



July 12, 2000

TO: Anadromous Fish Committee (AFC)

FROM: Gary James, Chair

SUBJECT: Draft Action Notes for July 11, 2000, AFC Meeting in Portland.

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

Attendees: John Palensky (NMFS), Fred Olney (USFWS), Bob Foster (WDFW), Lynn Hatcher (YIN), Allen Evans and Roy Beaty (CRITFC), Brian Allee, Tom Giese and Tom Iverson (CBFWA).

By Phone: Gary James (CTUIR), Chris Fisher (CCT), Bert Bowler (IDFG), Ron Boyce (ODFW), Becky Ashe and Dave Johnson (NPT), Patty O'Toole (CTWSRO) and Jay Marcotte (BPA).

Time Allocation:

CBFWA Members Coordination Contract*

<i>Objective 1. FY 2001 Project Renewal Process</i>	<i>50%</i>
<i>Objective 2. Rolling Province Review</i>	<i>5%</i>
<i>Objective 3. FY 2000 Project Adjustments</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Objective 4. Watershed and Subbasin Assessment and Plan</i>	<i>0%</i>
<i>Objective 5. Coordinate Program Amendments</i>	<i>0%</i>

* Not all AFC agenda items support the objectives identified in the coordination contract.

ITEM 1: Discuss Possible Changes to Today's Agenda

Three new topics were added to Agenda Item 4: 4) Request by the Nez Perce Tribe for \$134,536 for their Northeast Oregon Hatchery Master Plan (project number 198805301), 5) Request by the Yakama Indian Nation to recommend the acquisition of the Wapatox Power Plant as an early action by the NWPPC, and 6) Request by Brian Allee to discuss a workshop on selective harvest and the need for a pilot study on the Columbia River.

ACTION: Additions were made and the agenda was approved. *The action items have been arranged to reflect the order of discussion at the meeting.*

ITEM 2: Ongoing Project Renewal Process

Draft 3 of the FY 2001 CBFWA ongoing project renewal budget recommendation was sent out for consent mail on Monday July 10 (FY 2001 DAIWP). Comments or objections are due by COB Wednesday July 12. Tom Giese provided a summary of the proposed recommendation and reviewed the separate budget tables provided in the recommendation.

An issue was raised as to whether the NMFS agreed to access the Steelhead Biological Opinion Placeholder (\$1,000,000) and the NMFS Biological Opinion Placeholder (\$2,589,327) to support anadromous fish projects in the Fish and Wildlife Program for FY 2001. John Palensky will check in to this assumption and respond to Tom Giese prior to COB Wednesday.

The Nez Perce Tribe requested changing their FY 2000 figures in Table 3 to more accurately reflect FY 2000 NWPPC decisions. These changes did not affect the FY 2001 budget recommendation.

Finally, Lynn Hatcher requested moving \$1,218,978 from the "on-hold" category to the "ongoing" category in Table 3 for Project Number 199604000 (Evaluate the Feasibility And Risks of Coho Reintroduction in the Mid-Columbia). This project is scheduled for a decision on the partial Step 2 review by the NWPPC at their next meeting. The technical oversight team for this project has addressed the concerns raised by the subregional team and full funding should commence in FY 2001. Bob Foster raised an objection due to lack of information on the project. The AFC agreed to have Bob, Lynn and representatives from USFWS meet and resolve this issue prior to the comment deadline. If WDFW and USFWS do not object at that point, the change will be made. If they do object, the project will remain as is until further AFC discussion can occur.

Action: The AFC indicated support of the recommendation with the exception of the Mid-Columbia Coho project and the use of NMFS placeholders.

ITEM 3: Nez Perce Tribe FY 2000 NEOH Request

The Nez Perce Tribe is requesting \$134,536 for Project Number 198805301 (Northeast Oregon Hatchery Master Plan, NEOH). The request for \$114,536 was mailed as supporting documentation for this meeting. An additional \$20,000 will be necessary to hire a technical writer. The NEOH Spring Chinook Master Plan was submitted to

NWPPC on April 14, 2000. A NWPPC condition for new funding in FY 2000 was the completion of the master plan. Fiscal Year 2000 dollars for this project were put into a "Capital Project Placeholder" account at BPA (Project Number 200004000, \$5,513,446). Carry forward has been used to complete writing the plan. Now that Step 1 is complete, the project needs access the placeholder account to complete Steps 2 and 3 and to begin Step 1 of a Coho Master Plan. Existing funding will run out in August, so an expedited consent mail will be necessary from MMG.

Action: The AFC supports crafting a letter of recommendation to NWPPC requesting \$134,536 for Project Number 198805301 from the Capital Project Placeholder account at BPA to fund continuation of the Spring Chinook and Coho Master Plans. The letter will be forwarded to MMG for five-day Consent Mail approval due on July 21.

