COLUMBIA BASIN
FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

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July 16, 2008

TO: MAG

FROM: CBFWA Staff

SUBJECT: Clarification Briefing Paper on Anadromous Fish Advisory
             Committee Assignment to BPA and Council

During their June 25-26, 2008 meeting at Kah-Nee-Ta, the Members directed staff and MAG to prepare a briefing/position paper to inform representatives of BPA and the Council on the intent of the anadromous fish analysis relating subbasin objectives to basin-wide objectives. The purpose of this memo is to provide the general framework for that briefing paper. The MAG should discuss the appropriateness of the major points provided here, add any additional major points, and provide further detail and clarification regarding each agreed-upon point. CBFWA staff will use this information to complete a draft briefing paper by July 18, 2008.

Background:

- On May 7, 2008, the Members directed the AFAC to develop the linkages between the population level objectives and the programmatic level objectives contained within the Program.

- This is a technical exercise with the intent of estimating the number of adult salmon and steelhead returning to the Columbia River if all subbasin objectives were met.

- This may inform assessment of progress towards the interim goal of 5 million likely to be realized if subbasin objectives are achieved.

- The 5 million goal resulted from an analysis of hydro-related losses completed by the Council in 1986. Estimated losses were >5 million, but a doubling of the run size from 2.5 million to 5 million was considered a reasonable "interim" goal (2025).

- The basin-wide goal has changed from 5 million adults returning to the Columbia including harvest in the ocean (1987 and 1994 Programs) to 5 million fish at Bonneville Dam (2000 Program).

- Estimates of total returns (including ocean harvest) and returns to Bonneville Dam are both important indicators.

- Considerable additional information is available now relative to 1986, including population/subbasin specific status and objectives; therefore, this analysis is timely.

Methods:

- Determination of objectives (subbasin plans, recovery plans, HGMPs, etc.).
- Scientific underpinnings of objectives (how they were developed).
- Estimation of harvest and losses along the way (US v OR, etc.)..

Preliminary Results:

- 2.3 million fish at Bonneville
- 4.0 million fish in the ocean.

Discussion:

- Relationship between subbasin objectives and the 5 million basin-wide goal.
- This informs assessment of progress towards the interim goal of 5 million likely to be realized if subbasin objectives are achieved.
- Time frames differ among subbasin and basin-wide goals; therefore, agreement between numbers not likely or critical.
- The Columbia Basin has changed since 1986; however, it is still imperative to recover as many of the losses as possible.
- It is also imperative to prevent further losses.
- Summarize the number of species/races listed – prevent need for additional listings.