

**Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee
Proposed Columbia Basin Partnership (CBP) Task Force
Terms of Reference
April 2016**

Purpose

The purpose of this request is to establish a task force under the authority of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) to provide expert advice and create a communication conduit for geographically focused stakeholder input to MAFAC, and subsequently NOAA Fisheries Leadership, on listed and non-listed salmon and steelhead issues and goals that integrate long-term conservation and harvest/fishing and support regional and local efforts amongst Columbia Basin partners. This advice and related information will contribute to fulfilling NOAA Fisheries mission activities.

Objective

This Task Force is being established to expand the expertise of MAFAC and to help MAFAC provide advice and input to NOAA Fisheries Leadership on the Columbia Basin Partnership (CBP) Task Force and its future activities. The Task Force will assist NOAA Fisheries in fulfilling its central role in ensuring that ESA, tribal trust and sustainable fishing responsibilities integrate conservation and harvest through an inclusive approach in the Columbia Basin. The Task Force will be science-based, results driven, transparent, and publicly embraced.

The initial actions for consideration of the Task Force include:

- Provide a framework for developing quantitative goals for salmon and steelhead at the species, stock, and major population group (MPG).
- Collaboratively develop goals to meet conservation needs while also providing harvest, including that necessary to satisfy treaty rights, and fishing opportunities. Goals will be developed in light of habitat capacity, climate change and other ecosystem conditions that affect natural production.
- Provide a strong foundation of collaborative relationships to address multiple management decisions in coming years.

Background/Scope:

The Columbia Basin is home to one of the richest arrays of salmon and steelhead in the world, and this wealth of anadromous species holds great ecological, cultural, spiritual, and economic value. Protecting, restoring, and effectively managing these valuable species is one of the region's greatest responsibilities, and one of NOAA Fisheries' greatest challenges. The Task Force's work will depend on wide, candid, and honest participation by all who care about salmon and steelhead.

The scope of this effort covers:

- All ESA-listed and non-listed salmon and steelhead in the Columbia Basin, above and below Bonneville Dam;
- Ocean, main stem, and tributary fisheries that harvest Columbia Basin stocks, including commercial, recreational, and tribal fisheries;
- Multiple scales (Basin-wide, ESU, and MPG);

- All impacts across salmon and steelhead life-cycle (e.g. habitat, harvest, hatchery and hydro); and
- Consideration of ecological conditions and current and future habitat capacity.

Terms and Composition

This Task Force will consist of 25 to 35 individuals. The individuals will be made up of regional sovereigns and stakeholders. The Task Force members will strive to work together to seek support for common goals over the long-term by integrating local and regional efforts, improving efficiency, considering existing information on goals, the full salmon life-cycle, the four Hs (habitat, hydropower, hatcheries and harvest), species' status, and current environmental conditions.

Members of the Task Force will serve to reflect the broader constituency that they represent. The Task Force will be made up of representatives from the four Northwest states (Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana), regional tribes, state agencies, NOAA Fisheries Leadership and local recovery groups, as well as members that represent the following interests:

- Environment
- Commercial fishing
- Recreational fishing
- Utilities
- River industries
- Agriculture

It is intended that the Task Force members represent the diverse constituent groups and partners that interact with NOAA Fisheries from the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana. Task Force members will be appointed for one (1) year terms with the opportunity for reappointment for one additional term.

Organization and Reporting

The Task Force may meet in person at the discretion of NOAA Fisheries and MAFAC with the concurrence of the members. Other meetings may be conducted by telephone or using other meeting technology.

The Task Force will report to the MAFAC's (x) Subcommittee, which will report on its activities, findings, recommendations, reports, and other deliverables at regular meetings of MAFAC and to NOAA Fisheries Leadership. Individual members of the Task Force may provide feedback on specific topics that do not require consensus input, at the request of NOAA Fisheries outside of the MAFAC approval process.

Funding

Funding would be provided by NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region.

Duration

The Task Force will be established for an initial period of two years with a possibility of extending that term if deemed necessary by NOAA Fisheries and MAFAC.