

PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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May 16, 2005

Mr. Robert Lohn, Northwest Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
7600 Sand Point Way NE BIN C15700
Seattle, WA 98115-0070

Brigadier General William T. Grisoli, Commander and Division Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Northwest Division
1125 NW Couch Street
Portland, OR 97209

Stephen J. Wright, Administrator
Bonneville Power Administration
PO Box 3621
Portland, OR 97208-3621

J. William McDonald, Regional Director
Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Division
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100
Boise, ID 83706

Dear Sirs:

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is concerned about Columbia Basin water conditions in 2005 and the impacts to fish, fishing communities, and businesses that will likely ensue. This year (2005) began as one of the worst water years on record in the Pacific Northwest and remains in the category of a low flow year during the salmon smolt outmigration period. As the biological record shows, low flows will result in significantly slower smolt migration times, greater susceptibility to predators, ill effects of elevated water temperatures, and overall reduced survival from the parent stream to the adult phase. We ask that you take every opportunity to manage Columbia River Basin flows in a way to protect this year's salmon outmigration in recognition of the substantial value of the fisheries they support. The Council notes that the impacts of low flow conditions on Columbia Basin salmon and the fisheries that depend upon them are felt over several years.

Mr. Lohn, Brigadier General Grisoli, Mr. Wright, Mr. McDonald

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We urge you to take the necessary actions under your authority to ensure that salmon migrate through the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) as quickly as possible, to improve river conditions through water acquisitions, and to fully implement the FCRPS Biological Opinion's spill provisions. Such actions will protect the significant regional investments in salmon recovery and the fishery jobs that go along with that investment. We appreciate your serious consideration of this important matter.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mr. Chuck Tracy at the Council office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. O. McIsaac", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

D. O. McIsaac, Ph.D.

Executive Director

HC:ckc

c: Council Members
Habitat Committee
Mr. Jim Seger
Mr. Chuck Tracy