



Northwest Regional Office



NOAA Fisheries

National Marine Fisheries Service

*Fisheries Service Names Technical Recovery Team
to Help in Restoring Interior Columbia Salmon and Steelhead*

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A group of 10 Northwest scientists, all with extensive salmon expertise, has been selected by the National Marine Fisheries Service to set biological standards to measure recovery efforts for salmon and steelhead in the Interior Columbia Basin, the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced today.

The technical recovery team is the third of what are expected to be eight groups of scientists that will set recovery standards for all 26 West Coast salmon and steelhead populations protected by the Endangered Species Act. The standards, which will also become part of the 2000 biological opinion on Columbia River hydropower operations, will help guide others in reestablishing badly depleted salmonid populations from Southern California to Puget Sound.

Candidates were selected from a wide variety of tribal, state and federal agencies, along with academic institutions and other organizations. The Independent Science Advisory Board screened the candidates.

Collectively, NOAA Fisheries said, the technical review team members bring a strong mix of skills in fields such as salmon biology, population dynamics, genetics, ecology and habitat.

The team members are:

Ted Bjornn	University of Idaho
Richard Carmichael	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Tom Cooney	National Marine Fisheries Service
Peter Hassemer	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Michelle McClure	National Marine Fisheries Service
Dale McCullough	Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission
Charles Petrosky	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Howard Schaller	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Fred Utter	University of Washington
Paul Spruell	University of Montana

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The Interior Columbia Basin covers the mid- and upper-Columbia River and Snake River basins upstream of the Cascade crest. The area includes seven listed salmon populations: Snake River sockeye, steelhead, and spring/summer and fall chinook; Upper Columbia steelhead and spring chinook; and mid-Columbia steelhead.

NOAA Fisheries said the team will work closely with the other technical teams. All the teams will be assisted by a coast-wide recovery science review panel, established by the fisheries service last year.

NOAA Fisheries said it might add one or more members to the team later and was still actively seeking additional nominees with habitat expertise. The agency will appoint a non-voting coordinator as a liaison to the Northwest regional office in Seattle and responsible for policy and administrative details. The agency said there will be considerable opportunity for public involvement throughout the entire process, and team products will be peer-reviewed and made available for public comment.

The team's first meeting will be October 1 at the National Marine Fisheries Service's Portland office at 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, at 9:30 a.m. and is open to the public.

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