

Conservation of Columbia Basin Fish Building A Conceptual Recovery Plan

Fall 1999 • Issue 2

A publication of the Federal Caucus, Columbia River Fish and Wildlife Recovery

This is the second in a series of *Citizen Updates*, a publication intended to help Northwest citizens understand various studies being released on recovery of endangered and threatened fish and other aquatic species throughout the Columbia River Basin. The Updates are sponsored by the Federal Caucus, a group of nine federal agencies responsible for federal actions in the Northwest that affect salmon, steelhead, bull trout, white sturgeon and snails listed under the Endangered Species Act.

The purpose of this issue of the Update is to provide a summary of the Federal Caucus **All-H Paper**, and an update of the *public meetings* to be held February and March 2000.

As this *Citizen Update* goes to press, the Federal Caucus is releasing its draft report on **Conservation of Columbia Basin Fish**. Our previous Update referred to this report as the Four-H Paper. We have since changed this shorthand title to the "**All-H Paper**" to avoid any possibility of confusion with the 4-H Youth Development Program.

At the same time, the Corps of Engineers is releasing its Draft **Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration** Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement for public review and comment. This study examines alternatives for configuring and operating the four federal dams on the lower Snake River for improved salmon migration.

Also, the Bonneville Power Administration, Bureau of Reclamation and Corps are completing a **Biological Assessment** of potential effects of operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System on listed aquatic species in the Columbia River Basin.

The next issue of the Update will provide an overview of the other documents listed above, and the Northwest Power Planning Council's Multi-Species Framework Project, in time to help you prepare for the public meetings. The Federal Caucus will host public meetings in Washington, Oregon,

Idaho, Montana and Alaska, to provide citizens an opportunity to learn more about the options being considered for recovery of Columbia Basin fish, and to make written and oral comments before final decisions are made.

See page 11 of this Update for information on public meetings. For more information, including how to obtain copies of publications and documents, see the back page.

What Are the Hs?

Four factors that influence salmon and steelhead survival are – habitat, harvest, hatcheries and hydropower. The *habitat* required varies with life-cycle but includes clean, cool water;



Habitat



Harvest



Hatcheries



Hydro

clean, silt-free gravel for spawning; places to rest; and food. Fishing, or *harvest*, has historically contributed to declines in fish populations, especially before current regulations and harvest rate restrictions. *Hatcheries* are intended to essentially replace natural freshwater rearing for salmon, minimizing mortality at this life stage, but hatchery fish now greatly outnumber and compete with wild fish. And *hydropower* dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers, while providing benefits to the region, have blocked and inundated mainstem habitat, altered natural flows, impeded passage of migrating fish, and created a series of pools that provide habitat for predators.



Summary of the All-H Paper

Native salmon and steelhead, and many resident fish species are in decline throughout the Columbia River Basin. Recent studies indicate that extinction risks for Snake River salmon and steelhead populations are significant. These analyses confirm that major changes must be made in a wide range of activities that cause harm to these fish, if species recovery is to be successful. Analyses for other salmon and steelhead populations in the basin will be completed in a few months. Making changes to recover these fish will require the people of the Pacific Northwest to confront tough choices. The success of fish recovery in the Columbia Basin depends upon the willingness of the region to make those decisions.

The Federal Caucus, a partnership of nine federal agencies, will hold meetings across the region in the coming months to gather public opinions to help them develop a conceptual recovery plan for Columbia Basin fish. The purpose of this *Citizen Update* is to outline the choices that face the region if recovery

The Federal Caucus

In 1998, nine federal agencies formed the *Federal Caucus* to examine opportunities the region has in each of the Hs for recovering listed salmon, steelhead and resident fish. The intent was to develop a conceptual recovery plan that could guide future federal actions. The agencies of the Federal Caucus are the: Bonneville Power Administration, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Environmental Protection Agency, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service.

is to succeed. This publication is one of the first steps in what the Federal Caucus hopes will be an open and constructive debate among the governments and people of the region on fish recovery and related issues.

