

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON  
COUNCIL GUIDANCE ON THE COLUMBIA BASIN SITUATION ASSESSMENT

In response to the Council's request for Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) guidance regarding the Columbia River Salmon Recovery Assessment undertaken by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the SAS believes that the following issues are most relevant to the discussion and could be utilized by the Council in formulating any communication with NMFS.

- 1 There are a number of existing Salmon Recovery Plans and programs throughout the Columbia Basin that have made considerable progress during the past decade. These were developed with significant stakeholder and public input, and the Assessment should not deflect or detract from the current recovery efforts underway. Instead, the Assessment should take the approach of "What more can be done?" and also address funding issues, which will determine the speed of progress.
- 2 With the upcoming re-consideration of the Columbia River Treaty with Canada, issues of flow and spill will become central in a discussion of salmon recovery efforts. The Council should consider including these issues as foremost among the Council's concerns regarding salmon recovery.
- 3 The Council provides an excellent model for "grass-roots" involvement of multiple stakeholders over a large geographic area, both in its composition of and utilization of advisory bodies as well as the North of Falcon process. The Council should consider recommending its processes as a model in response to the NMFS question about how Basin-wide priorities should be considered and discussed with parties and multiple constituencies. The Council provides an open forum for public education and input.
- 4 SAS recommends that a robust sample of commercial, tribal, and recreational harvesters be interviewed, many of whom are heavily involved in recovery efforts already, and particularly because they are the first ones to see the results of recovery efforts. Further, current recovery efforts were front-end loaded with harvest cuts, and the SAS is concerned that the Assessment process not become a way to delay or forestall the other parties to recovery from contributing their share.
- 5 Various Federal laws are working against each other in current recovery efforts. Specifically, the Magnusson-Stevens Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Migratory Bird Act and the Endangered Species Act sometimes conflict when it comes to management and recovery of stocks of concern. Current concerns and conflicts regarding bird and/or sea lion predation on salmonids are evidence that revisiting and/or modifying this legislation is appropriate.