



COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

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DATE: October 20, 2006
TO: Resident Fish Advisory Committee
FROM: Jim Uehara, Chair
SUBJECT: October 19, 2006 RFAC Meeting Draft Action Notes

RFAC Meeting
October 19, 2006
Portland, Oregon, CBFWA Office

Draft Action Notes

Attendees: Tom Rien (ODFW), Dave Ward (CBFWA)
By Phone: Jim Uehara (WDFW), Dale Chess (CdAT), Ron Peters (CdAT), Melo Maiolie (IDFG), Lawrence Schwabe (BPT), Joe Maroney (KT)

Time Allocation:	Objective 1. Committee Participation	100%
	Objective 2. Technical Review	%
	Objective 3. Presentation	%

ITEM 1: Election of New Vice-Chair

Discussion: The Vice-Chair position is vacant and must be filled. One candidate has expressed willingness to serve in the position. No other nominations were received.

Action: Mike Faler (USFWS) was elected Vice-Chair. Mike will serve as Vice-Chair through September 30, 2007, after which he will serve as Chair for one year. A new Vice-Chair will be elected to serve effective October 1, 2007.

ITEM 2: Biological Objectives for Fish and Wildlife Program

Discussion: The Members Advisory Group (MAG) requested that the RFAC determine how to best define biological objectives for anadromous fish as part of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (Council) amendment process. The RFAC discussed the MAG's request to (1) define populations, environmental attributes, and metrics to be used, (2) define the appropriate scale for metrics, and (3) consider the compatibility of the Council's objectives with other activities such as recovery planning.

Dave Ward summarized the Council's request for input regarding possible amendments and reiterated the MAG's request. The RFAC discussed potential biological and environmental metrics, concentrating on abundance and distribution. Distribution is probably more readily available and obtainable for many areas, but concern was expressed that distribution alone may not adequately address the relative health of a population or species. The AFAC generally agreed that objectives should include a harvest component. It was also generally agreed that not all metrics are relevant on all geographic scales.

Coordinating and promoting effective protection and restoration of fish, wildlife, and their habitat in the Columbia River Basin.

The Authority is comprised of the following tribes and government agencies:

Burns Paiute Tribe

Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

National Marine Fisheries Service

Nez Perce Tribe

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall

Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Coordinating Agencies

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Upper Columbia United Tribes

Although the RFAC agreed that the population scale is the building block from which to work, it was also agreed that a finer scale may be more appropriate in some areas, particularly for lakes and reservoirs.

One method discussed is for provincial objectives not to be a “roll up” of population abundance objectives, but rather a number (or proportion) of populations meeting abundance objectives.

Action #1: Tom Rien will develop a draft matrix with geographic scale (population, province, etc.) on one axis, and potential metrics on the other axis. Tom’s matrix will be limited to the Oregon perspective for white sturgeon and bull trout, but will serve as a template for the RFAC to build upon. The RFAC will review, comment, and add to the matrix. Dave will present the matrix as an unfinished work in progress at the MAG meeting on October 24.

Action #2: RFAC members will review and comment on the list of focal species developed by Neil Ward. Where a finer scale is deemed appropriate, these populations will be added to the list.

ITEM 3: Review of October 17-18 Council Meeting

Discussion: Dave Ward and Joe Maroney briefed the RFAC on the project selection recommendations finalized by the Council at their meeting in Helena, MT. Very little changed regarding resident fish projects from draft recommendations previously announced by the Council. One exception was a 3-year total of \$205,000 added back to the Mainstem On-the-Ground White Sturgeon Project budget. Project sponsors had informed the Council that a 3-year total of \$486,000 was required to reinstate a critical task.

ITEM 4: BPA In-Lieu Letter

Discussion: The RFAC discussed the potential ramifications of the Bonneville Power Administration’s (BPA) draft in-lieu review of ongoing and new projects. Although no specific actions were suggested regarding comment to BPA, the RFAC agreed that it is important that members ensure that each project be notified of the review and the project’s draft categorization by BPA.

ITEM 5: Next Meeting

No meeting was scheduled. The RFAC decided to wait until after the MAG reviewed RFAC input on biological objectives to schedule a meeting. The RFAC determined that the meeting schedule should be driven by pressing issues and needs, but that meetings should not be so infrequent that committee members lose contact. The RFAC decided that at least one in-person meeting per year is desirable. A potential topic for a future meeting is the role of the committee.