The deterioration of the Columbia's once-numerous fish runs can be traced to the economic development of the basin. The human activities that have caused the decline of the fish are often referred to as

the "all Hs" – habitat, harvest, hatcheries and hydropower. The All-H Paper presents options for recovery actions in each of the Hs and shows how the options can be combined into integrated alternatives, representing broad policy choices. The options are not intended to be exact prescriptions of actions, and the alternatives are not the only combinations of options possible. None should be viewed as "preferred" by the Federal Caucus.

We are presenting the options and alternatives to stimulate public discussion of what the region can do to recover salmon and steelhead and other aquatic species. This publication explains how you can participate in this complex regional debate as it begins to unfold in January.

Background

Historically, 10-16 million salmon and steelhead returned to the Columbia River Basin each year to spawn, but by the 1960s, that number had dropped to about 5 million. Today, only about a million fish return, and most of them originate from hatcheries, not from the wild. Due to this steep decline, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has listed 12 Columbia River Basin salmon and steelhead stocks as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has listed bull trout, Kootenai River White sturgeon and five other aquatic species as threatened or endangered.

The people of the Pacific Northwest have made efforts to turn around the salmon and steelhead decline. Fish managers in the basin have dramatically reduced harvest. They have also made substantial progress to address hatchery practices and established programs to improve habitat. Although there have been many improvements at dams and in hydropower operations, the major hydropower dams on the Snake and Columbia rivers continue to be a significant source of mortality for some stocks of migrating fish. Recently, regional debate has focused on the eight federal dams on the Snake and Columbia rivers, the role they have played in fish declines, and whether some of the dams should be removed. Given the impacts of extensive hydropower development on the salmon runs of the Columbia Basin, this focus is entirely understandable and appropriate. At the same time, however, maintaining a broad, more comprehensive focus on other major sources of declines is equally important if recovery efforts are to succeed.



Salmon recovery is but one of several environmental challenges facing the governments of the Pacific Northwest. Addressing the extensive loss of water quality throughout the basin is a complementary objective. Columbia River streams, both mainstem and tributaries, have been designated as polluted, threatened and impaired under the Clean Water Act (CWA). The degraded condition of these streams contributes to declines in fish populations throughout the basin.

Goals and Objectives

The Federal Caucus suggests five goals for a regional fish recovery plan:

- **Conserve Species.** Avoid extinction and foster long-term survival and recovery of Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead and other aquatic species.
- **Conserve Ecosystems.** Conserve the ecosystems upon which salmon and steelhead depend.

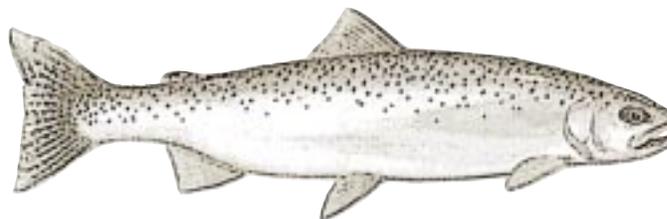
The Columbia River Basin





- **Assure Tribal Fishing Rights.** Restore salmon and steelhead populations over time to a level that provides a sustainable harvest sufficient to allow for the exercise of meaningful tribal fishing rights.
- **Balance the Needs of Other Species.** Ensure that salmon and steelhead conservation measures are balanced with the needs of other native fish and wildlife species.
- **Minimize Adverse Effects on Humans.** Implement salmon and steelhead conservation measures in ways that minimize their adverse human effects.

Habitat conditions on federal land are generally better than conditions on nonfederal land. Habitat programs currently in place on federal land are likely in the long term to bring back high-quality habitat, while improvement of habitat on nonfederal land is less certain.



The Options for Each H

The Federal Caucus considered a range of options for each H. There were three purposes in developing the options:

- to consider solutions or actions that had not yet been explored;
- to test the sensitivity of different fish populations at various life stages to actions in the different Hs; and
- to stimulate regional dialogue on the trade-offs and uncertainties involved in selecting a suite of actions to recover salmon and steelhead populations.

The options described below are offered as a means to engage the region early in the thinking process of the federal agencies. They are intended to illustrate broad choices in direction and strategy for each of the life-cycle stages where human actions can influence survival. They do not represent exact prescriptions of actions and measures that would ultimately be implemented as part of an overall recovery plan.

