

COUNCIL GUIDANCE ON COLUMBIA BASIN SITUATION ASSESSMENT

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is conducting a "situation assessment" of regional views about salmon recovery planning in the Columbia Basin for the long-term. They are assembling an assessment team including academic expertise from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. A situation assessment is an interview-based process undertaken to better understand and explore relevant issues and interests of involved parties and situation dynamics. The assessment team will reach out to a broad array of regional parties over the next several months to capture a range of perspectives. In December 2012, NMFS sent out a letter of invitation and background information (Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachment 1) to a variety of Columbia Basin stakeholders including Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Executive Director, Dr. Donald McIsaac.

At the March 2013 Council meeting, NMFS reported on this issue and Dr. McIsaac requested input from the Council and its advisory bodies in preparation for his participation in the assessment. At that time, the Habitat Committee and Salmon Advisory Subpanel provided initial guidance (see March 2013 Briefing Book, Agenda Item C.3).

At this meeting, NMFS Northwest Region, Deputy Regional Administrator, Mr. Barry Thom is scheduled to brief the Council on the assessment and respond to questions. The Council is scheduled hear reports from its advisory groups and the public and to provide guidance and direction to the Executive Director.

Council Task:

- 1. Review the Columbia Basin Situation Assessment.**
- 2. Provide guidance and direction to the Executive Director.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachment 1, December 11, 2012 letter from Mr. Barry A. Thom regarding the Columbia Basin Assessment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. Council Guidance and Direction

Mike Burner

PFMC
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