

CHARTER
OF THE
COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE
AUTHORITY'S
Fish Screening Oversight Committee
January 21, 2009

I. Authorization

The Fish Screening Oversight Committee is established pursuant to Section 502 of the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (Authority) Charter, dated October 27, 2006. This charter was adopted by the committee on October 31, 2008, reviewed by the Members' Advisory Group on December 16, 2008 and approved by the Authority Members on January 21, 2009.

II. Purpose

(1) In support of and consistent with the Authority mission, the purposes of the Fish Screening Oversight Committee are:

- (A) To provide the Members' Advisory Group with technical information necessary to facilitate effective planning and implementation of fish screening projects in the Columbia River Basin, consistent with best available science and applicable law;
- (B) To facilitate discussion among fish managers of the technical merits and implications of projects and issues to find consensus agreement; and
- (C) To provide a forum for federal, state, tribal and private entities to exchange information on fish screening concerns in the Columbia River Basin.

III. Functions

(1) The Fish Screening Oversight Committee shall respond to technical and policy analysis requests adopted by consensus of the Members or the Members' Advisory Group.

(2) Any recommendations or options developed by the Fish Screening Oversight Committee must be sent back to the body making the request for deliberation.

(3) Fish Screening Oversight Committee analyses and recommendations shall:

- (A) Account for where the assignment has come;
- (B) Account for all applicable information and prior research;
- (C) Address practicable alternatives; and,

(D) Account for risk and uncertainty.

(4) The Fish Screening Oversight Committee shall oversee the conduct of the Bi-annual Pacific Northwest Fish Screening and Passage Workshop.

(5) The Fish Screen Oversight Committee shall facilitate discussion and technical exchange regarding design criteria and guidelines, biological study results, testing and assessment of experimental technology, improvements in manufacturing and construction techniques, and prioritization and inventories for fish screens, and as appropriate shall provide recommendations to the Authority regarding the results of such technical exchange.

IV. Procedures

(1) The Fish Screening Oversight Committee shall be composed of qualified representatives designated by each interested Member pursuant to the Authority's Communication Plan. Each committee recommendation will include a list of designated representatives who participated.

(2) Other federal, state, tribal, or private entities that are not CBFWA members shall be able to participate in the Fish Screening Oversight Committee in a nonvoting capacity.

(3) The Fish Screening Oversight Committee shall operate by consensus. A quorum of designated representatives is desirable but not essential to conducting committee business. A designated representative may abstain or, subject to timely notice regarding consideration of the issue, be absent from the consensus process without the position of that representative becoming an assenting or dissenting opinion.

(4) The Fish Screening Oversight Committee shall have a chair to manage the meetings and operations of the committee. The chair will serve a one-year term, running from October through September of each year. Each October a new Chair will be elected. The position of Chair is open to all assigned committee representatives of an Authority member. Election of the chair will be based on the votes of the committee members present, either in person or by telephone, at the meeting during which the election is held or their proxies.

(5) Regularly scheduled meetings of the Fish Screening Oversight Committee shall be open to the public. The public shall be provided an opportunity for limited comment. Closed meetings (executive sessions) may be called as necessary to discuss contract and personnel issues with final action to take place in open session.

(6) Authority staff shall facilitate committee meetings but not be a part of the decision process. Staff will be responsible for the distribution of agendas, reports, etc., as well as meeting arrangements.

(7) The chair with the assistance of staff shall prepare a written agenda prior to each meeting with copies sent to each designee, the Members' Advisory Group, the Executive Director and interested parties no later than one week prior to each meeting.

(8) The chair with the assistance of staff shall distribute the action notes agreed to at each meeting to each designee, Members' Advisory Group, each committee, Executive Director and interested parties no later than one week after the meeting.

(9) The Fish Screening Oversight Committee shall meet at the request of the chair or at the request of a majority of the committee members.

(10) The chair or a person designated by the chair shall attend all Members' Advisory Group and Members meetings.

(11) All costs involved in Fish Screening Oversight Committee participation are the responsibility of each member unless otherwise provided for.

(12) Proxy participation is permitted at Fish Screening Oversight Committee meetings. Proxies must be in writing.

V. Communications

(1) The Members shall release upon request any data or information provided to them by the Fish Screening Oversight Committee or Authority staff person that is cited by a Member agency or tribe as the basis for an operational action or otherwise cited as support for a public recommendation.

(2) The Fish Screening Oversight Committee shall not communicate statements of Authority policy positions or results of policy or technical analyses to non-member entities unless previously approved by the Members. Determination of position statements shall not be delegated by the Members to any committee.

(3) The Fish Screening Oversight Committee shall relate to other Authority committees directly or through reports to the Members' Advisory Group.