Without substantial improvements in land and water activities, habitat conditions across the basin will continue to erode and undercut progress in salmon recovery efforts in the other Hs. Improvements in habitat for salmon and steelhead have the additional benefit of improving conditions for other aquatic species, wildlife and native plant communities in the watershed.

The objectives of the habitat options under consideration by the Federal Caucus are to:

- prevent further degradation of tributary and estuary habitat conditions and water quality;
- protect existing high-quality habitats; and
- restore habitats on a priority basis.

The primary difference among the habitat options is the level of state and local effort and participation, federal support, and federal regulation. Under all the options, federal land management agencies will continue to pursue their current programs and consult on those programs under the ESA. All options call for substantially increased federal coordination, assessment and planning, as well as immediate federal actions.



Habitat Options

The quality and quantity of tributary freshwater and estuary habitat in much of the Columbia River Basin has declined dramatically in the last 100 years. The lands and

waters of the basin no longer support the array of anadromous fish, resident fish, wildlife and plant communities that existed prior to European settlement.

Option 1

Coordinate and Prioritize Federal Actions

- Under this option, there would be moderate increases in efforts to protect and restore habitat, a measurable increase in federal action and coordination, and increased habitat assessments and planning efforts using federal funds. Immediate actions would reduce imminent risks and immediately improve fish survival.

Option 2:

Coordinated Regional Plans

- Under this option, state, tribal, local and federal entities would significantly increase their level of coordination, planning and habitat implementation. There would be an increase in federal funding for habitat assessments, plans, immediate actions and monitoring. Immediate actions would reduce imminent risks and immediately improve fish survival. One major mechanism to accomplish this option would be a substantial and explicit tie between water-quality compliance efforts (already under court orders in the three states) and salmon recovery.

Option 3:

Increased Federal Role under CWA and ESA

- This option is similar to Option 2, except it includes increased regulation by the federal agencies under the CWA and ESA. This option would be implemented if the region cannot develop a coordinated plan with state and local governments.



Harvest Options

Salmon fishing has been a central feature of Northwest tribal culture, religion and commerce for generations. Tribal harvest may historically have been as high as 4 to 6

million fish. Many Northwest tribes have reserved the right to harvest fish in treaties with the United States. With the arrival of European settlers and the advent of canning technologies in the late 1800s, commercial fishing developed rapidly. Commercial salmon and steelhead harvest has been as high as 2.1 million fish in 1941 and as low as 68,000 fish in 1995.

To have a sustainable harvest, salmon and steelhead must produce more adults than are needed for spawning. This means enough adults must be allowed to escape the fisheries (not be caught by fishers) to spawn and perpetuate the run, and the productive capacity of the habitat must be maintained. Unfortunately, these prerequisites for sustainable harvest have been regularly violated in the past. The lack of coordinated management across jurisdictions, coupled with economic pressures to increase catches or sustain them in periods of lower production, resulted in harvests that were too high, limiting the numbers of adults returning to spawn.

The objectives of the harvest options developed by the Federal Caucus are to:

- manage fisheries to prevent overharvest and contribute to recovery; and
- provide fishing opportunities that comport with trust obligations to the tribes and comply with sustainable fisheries objectives for all citizens.

These options presume that the beneficial harvest reforms of recent years will continue. The reforms, along with the dramatic decline in productivity, have already come at great cost to fishing interests in the Pacific Northwest, especially the region's Indian tribes.

Option 1:

Fishery Benefits During Recovery

- This option would implement the recently negotiated Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) conditions in all ocean fisheries and, as contemplated in that agreement, further constrain ocean fisheries off Oregon, Washington and California and freshwater fisheries (such as those within the Columbia River) in some years if necessary to comply with the ESA. [The PST is a treaty between the U.S. and Canada that calls for fishing levels based on abundance of wild stocks, allowing enough wild salmon to escape harvest and return to rivers to spawn, thus assuring continuation of the stock.] This option would apply the harvest restrictions currently being developed under the ESA for upper Willamette and lower Columbia chinook

Chinook salmon are the largest salmon. Chinook are long distance swimmers and travel to the farthest reaches of the Columbia Basin to spawn. The fish return from the ocean to the Columbia River in the spring, summer and fall and are differentiated by the time of year they return, and the age at which they migrate to the ocean.