ITEM 4: Yakama Indian Nation Request for Wapatox Power Plant

Lynn Hatcher provided a summary of a written request sent out as support material for this meeting. Pacific Corp has recently agreed to discuss selling their Wapatox Power Plant on the Naches River. Many state, federal and private entities have offered support of the aquisition of this project to secure the associated water rights. The YIN is seeking support from CBFWA for this purchase as a high priority early action item for NWPPC for FY 2001. The tribe is not looking for a prioritization of this project over other high priority early action projects at this time, merely support that this is a "high priority" action. Funding will be contingent on a technical and budget review process by CBFWA for all early action projects.

Action: The AFC will forward a letter to the MMG, addressed to the NWPPC, supporting the concept of the Wapatox Aquisition as a potentially beneficial project to be added to the list of high priority early actions to be considered by the NWPPC.

ITEM 5: CRITFC Kelt Rejuvenation Study

Roy Beaty discussed a request by CRITFC to expand the scope of Project Number 20001700 (Steelhead Kelt Reconditioning). This project was initiated in FY 2000. The success during the first year has been dramatically better than anticipated. Repeat spawning rates of mid-Columbia steelhead have been traditionally about 1.6%. During the 1999-2000 sampling season, 512 wild steelhead kelts were captured at Prosser Diversion Dam (approximately 40% of the Yakima River run) and so far, nearly 60% of those fish have survived. The adult fish are held in circular raceways. It is expected that 50% of the kelts will survive to be released to spawn a second time. This process allows artificial supplementation to

the steelhead run using wild fish that have been through one life cycle of natural selection.

The expansion of this project will include diet studies to increase reconditioning rate, limited homing studies to determine affects of reconditioning, a benefit/risk assessment requested by the ISRP, and additional planning and coordination. Expansion will also include activities on the Grande Ronde River. The additional work will require \$73,990 in FY 2001 that is currently in the "on-hold" status for the FY 2001 CBFWA DAIWP recommendation to NWPPC.

FPAC will review this proposal at their meeting during the week of July 17. Additional material will be provided to members that have specific questions.

Action: The AFC will make a decision on this project at the August 16 meeting.

ITEM 6: Oregon Water Coalition

Brian Allee presented a request by the Oregon Water Coalition (OWC) for funding of \$75,000 for FY 2000. The OWC has initiated the Echo Meadow Project that is attempting an innovative method for reduction of stream temperatures in a "realistic and cost effective manner". Cool winter water is applied at the upland areas during the high winter flow and is allowed to recharge into the groundwater. The recharged water is applied in a manner that it will flow slowly toward and into the river during low summer flow periods, at a constant 50 degree Fahrenheit temperature. A monitoring plan has been developed and monitoring has begun. The OWC seeks \$75,000 from BPA for FY 2000 to maintain the current level of monitoring until additional funding becomes available.

Several AFC members were aware of this project and while some offered support, others raised questions. The problem arose that this project has not submitted a proposal through any defined process within the Fish and Wildlife Program and therefore is not eligible for funding at this time. The only apparent opportunity in the near future for this project is through the new and innovative category of funding that the NWPPC has not yet defined for FY 2001.

Action: The AFC directed Tom Iverson and Brian Allee to pursue getting information to the project sponsor on how best to proceed through the Fish and Wildlife Program.

ITEM 7: Selective Harvest Pilot Study and Work Shop

Brian Allee lead a brief discussion on selective harvest technologies. A workshop is being organized for October 4-5 to discuss potential innovative harvest techniques in the Columbia River. Successful hatchery practices have lead to a need for selective fisheries in order to harvest surplus hatchery escapement in light of dwindling wild returns. Several entities support development of alternative harvest technologies that will allow optimal harvest of hatchery stocks while allowing wild fish to be released unharmed. Discussion of this topic will continue at the August 16 AFC meeting.

ITEM 8: Rolling Provincial Review Update

Due to time constraints, the update on the provincial review was limited. The first set of subbasin summaries has been posted to the CBFWA website. Lessons learned from the first round were provided at the MMG meeting in Spokane on July 6 and Tom Iverson highly recommended that all members review those comments. The subbasin summaries for the Gorge and Intermountain provinces should continue to be developed. The next deadline for upgraded versions in the Gorge province is August 16 to NWPPC (August 11 to CBFWA).

ITEM 9: Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for August 16 in Portland. Potential agenda items include:

- 1) Kelt Reconditioning Study
- 2) Selective Harvest Technologies
- 3) Rolling Provincial Review Update
Gorge and Intermountain Project Proposal Evaluation Criteria
- 4) Update on FY 2001 DAIWP
- 5) FY 2000 Within-Year Budget Modifications