



**COLUMBIA
BASIN
FISH & WILDLIFE
AUTHORITY**

DATE: November 25, 2003
TO: Anadromous Fish Committee (AFC)
FROM: Pete Hassemer, Chair  for
SUBJECT: DRAFT Action Notes for the November 12, 2003 AFC Meeting

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

AFC Meeting
November 12, 2003
Portland, Oregon

Draft Action Notes

Attendees: Pete Hassemer (Chair, IDFG), John Palensky (NOAA), Howard Schaller, Jen Stone, and Tim Whitesel (USFWS), Ron Boyce (ODFW), Stuart Ellis (CRITFC), and Tom Iverson and Neil Ward (CBFWA)

On Phone: Joe Zendt (YN)

Time	Objective 1. Project Recommendations	0%
Allocation:	Objective 2. Regional Issues	90%
	Objective 3. Annual Report	10%

ITEM 1: Review and Approve Agenda

The group reviewed the agenda for today’s meeting. One additional agenda item was added to discuss an upcoming presentation to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council) regarding status and implications of current adult salmon counts.

ACTION: A discussion regarding the current status of adult returns was added as Agenda Item 6.

ITEM 2: Announce Chair and Vice-Chair of AFC

Pete Hassemer formally announced the results of the election of chair (Pete Hassemer, IDFG) and vice-chair (Dave Statler, NPT) for the AFC. Both positions are effective through September 30, 2004. On October 1, 2004 Dave Statler will become chair of AFC and a newly elected vice-chair will be confirmed.

ACTION: No action was taken on this agenda item.

ITEM 3: Lamprey Workgroup

The AFC discussed the formation of a subcommittee titled the Lamprey Technical Work Group. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will coordinate workgroup activities by organizing annual workshops and quarterly conference calls to facilitate workgroup functions. The duties of the workgroup are identified in the attached statement of purpose (SOP, see *AFCLampreySOP.doc that was part of original agenda*). The MMG determined that a charter is not necessary to form work groups under the committees. Inclusion of RFC members is a priority in order to discuss issues related to non-anadromous lampreys and resident fish interactions. Jen Stone reviewed updates to the SOP and the draft schedule and deliverables for the work group. USFWS will be creating a website to support the group and will develop explicit instructions for providing input into subbasin planning and project prioritizations. The workgroup will review and revise the SOP at their upcoming meeting and will present the final SOP to the AFC when they have agreement on a final version.

The first meeting of the Lamprey Technical Workgroup will occur on December 1, 2003 from 10 am to 3 pm at BPA Headquarters in Portland, OR. Contact Jen Stone with questions at 360-696-7605 or Jen_Stone@r1.fws.gov.

ACTION: The AFC agreed to move forward with the subcommittee. Jen Stone will be the primary contact and coordinator for the work group.

ITEM 4: Update on FY 2004 Start of Year Budget Process and Budget Management Protocols

Tom Iverson provided a review of the analysis of the FY 2003 BPA Accrual Budget and its impact on FY 2004. Although the total accrual for FY 2003 is approximately \$139 million, compared to the project specific budget adopted by Council, the accruals are off the mark significantly (see analysis in October 28, 2003 memo from Tom Iverson to MMG). Nearly \$29 million of accruals from FY 2003 are anticipated in the next three months.

The Council's current FY 2004 budget exceeds the BPA limit of plus or minus 10% of \$139 million by \$1 million. Additional pressure on the FY 2004 budget will be brought by projects seeking rescheduling and within-year adjustments. For every dollar that the Program exceeds \$139 million during FY 2004, the Program will have to be reduced in FY 2005 and FY 2006. Therefore, it is important that the Council closely manage the Program to \$139 million to provide stability for the duration of this rate case (as long as the Council is going to accept the \$139 million limitation).

Tom gave an update on the "BPA FY 2004-2006 Budget Implementation Protocols and Process". He reviewed the BPA letter to contractors that defined the budget management process for FY 2004. Project Sponsors may request adjustments to their FY 2004 projects through two processes: rescheduling and within-year adjustments. CBFWA will be asked

to provide a management prioritization of those requests. The soonest that adjustments will be approved by Council could be as late as March 2004.

The AFC reviewed the "Draft Proposal for CBFWA Participation in Managing the FY 2004 BPA Fish and Wildlife Program Budget" concentrating on page 2 number 5 regarding within-year budget modifications and rescheduling requests. Tom has proposed that CBFWA could categorize requests based on the criteria used during the Rolling Province Review. Tom explained that those recommendations may change for projects when reviewing individual tasks.

The AFC requested that any Phase III projects that were approved by the Council in FY 2003 but not funded by BPA be included in the review of Within-year and Rescheduling requests.

ACTION: No action was taken on this item.