A-run steelhead return to the drainage in the fall and spawn in small, lower elevation streams in the late winter and early spring. The larger-bodied **B-run steelhead** return in the fall or the spring and spawn in medium-sized, higher elevation streams from March to June.

A fish **run** is a group of fish of the same species that migrate together up a stream to spawn, usually associated with the seasons, i.e., fall, spring, summer and winter runs.

salmon. When the abundance levels of listed stocks are similar to what they were in 1999, the in-river fisheries would be managed to limit the total mortality attributable to harvest for listed summer chinook to 5 percent or less and spring chinook to 7 percent or less. In-river fall fisheries would be managed so as not to exceed the 1999 harvest rate limits for Snake River fall chinook and a particular run of steelhead, called “B” run steelhead. A schedule would be developed that allows harvest rates to increase as abundance increases.

Option 2:

Fixed In-river Harvest Rates (1999 levels)

- This option is the same as Option 1, except that it does not include the in-river harvest rate schedule. In-river fisheries would be managed to limit impacts on listed spring and summer chinook to 7 and 5 percent, respectively, or less, and the fall season fisheries would be managed so as not to exceed the 1999 harvest rate limits for Snake River fall chinook and “B” run steelhead. All of these rates would be frozen until recovery goals are achieved.

Option 3:

Conservation Fishery Levels

- This option would also implement the Pacific Salmon Treaty regime for Alaskan and Canadian fisheries, except that additional voluntary reductions would be sought in these fisheries. It differs from Option 2 in that all other harvest impacts on listed populations would be reduced to “conservation crisis levels” for a period of years, after which the regime would shift to Option 1 or 2. Conservation crisis harvest levels, which are 5 to 7 percent for each of the listed species, would be

similar to the 1999 harvest rates for listed Snake River fall chinook and steelhead.



Hatcheries Options

Hatchery fish represent approximately 80 percent of the adult salmon and steelhead returning to the Columbia River

Basin. Nearly all hatchery fish programs were intended to compensate for the loss of fish and fish habitat due to construction of the Federal Columbia River Power System. Modern hatchery production peaked in the early 1990s at over 200 million fish annually. There are about 100 anadromous fish hatcheries, including satellite facilities, in the Columbia River Basin today, and they produce about 150 million fish annually.

Hatcheries have a long history of efficiently providing fish for harvest and related social purposes. It is not yet clear, however, whether hatcheries are effective in rebuilding self-sustaining, naturally spawning populations over the long term. A fundamental question is: how can artificial production be applied in a manner that not only avoids harm, but also assists in the conservation and rebuilding of wild runs?

The objectives for the hatchery options are to:

- minimize the adverse effects of hatchery production on wild fish;
- conserve genetic resources;
- help rebuild natural populations; and
- use hatcheries creatively to mitigate for lost fishing opportunities resulting from losses of habitat or reduced productivity.

Option 1:

Currently Planned Programs

- This option includes currently planned programs to conserve genetic resources and currently planned improvements in mitigation programs.

Option 2:

Increase Conservation Programs

- This option would increase programs to conserve genetic resources over what is currently planned. It would include currently planned improvements in mitigation programs, with corresponding reductions in overall production.

The Purposes of Hatcheries

In this guide, you will see references to “mitigation” and “conservation” hatcheries. These terms relate to the purpose the hatcheries serve. According to a recent basinwide review of artificial production, mitigation hatcheries are set up to compensate for lost habitat of naturally produced fish. Conservation hatcheries operate to conserve the genetic resources of fish, which includes preserving populations that face extinction.

Option 3:

Increase Conservation Programs and Significantly Decrease Mitigation Programs

- This option would increase programs to conserve genetic resources, as described in Option 2, but it would significantly decrease mitigation programs below currently planned levels.



Hydropower Options

Hydropower development has had profound effects on the basin's salmon and steelhead runs, resident fish and other aquatic species. Grand Coulee

Dam on the Columbia and the Hells Canyon Complex on the Snake River blocked passage to over half of the salmon's historic upriver spawning areas. Many smaller dams on the tributaries have also blocked spawning areas. The hydropower system affects fish in other ways as well. The storage reservoirs behind dams in the basin alter natural streamflows, and the dams themselves block or delay both upstream and downstream fish migration.

