



COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

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DATE: June 29, 2010
TO: Resident Fish Advisory Committee (RFAC)
FROM: Neil Ward
SUBJECT: Final Action Notes for the June 22, 2010 RFAC Meeting

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 government agencies:

- Burns Paiute Tribe
 - Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead 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 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
 - Compact of the Upper Snake River Tribes

**Resident Fish Advisory Committee (RFAC) Meeting
Tuesday, June 22, 2010
9:00 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. (Pacific)
@ CBFWA Office
Portland, Oregon**

[RFAC webpage](#)

Final Action Notes

Attendees: Mike Faler (USFWS), Christine Mallette (ODFW), Chad Abel (BPT), Lawrence Schwabe (CTGR), and Neil Ward (CBFWA)

Phone/WebEx: John Easterbrooks (WDFW) and Dave Parrish (IDFG)

Time Allocation:	Objective 1: Participation	100%
	Objective 2: Technical Review	0%
	Objective 3: Presentation	0%

ITEM 1: Review and Approve Agenda
The agenda was approved with no additions.

ITEM 2: Approve Action Notes for the April 21, 2010 RFAC Meeting
Action: The action notes for the [April 21, 2010 RFAC meeting](#) were approved.

ITEM 3: Confirm Vice-Chair
During the April 21, 2010 RFAC meeting, the BPT was nominated as the Vice-Chair of the RFAC. At that time, Chad Abel could not confirm that the BPT would accept the nomination. Chad informed the RFAC that the BPT decision would serve as the RFAC Vice-Chair.

Action: The BPT committed to serving as Vice-Chair until October 1, 2010.

ITEM 4: NPCC's Columbia River Basin Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Reporting (MERR) Plan
Neil Ward provided an update regarding the [comments](#) that the NPCC received relative to the draft [MERR Plan](#). Although technical and policy oriented comments were received, the MERR Plan received general support from the region.

Numerous technical comments were received, most of which were recognized as relevant and appropriate. The NPCC's Fish and Wildlife Committee (Committee) directed the NPCC staff to incorporate the technical comments in the next version of the MERR Plan.

To ensure that the policy-oriented comments are addressed appropriately, the Committee approved the use of a three-phase (i.e., short-term, mid-term, and long-term) approach. The short-term phase will include policy comments that can be

addressed during the summer of 2010. The mid-term phase will include comments that are to be addressed in the interim between the RME Categorical Review and the next Program Amendment process. The long-term phase will include policy comments that will be addressed during the next Program Amendment process.

During the NPCC's June meeting, the short-term policy comments were discussed. The Committee provided the NPCC staff with guidance as to how the comments should be addressed in the next revision of the draft MERR Plan. The following is the guidance that the Committee provided:

- Use of the term "management" in referring to the NPCC's management question:
The Committee recommended defining the NPCC's use of the term management to avoid misinterpretation that the NPCC is involved in management of fish and wildlife, which is outside NPCC's responsibility.
- Use of effort risk analysis approach:
The Committee agreed that the effort-risk analysis for guiding relative priority and the monitoring level is a good approach and will be kept in the MERR Plan with added description to clarify the approach per comments received.
- MERR Plan anadromous fish RME priorities come from FCRPS BiOp:
The Committee supported the proposed MERR Plan approach, consistent with the 2009 Fish and Wildlife Program, as to how the Program recognizes all of the biological opinions.
- ISAB review HLI data:
The Committee agreed to add a process in the MERR Plan to have the ISAB review the HLI data quality and relevance.

Finally, the Committee agreed upon the assignment of mid- and long-term issues into phases two and three, respectively. The policy comments included in the mid-term phase include reporting, framing of the NPCC's management questions, and policy guidance on desired effect size. Issues such as overall structure of the MERR and further development of the prioritization strategy were included in the long-term phase which will be completed prior to the next Program Amendment.

ITEM 5: Columbia River Basin White Sturgeon Monitoring and Evaluation Implementation Strategies: Update

Neil Ward and Christine Mallette provided an update regarding the development of monitoring and evaluation implementation strategies for white sturgeon management units throughout the Columbia River Basin. Neil indicated that although many of the implementation strategies have been completed, several are still being developed. Consequently, the June 21st white sturgeon workgroup meeting was cancelled. Neil informed the RFAC that the implementation strategies that had been received were forwarded to the workgroup for review. Those that had not completed their strategies were asked to finish them by mid-July to ensure the workgroup has an adequate amount of time to review the documents prior to the white sturgeon implementation strategy workshop that is scheduled for July 27-28, 2010.

ITEM 6: Columbia River Basin Bull Trout Monitoring and Evaluation Implementation Strategies: Introduction

Neil Ward and Mike Faler presented preliminary plans for initiating an effort to develop implementation strategies for bull trout in the Columbia River Basin. They indicated that instead of convening one meeting at which all recovery unit teams would be asked to participate, the preferred approach would be to convene 13 individual meetings, during which time one or a small number of geographically related recovery units would be reviewed. They further suggested that that two recovery units (i.e., Lower Deschutes/Odell and Lower Columbia) be used as “Pilot” meetings that would be convened during the weeks of August 9th and 16th, respectively. Following the completion of these meetings, Neil and Mike would work with the Lower Deschutes/Odell and Lower Columbia Recovery Unit teams to develop the implementation strategies prior to the initiation of the next round of meetings, scheduled to start in October.

ITEM 7: Resident Fish Losses: Development of Methodology to Assess Operational Losses

Due to time limitation, the RFAC was unable to discuss the merits of the paper “[Analysis of Potential Impacts to Resident Fish from Columbia River System Operation Alternatives](#)” for assessing resident fish losses resulting from annual hydrosystem operations. Participants encouraged each other to review the document prior to the next meeting.

Action: *Prior to the July RFAC meeting, RFAC participants are to provide their questions/concerns, relative to the document, to Neil Ward so that he can compile the information and distribute the list of comments to the RFAC.*

ITEM 8: Next Meeting

August 3, 2010 (Consider changing to August 5)
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
CBFWA Office