ITEM 5: Anadromous Fish Project Reviews

Pete H. thanked all participants involved in the first Project Implementation Review held in Wenatchee, Washington last month. The presentations were very interesting and well crafted. The second Project Implementation Review is scheduled for North Bonneville, WA on January 27-28, 2004. The purpose of the meeting is to evaluate the progress of project sponsors towards accomplishing project objectives/tasks that the AFC reviewed during the Rolling Provincial Review and subsequently recommended for funding to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council. The third review will be scheduled for April 14-15, 2004 in Portland reviewing the Lower Columbia and Estuary Province projects (See Attachment 1 at the end of these notes).

Action: The AFC requested that Neil generate a draft schedule for the remaining anadromous projects that will be reviewed in calendar year 2004 for presentation at the December AFC meeting.

ITEM 6: Recent status and trends in adult salmon returns

On November 17, 2003 Bruce Suzumoto is scheduled to make a presentation to the full Council titled "Presentation on Status and Implications of Recent Adult Salmon Returns." Bruce had promised to share his presentation prior to the AFC meeting, but was unable to do so prior to the completion of today's meeting. The AFC discussed whether the anadromous fish managers should prepare a formal comment on Bruce's presentation. Historically, the managers made an annual presentation to the Council on the status and trends of salmon returns. The group discussed organizing a presentation to Council for January or February. The U.S. v Oregon Technical Advisory Committee is willing to participate in developing a presentation. It would be important to include Fish Passage Center data in the presentation. The Council is investing a large portion of the Program funds into monitoring, so it would be important to include that data.

Stuart Ellis submitted preliminary comments in case there are questions at next weeks Council meeting (see Attachment 2).

Action: Pete and others will organize a draft outline for a presentation to Council for discussion at the December 16, 2003 AFC meeting.

ITEM 7: Next Meeting

The next meeting of the AFC is scheduled for December 16, 2003 from 12 pm to 4 pm. Possible agenda items include: 1) Review of budget adjustment requests for FY 2004, 2) Discuss review criteria for project reviews in January, 3) Discuss outline for presentation to Council on status and trends of adult salmon returns, and 4) Update on spill committee discussions.

Please contact Tom Iverson with additional agenda items.

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Attachment 1: Draft Schedule for Third AFC Project Implementation Review.

APRIL 14, 2004			
	Project Number	Title	Sponsor
	200399906	Grays River Watershed and Biological Assessment	PSMFC, LCFRB, PNNL
	200399907	Blind Slough Restoration Project – Brownsmead, Oregon	CREST
	199801400	Survival and Growth of Juvenile Salmonids in the Columbia River Plume	NOAA
	200399901	Historic Habitat Opportunities and Food-Web Linkages of Juvenile Salmonids in the Columbia River Estuary	NOAA
	200399908	Implement Habitat Restoration for Columbia River	
	200399902	Effectiveness Monitoring of Chinook River Estuary Restoration Project	Sea Resources
	200399904	Columbia River Ecosystem Monitoring and Data Management	LCREP
APRIL 15, 2004			
	200001200	Evaluate Factors Limiting Columbia River Chum Populations	USFWS
	200105300	Reintroduction of Lower Columbia River Chum Salmon into Duncan Creek	PSMFC, WDFW
	200001400	Evaluate Habitat Use and Population Dynamics of Lampreys in Cedar Creek Lamprey Habitat and Populations in Cedar Creek	USFWS
	199306000	Select Area Fishery Evaluation	WDFW/ODFW
	199607000	McKenzie Focus Watershed	MWC

Attachment 2:

**Comments on Salmon and Steelhead Returns to the Columbia River in Recent Years and
Columbia Basin Harvest Management****November 12, 2003**

- ❖ In the past 3-4 years, there have been dramatic increases in total returns of salmon and steelhead to the Columbia River as measured at Bonneville Dam compared to returns over the past 10 years Figure 1. In some cases we have seen record total counts and record daily counts of fish for several decades or even since dam construction. This is obviously a good thing and a very positive trend. When ocean conditions are favorable, as is currently the case, salmonid survival can be greatly increased.
- ❖ However, our objectives for these fish are to increase natural populations so that they are self-sustaining and can be de-listed under the ESA. Additionally, there is an objective of having sufficient total numbers of fish to allow stable harvest opportunity that meets the treaty trust responsibility and allows for viable non-Indian sport and commercial fisheries.
- ❖ In order to judge how well the stocks are doing we must rely on multiple sources of data regarding the status of key wild populations as well as hatchery stocks, and not simply focus on counts at Bonneville or other Columbia River basin dams.
- ❖ Available data indicate that the majority of the returns are hatchery fish. Most hatchery production is designed to mitigate for losses due to hydropower and other development. These fish primarily support harvest opportunity. Some hatchery production is not currently designed to contribute to rebuilding natural populations.
- ❖ There are many wild populations such as Upper Columbia Spring Chinook and wild Group B steelhead which are chronically depressed and have seen only very modest growth in the past couple years (Table 1). This growth is not nearly enough to indicate current recovery actions are themselves sufficient.
- ❖ The parties to *U.S. v. Oregon* are engaged in a long term planning effort to more effectively manage harvest and artificial production. Key parts of this planning include abundance based management frameworks that allow reasonable harvest opportunity on abundant stocks while minimizing impacts on weak stocks, as well as utilizing artificial production in manners generally more supportive of rebuilding. These harvest frameworks are designed to support overall rebuilding efforts but cannot be effective unless other actions also continue to support recovery.
- ❖ One issue that is currently under review by the fishery managers is understanding the effects of the 2001 river conditions on the survival of out-migrating juveniles in that year. Preliminary data such as age sampling at Bonneville Dam and preliminary returns, suggest that there may have been an adverse impact on survival. These data show that the relative proportion of the returns in the past two years comprised of 2001 out-migrants has been very low. Jack counts at Lower Granite Dam in 2002 (Table 1) show a