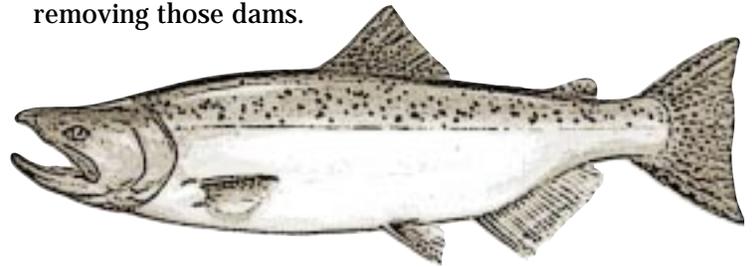
Dam operators have developed several methods for moving migrating fish past the dams and reservoirs, including mechanical bypass systems and transporting juvenile fish in trucks and barges to release sites below Bonneville Dam. In addition, a flow augmentation program called for under NMFS' 1995 and 1998 Biological Opinions aims to restore more natural flow patterns during the time juvenile and adult salmon and steelhead are migrating. These and other changes have resulted in important survival improvements for migrating fish.

A **biological opinion** is a document stating the opinion of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service on whether a federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species, or result in a destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. The NMFS 1995 and 1998 biological opinions addressed how the federal dams in the basin should be operated to protect fish.

The hydropower options have two objectives:

- Provide adequate survival and maintain healthy adult and juvenile anadromous fish inhabiting and/or migrating through the hydropower system; and
- Provide instream and reservoir environmental conditions necessary for adequate survival of resident fish and other aquatic species.

The options represent the major choices in direction and strategy for the hydropower system. The goal is to determine how much improvement the region could realistically expect to see with these substantially different approaches, and how much difference each would make for the fish overall and in combination with actions in the other Hs. The Caucus examined the option of removing Snake River dams, but not Columbia River dams since there has not yet been any in-depth study of removing those dams.



Option 1:

Current Program

- This option would continue on the present path of ongoing improvements to the system, with roughly the existing annual level of investment.

Option 2:

Aggressive Program

- This option assumes that the current program for improved fish passage facilities, such as surface bypass, will be successful and will be implemented to increase passage survival. The primary difference between this option and Option 1 is that under this option, the federal agencies would seek increased funding to pursue more aggressive implementation of measures to improve passage survival. Flow augmentation (especially in the Snake River) and spill would be increased.

Option 3:

Breach Lower Snake River Dams

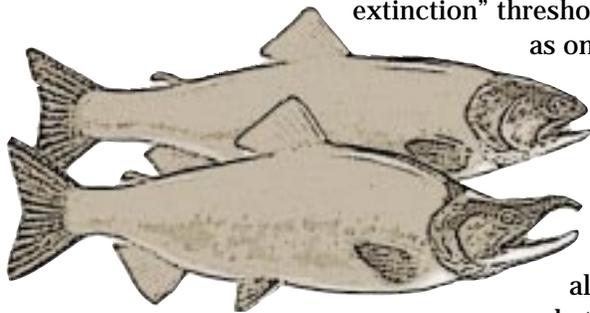
- Under this option, conditions for Snake River stocks would be improved by removing the dams that block their passage in the lower Snake River.

Biological Considerations

To construct integrated alternatives – combinations of the options under each of the Hs – the Federal Caucus considered a variety of scientific analyses. These include the Cumulative Risk Initiative (CRI), developed by NMFS' Northwest Fisheries Science Center, and the Plan for Analyzing and Testing Hypotheses (PATH), a collaborative effort of the state fishery agencies, tribes and federal agencies.

The CRI estimates the risk that salmon and steelhead in the Snake River will reach a “quasi-extinction” threshold, defined

as one adult fish or fewer returning to spawn in any single year. The CRI also examines what opportuni-



ties exist to improve survival and reduce the risk of extinction.

The PATH analyses use life-cycle models to project the likelihood that Snake River spring/summer chinook and fall chinook will meet certain abundance goals within 24, 48 and 100 years. The PATH results, which some believe may be overly optimistic, show trends improving regardless of the management actions pursued.

The results of the CRI and PATH modeling efforts should be used with caution. The models contain many assumptions that might be wrong, and the further out into the future a projection is made, the less certain are the results.

