



# COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

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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 fish and wildlife 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

Compact of the Upper Snake River Tribes

DATE: December 5, 2007  
TO: Resident Fish Advisory Committee (RFAC)  
FROM: Mike Faler (Chair)  
SUBJECT: Final Action Notes for the November 28, 2007, RFAC Meeting

Resident Fish Advisory Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, November 28, 2007  
Spokane, WA

## Final Action Notes

The support material for the 11/28/07 RFAC meeting are posted at:  
<http://www.cbfwa.org/committees/Meetings.cfm?CommShort=RFAC&meeting=all>

**Attendees:** Sheri Sears (CCT), Lawrence Schwabe (BPT), Mike Faler (USFWS), Jim Uehara (WDFW), Ron Peters (CDAT), Brian Lipscomb (CBFWA), and Neil Ward (CBFWA)

**Phone:** Christine Mallette (ODFW)

<b>Time Allocation:</b>	Objective 1. Committee Participation	100%
	Objective 2. Technical Review	0%
	Objective 3. Presentation	0%
	Objective 5. Other Business	0%

### **ITEM 1: Review and Approve Agenda**

Items 3 and 6 were added to the agenda.

### **ITEM 2: Review and Approve Action Notes for the November 6, 2008, RFAC Meeting**

The Actions Notes were reviewed and approved. A point of clarification, relative to the Independent Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) Agenda Item, was made during the review of the notes. The participants directed Neil Ward to compile a list of resident fish substitution projects that could be used by the ISAB to better understand: 1.) the cost/benefits aspects of the Lake Roosevelt fishery, and 2.) measures used by the managers to avoid undesired consequences from the use of non-natives

**Action:** Neil Ward will develop a list of resident fish substitution projects (project numbers, titles and sponsor) that address the ISAB's questions for RFAC review no later than Monday, December 3. Upon approval of the list, the list will be forwarded to Erik Merrill, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's ISRP/ISAB liaison. The RFAC directed Neil to develop the transmittal letter based on the ISAB's requests and the RFAC's offers that were described in the Action Notes for the November 6, 2007, RFAC meeting.

### **ITEM 3: Review of the RFAC's Participation in the Members Advisory Group's (MAG) November Meeting and New Directives and Timelines Related to the Amendment Process**

Neil Ward reported that Sheri Sears' resident fish loss assessment presentation, pertaining to inundation, was well received. Unfortunately, few participants were non-RFAC members thus outstanding issues could not be resolved. Neil indicated that the RFAC would continue to pursue achieving consensus on a procedure that would be submitted during the amendment process. The RFAC is expected to provide a progress report during the MAG's December 2008 meeting.

During the meeting, the MAG directed the technical committees to perform a legislative mark-up of the sections of the NPCC's Fish and Wildlife Program that pertain to each of the committees. In addition, the MAG identified December 31, 2007, as deadline for the various tasks that have been assigned to the committees. For the RFAC, those tasks include: 1.) procedures for performing resident fish loss assessments, 2.) completion of the measure/strategy templates, and 3.) legislative mark-up of the NPCC's Fish and Wildlife Program. As a wrap-up, the MAG has scheduled a final Amendment Workshop that will be convened December 18-19, 2007, in Portland.

**ITEM 4: RFAC Proposed Methodology to Identify Resident Fish Habitat Losses Due to the FCRPS Presentation to the Members Advisory Group (MAG)**

During the last several months, the RFAC has evaluated the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks' procedures for assessing resident fish losses. Through this review, some RFAC participants suggested that the use of stream length inundated was not the best measurement for habitat inundated in their managed areas. Instead, these managers suggested that area, instead of length, was more suitable in their area of the Columbia River Basin. Consequently, consensus could not be achieved regarding whether inundation should be measured based on length or area. In addition, RFAC participants debated whether a measurement of quality should be included. As a result of not being able to achieve consensus on assessment procedures for resident fish losses resulting from the development (inundation) and annual operations of the hydrosystem, the RFAC discussed submitting an amendment that will function as a Request for Proposals (RFP) to develop procedures to identify resident fish losses throughout the Columbia River Basin.

**Action:** The RFAC directed Mike Faler, Sheri Sears, and Neil Ward to develop a draft amendment for the RFAC's review. The draft amendment would take the form of an RFP that requests technical assistance (contractors identified by the resident fish managers) to develop resident fish inundation and operational loss assessment procedures taking into account habitat quality and other issues, notwithstanding, existing resident fish projects.

**ITEM 5: Legislative Mark-up of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (NPCC) 2000 Fish and Wildlife Program**

During the November 20, 2007, MAG meeting, the technical committees were directed to perform a review of the sections of the NPCC's 2000 Fish and Wildlife Program that are pertinent to the each of the committees. Subsequently, the RFAC reviewed sections of pages 17 and 21 that pertain to resident fish. The only edits that were made occurred to the text associated with the first "bullet" in the "Resident Fish Losses" section.

**Action** The RFAC approved the deletion of "resulting from the hydrosystem" and the insertion of "as a result of: 1.) development and 2.) operation of the hydrosystem" at the end of the existing sentence.

**ITEM 6: Amendment Measure/Strategy Template Update**

Neil Ward recently provided the resident fish managers with measure/strategy templates that were tentatively slated for completion by December 31, 2007. The RFAC discussed the need to complete these forms in advance of the December Amendment Workshop scheduled for December 18-19, 2007. Consequently, the RFAC suggested that the managers should attempt to return their completed forms to Neil no later than Monday, December 17, 2007.

**ITEM 7: Next Meeting**

**Although a December RFAC meeting was not scheduled, the RFAC participants are encouraged to participate in the final Amendment Workshop scheduled for December 18-19, 2007, in Portland.**