

LOWER COLUMBIA NATURAL COHO WORKGROUP REPORT ON LOWER COLUMBIA NATURAL COHO HARVEST RATE MATRIX REVIEW

The Lower Columbia Natural Coho Workgroup (LRC Workgroup) met for the first time on April 4, 2014. The LRC Workgroup elected Stuart Ellis of the Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) as Chair and Jeromy Jording with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as Vice-chair. The LRC Workgroup discussed the process and schedule (Agenda Item F.4.a, Attachment 1) and developed the following tentative schedule for future meetings.

Schedule

- Meeting #1 – May 15, from 9am-4pm at the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) office
- Meeting #2 – July 9
- Meeting #3 – August 14
- Potential Meeting #4 – October (may be a joint session with the Salmon Advisory Subpanel)

There are some uncertainties because it is early in the process, but the LRC Workgroup is not anticipating methodology changes that would need to be addressed under the Council's annual salmon methodology review. If topics arise, the LRC Workgroup will work with Council staff to identify issues no later than the September Council meeting. The LRC Workgroup does not anticipate a need to meet at the June Council meeting, but members may need to be present at the September Council meeting where the Council is tentatively scheduled to review a range of alternative harvest policies. The LRC Workgroup will revisit the matter in May.

Topics for Discussion

The LRC Workgroup provides the following list of topics for discussion at the next meeting:

- Review the status of all populations and full seeding targets
- Review the risk assessment tool
- Discuss implications of gorge populations
- Are there other ways to populate the matrix?
- Develop a risk standard for comparison of alternative harvest matrices
- Need to consider the mix of populations and strata
- Are there changes needed in the Fishery Regulation and Assessment Model?
- Develop proposed strategies for the September Council meeting

Assignments

The LRC Workgroup developed the following list of assignments:

- Need to determine if Columbia River tributary fisheries are included in the analysis
 - States will discuss this before the May meeting and provide recommendations
- Develop Fact Sheet on Willamette River coho
 - Oregon Department Fish and Wildlife will provide historical levels and stock origin of hatchery coho releases above Willamette Falls and escapement estimates

- NMFS will provide information on status, background and determination criteria for the existing boundary of the lower Columbia natural coho Evolutionarily Significant Unit

Topics for the June Council meeting update

- Progress report on our May 15 meeting and topics for discussion.
- Fact Sheet on Willamette coho.

PFMC

04/07/14