Integrated Alternatives

There are a number of ways to combine options for habitat, harvest, hatchery and hydropower measures to arrive at integrated alternatives. The alternatives presented below represent some of the possibilities. All of the alternatives are intended to improve survival of Columbia Basin salmon and other listed species over the long term, but some have more certain benefits than others. In combining the op-

tions, the Caucus wanted to present possibilities that have some likelihood of achieving or contributing significantly to recovery of listed populations.

The alternatives describe broad policy choices for recovery and are intended to stimulate public discussion and illuminate the thinking within the Federal Caucus. They do not represent the only combinations of options that could provide recovery, nor do they represent preferred alternatives. We invite you to think about and devise other combinations of options that have significant potential for achieving recovery of salmon and steelhead populations.

Alternative A: Dam Removal

Habitat – Option 1

Coordinate and Prioritize Federal Actions

Harvest – Option 1

Fishery Benefits During Recovery

Hatcheries – Option 1

Currently Planned Programs

Hydropower – Option 3

Breach Lower Snake River Dams

Under Alternative A, the decision would be made now to breach four lower Snake River dams (remove the earthen portion of each dam to allow a free flowing stretch of river) and the necessary congressional authorizations would be pursued. The region would rely primarily on breaching for recovering Snake River fish. There would be little increase in efforts to improve habitat conditions on nonfederal land, as resources would be focused on dam breaching. Because of the expected benefit in fish productivity from breaching, harvest would be constrained by weak stocks initially, but allowed to increase as runs increase.

Since most conservation hatchery programs are aimed at Snake River fish, there would be no need to increase these programs, and existing resources would be shifted to ESA-listed stocks in the Columbia River. Similarly, the expected increase in productivity of wild Snake River fish would mean less concern about the possible harmful effects of mitigation hatchery production on wild fish in the Snake River. This alternative would not improve survival for fish outside of the Snake River beyond the improvements that would result from programs already in place.



Columbia River Basin Threatened and Endangered Species

Resident Fish/Snails

Bull Trout



Columbia River (threatened)