definite decline in the numbers of fish returning compared to the year before and the year after. These data alone of course are not definitive, however, it does suggest that a full analysis is warranted. A full analysis cannot be completed before at least next year because fish from the 2001 out-migration will still be returning. This also suggests that a cautious approach be taken to implementing changes to flow regimes based on assumptions that they are no longer necessary.

Figure 1.

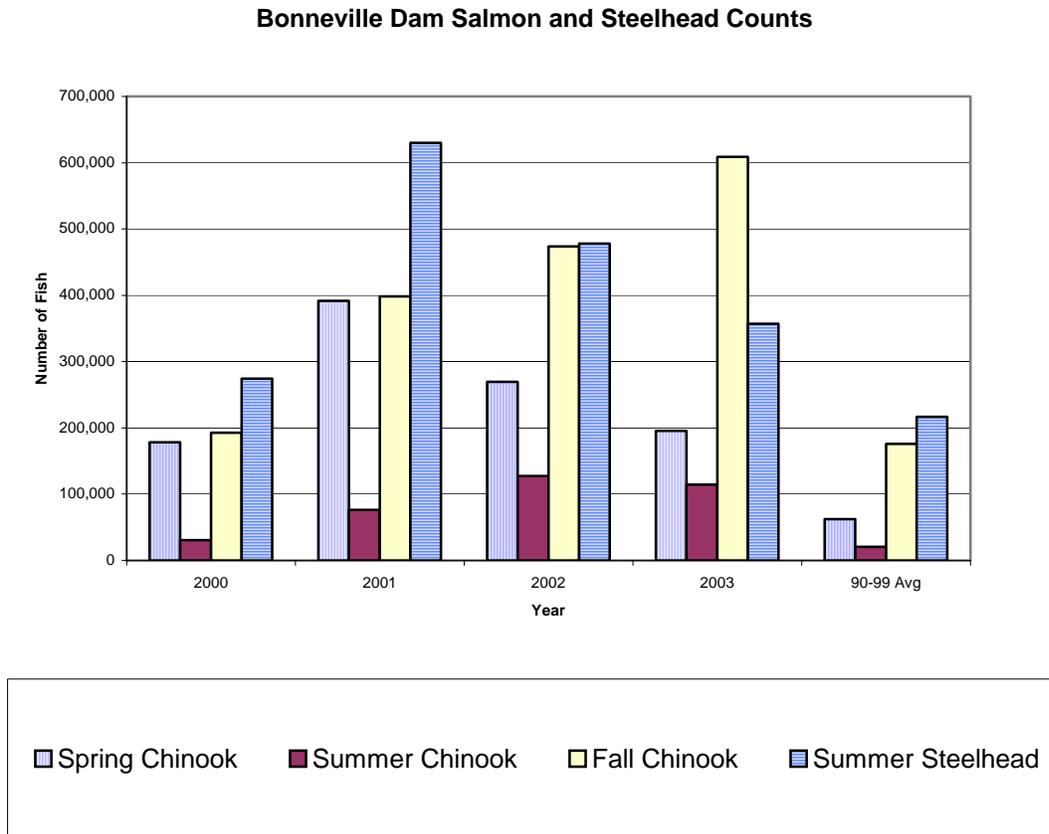


Table 1. Columbia River Mouth Returns of Selected Salmon/Steelhead Stocks						
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Wild B Steelhead	3,400	3,700	8,400	12,000	32,300	6,300*

Hatchery B Steelhead	36,900	18,400	32,500	74,300	97,600	30,300*
Upper Columbia Wild Spring Chinook	400	700	1,600	12,000	6,300	NA
Summer Chinook Jacks at Lower Granite Dam	300	1,600	3,700	3,800	2,200*	4,100
Spring Chinook Jacks at Lower Granite Dam	100	2,500	10,300	3,100	2,100*	8,300
Fall Chinook Jacks at Lower Granite Dam	2,000	1,800	7,100	8,800	5,700*	8,400

* Returns from 2001 out-migration year.

Produced by:

Stuart Ellis – Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission

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(*U.S. v Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee members)