and Education Proposal

The Yakama Nation is requesting \$282,493 for 2003 and outyears for Project Number 198812026 that supports education and training. This request is also for a modification to the contract date. The request would support six fish culturists and their tuition, fees, books, supplies and housing needs. The expectation is that if this is approved, the amount would be provided for outyears as well.

This project should have been reviewed in the Columbia Plateau Province during the rolling review last fall. It is not clear why this project was not reviewed in that process or if it was reviewed under the YKFP umbrella proposals; was some portion of the education and training funded? If some of the education and training was funded; is this request duplicative to some degree of what has already been approved?

Tom Iverson will work closely with the project sponsor to clarify this request. The AFC would like to take this issue to MMG for discussion, since this is not necessarily an anadromous fish issue and will affect all projects if funded out of the unallocated placeholder.

ACTION: The AFC asked Tom Iverson to clarify the request and forward the request directly to MMG for discussion.

ITEM 8: Within-Year Budget Modification Request: Skaha Lake Sockeye Salmon

CCT is requesting \$49,700 for Project Number 200001300, *Evaluate An Experimental Re-introduction of Sockeye Salmon into Skaha Lake*. This is a risk assessment project in the Okanagon Subbasin to evaluate the impact of reintroducing sockeye salmon in three focus areas: 1) impact of exotic species, 2) disease risk, and 3) production potential of sockeye in the lakes and tributaries. For the last year of the field study, the oversight group for the project determined that sampling should be expanded from a seasonal schedule to a monthly schedule in order to obtain temporal trends in key limnological and biological parameters. This information will be required prior to the implementation of reintroduction of sockeye to Skaha Lake.

ACTION: The AFC conditionally approved the request for \$49,700 for Project Number 200001300, *Evaluate An Experimental Re-introduction of Sockeye Salmon into Skaha Lake* to expand sampling to a monthly schedule. This approval is contingent on the identification of available funds in the unallocated placeholder that incorporate and accommodate projected capital investments for all ongoing projects.

ITEM 9: Re-visit Echo Meadows Project Recommendation

The ISRP completed a review of Project Number 200101500, *Echo Meadow Project – Winter artificial recharge to cool rivers* on May 31, 2002. The NWPPC has requested that CBFWA provide input on the level of support for funding phases 2 and 3 of the project in light the ISRP review. The ISRP provided a thorough review of the project and recommended funding if the project sponsor addressed several important questions during the NWPPC review or BPA contracting process.

The AFC felt that the ISRP had articulated many of the same concerns raised by the AFC during its review in May, 2000. The AFC believes the concerns raised by the ISRP are significant and the responsibility of ensuring the project sponsor adequately addresses their concerns should not rest with the COTR. If the project sponsor revises the proposal, the AFC would review it during the within year process. At this time, no revisions have been made to the proposal and therefore the original AFC review is still appropriate.

ACTION: No action was taken on this project. The AFC wanted to reiterate their prior recommendation and indicated that if a revised proposal was submitted for review, the AFC would provide an additional review.

ITEM 10: Innovative Project Review

The AFC reviewed and approved budget categories for all the FY 2002 innovative projects. Several AFC members had left the meeting so it is highly recommended that everyone critically review the Innovative Work Plan when released for consent approval (see <http://www.cbfgwa.org/files/province/innovative/Default.htm>). A total of

eleven projects were ranked as High Priority totaling nearly \$2 million.

ACTION: The results from the innovative project review will be forwarded to the Members for review and approval.

ITEM 11: Next Meeting

The AFC did not have time to address this agenda item. The current idea is to cancel the July AFC meeting in order to encourage attendance at the Mainstem and Systemwide Province project presentation meetings on July 15-18, 2002. *The agenda for these presentations is attached or see <http://www.cbfwa.org/files/province/systemwide/071502Agenda.pdf>.*

The next AFC meeting is scheduled for **August 21, 2002** in Portland, Oregon. Please send agenda item suggestions to Tom Iverson prior to August 14, 2002.