White Sturgeon

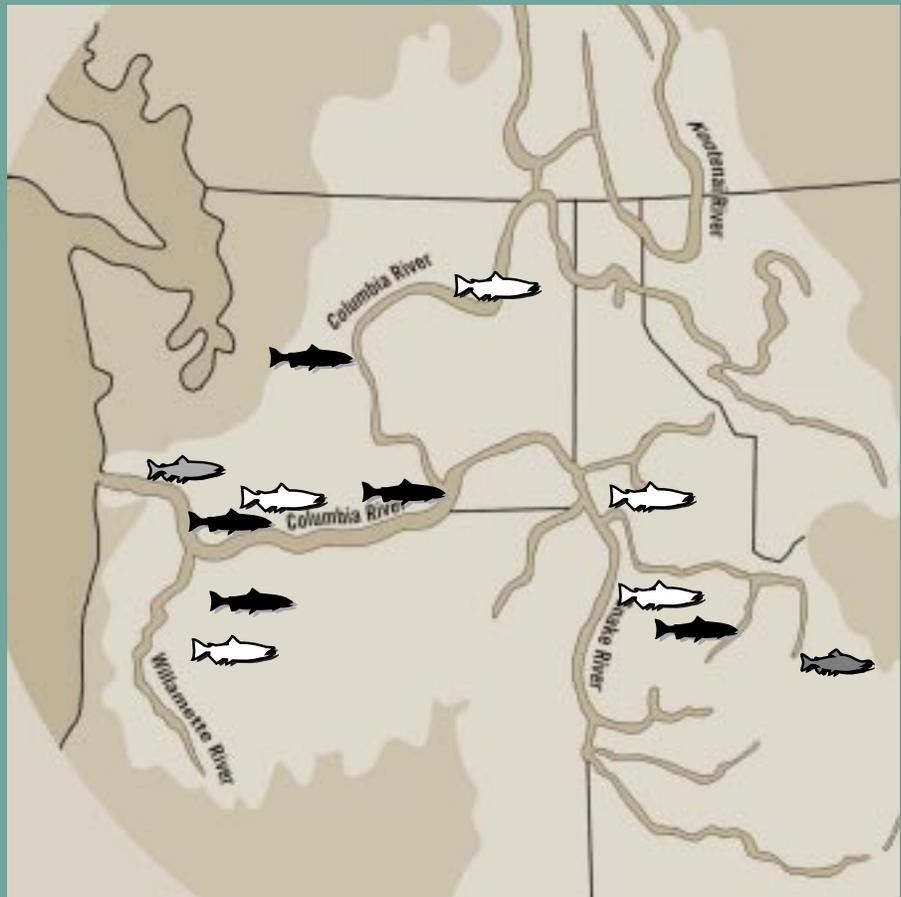


Kootenai River (endangered) -
approximately 168 miles in the
river

Snails



Snake River (endangered)
5 species



Anadromous Fish



Chum Salmon



Columbia River (threatened)



Chinook Salmon



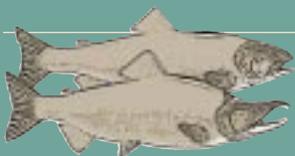
Snake River Fall (threatened)
Snake River Spring/Summer (threatened)
Lower Columbia River (threatened)
Upper Columbia River Spring (endan-
gered)
Upper Willamette River (threatened)



Steelhead



Snake River Basin (threatened)
Lower Columbia River (threatened)
Middle Columbia River (threatened)
Upper Columbia River (endangered)
Upper Willamette River (threatened)



Sockeye Salmon



Snake River (endangered)



*Alternative B:
Harvest Constraints*

Habitat – Option 1

Coordinate and Prioritize Federal Actions

Harvest – Option 3

Conservation Fishery Levels

Hatcheries – Option 3

Increase Conservation Programs and Significantly
Decrease Mitigation Programs

Hydropower – Option 1

Current Program

Under Alternative B, the lower Snake River dams would not be breached, and the region would rely on

harvest constraints, along with existing improvements in the hydropower system and improvements in federal habitat to recover fish runs. All fisheries would be held to conservation levels for a period of time (e.g., 10 years) to “jump start” recovery. Since fisheries would also be constrained, it would be logical to reduce the production of mitigation hatchery fish. This reduction might provide further unquantifiable survival benefits to wild fish.

*Alternative C:
Aggressive Actions Without Breaching Dams*

Habitat – Option 2

Coordinated Regional Plans

Harvest – Option 2

Fixed In-river Harvest Rates (1999 Levels)

Hatcheries – Option 2

Increase Conservation Programs

Hydropower – Option 2

Aggressive Program

Under Alternative C, a decision on dam breaching would be deferred. This would allow an interim period to determine whether aggressive actions in all of the Hs (short of breaching) are likely to recover Snake River fish and to resolve key scientific uncertainties. Hydropower actions would include increased flows (especially in the Snake River) and increased spill.

State and local governments would contribute significantly to habitat protection through such programs as improved in-stream flows and water management, irrigation improvements and riparian protections. Additional populations would be brought into hatchery conservation programs if necessary to prevent extinctions. Harvest would be held at a flat rate based on 1999 fishing rates until stocks recover.

*Alternative D:
Maximum Protections*

Habitat – Option 2

Coordinated Regional Plans with a default to Option 3 if increased state and local efforts do not occur.

Harvest – Option 3

Conservation Fishery Levels

*Alternatives That Offer
the Potential for Recovery*

*Alternative A
Dam Removal*

The decision would be made to breach four lower Snake River dams, and the region would pursue congressional authority to do so.

*Alternative B
Harvest Constraints*

The lower Snake River dams would not be breached, and the region would rely on limiting salmon harvest and improving habitat and conditions in the hydropower system to recover listed stocks.

*Alternative C
Aggressive Non-Breach*

A decision on breaching the lower Snake River dams would be deferred, and the region would pull out the stops to implement other actions to recover listed stocks.

*Alternative D
Maximum Protections*

This most aggressive scenario would include breaching lower Snake River dams, and the other Hs would make dramatic contributions to recover listed stocks throughout the basin.

Hatcheries – Option 3

Increase Conservation Programs and Significantly
Decrease Mitigation Programs

Hydropower – Option 3

Breach Lower Snake River Dams

Alternative D would be the most aggressive scenario, with all Hs making dramatic contributions in an effort to recover listed stocks throughout the basin. In the case of hatcheries, conservation programs would increase outside of the Snake River and mitigation programs would be reduced basinwide.

