



**COLUMBIA  
BASIN  
FISH & WILDLIFE  
AUTHORITY**

**Final**

DATE: December 2, 2005  
TO: Anadromous Fish Advisory Committee (AFAC)  
FROM: Dick Stone, Chair   
for  
SUBJECT: November 10, 2005 AFAC Meeting Action Notes

**\*Note: These Action Notes were approved as final at the 12/6/05 AFAC Meeting.**

AFAC Meeting  
November 10, 2005  
Portland Oregon, CBFWA Office

**Final Action Notes**

**Attendees:** Dick Stone (Chair, WDFW), Phil Roger (CRITFC), Dave Ward (ODFW), John Palensky (NOAA-F), Neil Ward and Tom Iverson (CBFWA)

**By Phone:** Keith Wolf (CCT) and Brad Houslet (CTWSR)

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

**ITEM 1: Review and Approve Agenda and October 13, 2005 AFAC Action Notes**

**Action:** The AFAC approved the October 13 action notes and today's agenda.

**ITEM 2: Update on NPCC Proposed Research Plan**

**Discussion:** The NPCC staff released a Draft Columbia River Basin Research Plan in an effort to assist project sponsors in developing their proposals for the Fiscal Year 2007-2009 Project Selection Process. The FY 2007-2009 Process can provide a vehicle for implementing research that is central to the Fish and Wildlife Program; i.e., supports the mitigation and restoration of wildlife, resident fish, unlisted anadromous fish, and listed anadromous fish. The FY 2007-2009 process has the benefit of the priorities set forth in the draft Research Plan, subbasin plans, the PNAMP Aquatic Monitoring Strategy, and NOAA Recovery Planning documents. These sets of priorities provide project sponsors targets for their proposals and will be used to help the guide the review of on-going work.

**Item 2**  
**Discussion**  
**Continued:**

The competing demand on available Fish and Wildlife Program funding underscores the need for an assessment of proposed research activity in relation to priorities for future research. It is important to make as much progress as possible on implementing these research priorities in the FY 2007-2009 process, and to recognize that implementing new research may require a reallocation of research dollars during the FY 2007-2009 and subsequent funding cycles. Existing projects can provide a strong start for a new research focus; i.e., on-going projects with strong links to regional research priorities should be considered as vehicles for addressing those priorities. The plan is being submitted to the ISAB and ISRP for a final review through December 15th, 2005, and is therefore subject to change. During this review period, comments and suggested revisions are invited from the public and should be sent directly to Steve Waste, NPCC at [swaste@nwcouncil.org](mailto:swaste@nwcouncil.org).

The AFAC determined that the Draft Research Plan had not had adequate review to support project funding decisions. In addition, there is no wildlife section and the resident fish portions are inadequate. The plan also has significant monitoring and evaluation sections that are not sufficient at this time.

The AFAC summarized their concerns in two ways:

- 1) the document has not had appropriate input or process to be adequate to support development of proposals for the FY 2007-2009 process; and,
- 2) a lack of collaboration in the most recent draft has created a document deficient for resident fish and wildlife.

**ITEM 3: Update on FY06 Within Year Budget Adjustment Process**

**Discussion:** All within-year requests must be submitted by November 30 to be considered at the first quarterly review meeting during the first week of January 2006. The next opportunity for consideration will not be until April 2006. In December, the Budget Oversight Group will verify that all submitted requests are complete and placed in the appropriate category (within-year or reschedule). Following that meeting, a complete list of all pending within-year requests will be provided for public review and comment. At the first quarterly review meeting BPA will identify the level of available funds to support the requests. It is anticipated that the NPCC fish and wildlife committee will approve a prioritized list of recommendations to meet the funding level, with consideration of public comments, at their January 17-19, 2006 meeting.

There are currently 4 within year requests that have been submitted which total approximately \$1.024 million (Table 1). An additional 9 requests are under development. Several of the requests are for new work that has not been previously reviewed, while many are for ongoing work or for unfunded approved work from the rolling province review. The details for each request are available on the CBFWA website at <http://www.cbfwa.org/mods/intro.cfm>. BPA has increased the Spending Reserve to \$2 million to facilitate funding both the Within-year and Reschedule requests, and approximately \$800,000 has been used to support Rescheduling.

The FY 2006 planning budget for the Expense category could be increased to at least \$168 million and stay consistent with the rate case agreement and BPA's budgeting rules. BPA would have to increase the Spending Reserve from \$2 million to \$10 million for the first quarterly review in January 2006 to meet that

target. Since there are significantly less than \$10 million in budget modification requests, available funding should not be an issue for within-year requests submitted for the first quarterly review. However, any within-year requests that are approved will likely need to be scientifically justified, address a management priority, and be within the scope of the originally approved proposal.

Tom Iverson encouraged everyone to submit their requests as soon as possible to have action in time to implement during this fiscal year.

The AFAC briefly discussed the 70/15/15 allocation within the Program. The AFAC was concerned that the allocation should not limit the flexibility in the Program to respond to needs of the resource. Also, the 70/15/15 ratio should apply to the allocation, but not necessarily on the spending. Because projects move at different rates, tracking the spending by this ratio is not a useful exercise.

**ITEM 4: Update on the Status of the Resource Report**

**Discussion:** Neil provided an update on the development of a framework for the report. The further a framework is developed the more complex the situation becomes. The AFAC encouraged staff to “walk before you run” by focusing on abundance and trends in populations before diving into population demographics and life stage survival information. CBFWA staff will provide a mock report at the next AFAC meeting to better describe and discuss the intentions of the report.

**ITEM 5: FY 2007-2009 Project Selection Process discussion**

**Discussion:** The AFAC discussed the project selection process. Concerns were raised on the level of involvement by the fish and wildlife managers in the actual selection process. It is still unclear how firm the funding allocations are by province (and by subbasin?). We will have to wait as additional information is provided by the NPCC.

**ITEM 6: Next Meeting**

The next AFAC meeting is scheduled December 6, 2005 from 9 am to Noon in Portland, Oregon at the CBFWA office. Potential agenda items include 1) Status of the Resource Report – mock report, 2) Research Plan, and 3) FY 2006 Within Year process.