Next Steps

Beginning in January 2000, public meetings will be held throughout the region. These meetings will be an opportunity for the public to comment on the All-H report and other aspects of endangered species

recovery in the Columbia River Basin. At the meetings, citizens can learn more about the options in all Hs, ask questions, talk with study managers, and make comments that will be included in the public record. This regional discussion will guide decisions that the federal agencies must make to recover salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River Basin. In May 2000, the Federal Caucus plans to release a final Conservation of Columbia Basin Fish report.

The Northwest Power Planning Council has agreed to participate in this public process so that the Multi-Species Framework alternatives may be discussed at the same time. In addition, individual federal agencies will invite comments on other related federal processes including the Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration feasibility study Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Program (ICBEMP) EIS. The next issue of the *Citizen Update* will describe each of these studies.

Public Meeting Schedule

** February 2, 2000 – Information Teleconference*

Federal Caucus
and Northwest Power Planning Council

February 3-4, 2000 – Portland, Oregon

Governor Hotel
SW 10th at Alder
February 3: 8:30 a.m. - closing
February 4: 8:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Multi-Species Framework
Federal Caucus
Northwest Power Planning Council

February 8, 2000 – Spokane, Washington

DoubleTree Hotel
322 N. Spokane Falls Court
12:00 noon

** February 10, 2000 – Lewiston, Idaho*

February 15, 2000 – Astoria, Oregon

Clatsop County Fair Grounds
92937 Walluski Loop
5:00 p.m.

February 17, 2000 – Tri-Cities (Pasco), Washington

DoubleTree Hotel
2525 North 20th Avenue
12:00 noon

February 23, 2000 – Boise, Idaho

Center on the Grove
850 West Front Street
12:00 noon

February 29, 2000 – Seattle, Washington

DoubleTree Hotel, SeaTac
18740 Pacific Highway South
12:00 noon

March 1, 2000, Kalispell – Montana

Outlaw Inn
1701 Highway 93 South
6:00 p.m.

March 2, 2000 – Missoula, Montana

DoubleTree Hotel
100 Madison
6:00 p.m.

March 7, 2000 – Idaho Falls, Idaho

Shilo Inn
780 Lindsay Boulevard
5:00 p.m.

March 8, 2000 – Twin Falls, Idaho

Westin Plaza
1350 Blue Lakes Blvd. N.
5:00 p.m.

** _____, 2000, Alaska*

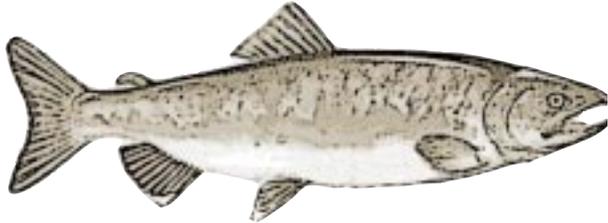
*Dates, Times & Locations to be determined
Tribal consultation is being scheduled

Please check the website for updates

If you have special needs for any of the above Public Meetings two (2) weeks prior to the event, please contact Jessi Phelps at (888) 921-4886, or via email at federalcaucus@bpa.gov.

For more Information:

This is the second in a series of *Citizen Updates*. Citizen Update #1 takes a big-picture look at declining fish and wildlife in the region and other ESA issues. The next Update will give an overview of several other studies related to Columbia Basin Fish Recovery. You can get additional copies of these



Updates, other publications and further information by contacting the Federal Caucus at the following phone numbers and addresses, or by visiting the Web site listed below:

Mail:

Federal Caucus Comment Record
c/o BPA-PL
707 W. Main St., Suite 500
Spokane, WA 99201

E-mail:

federalcaucus@bpa.gov

Web site:

www.bpa.gov/federalcaucus

This Web site lists other sites and Internet links you may want to visit, and it provides notice of public meetings as they are scheduled.

Phone:

Call 1-509-358-7415 in Spokane or
toll-free 1-888-921-4886.

Federal Caucus Comment Record

c/o BPA-PL

707 W. Main St., Suite 500

Spokane, WA 99201