

RESOLVE

Results Through Consensus

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September 17, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: NMFS Willamette/Lower Columbia River TRT Members
FROM: Paul De Morgan, RESOLVE and Paul McElhany, NOAA Fisheries
SUBJECT: Next Steps and Action Items from the September 8, 2003 TRT Meeting

Thanks to everyone for your participation in the TRT meeting last week. This memo includes a brief summary of the items discussed during the meeting including:

- I. Evaluating the Relationship between “Strata” and “Recovery Units;”
- II. Reviewing the LCFRB Technical Foundation; and
- III. Reviewing the Data and Analysis Template.

Agreed-upon actions for each of these items can be found at the end of each section. Please feel free to contact either of us with any questions, concerns, or additional next steps.

NOTE: CHANGES TO THE UPCOMING TRT MEETING DATES

During the course of the day, the TRT discussed the schedule for meeting to develop population status profiles for the Washington and Oregon populations. It was noted that the NWFSC Watershed Program Open House will be Tuesday October 21 and as such the group agreed to **move the next meeting from October 21-22 to November 6-7**. This meeting will be focused on the Washington populations and will take place in Washington. Given this shift, the group also agreed to **move the subsequent meeting from November 18 and 19 to December 4-5**. This meeting will be focused on the Oregon populations and will take place in Oregon.

Upcoming Meeting Dates	Where	Agenda Focus
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• November 6-7	Washington	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Washington population evaluation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• December 4-5	Portland area	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oregon population evaluation

I. EVALUATING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN “STRATA” AND “RECOVERY UNITS”

At the request of the NOAA Fisheries Northwest Regional Office, the TRT examined the relationship between “strata” as defined and used in the Interim Report on Viability Criteria For

Willamette and Lower Columbia Basin Pacific Salmonids (McElhany et al, 2003) and “Recovery Units” as defined in draft guidelines for ESA recovery planning being developed jointly by NOAA and USFWS. Paul McElhany introduced the issue in an email prior to the meeting and specifically raised the question of whether the definitions were identical and therefore the TRT could adopt the term “Recovery Unit” in place of strata.

TRT members discussed the issue and ultimately decided that while, biologically, there did not seem to be significant differences in the definition, there were potentially significant legal issues to be considered in making a decision to adopt “recovery unit” in place of strata. As such, the group asked Paul McElhany to draft a letter to NOAA Fisheries on behalf of the TRT explaining that they did not feel they were the appropriate body to make a determination on the issue.

II. REVIEWING THE LCFRB TECHNICAL FOUNDATION

The group spent most of the day discussing the LCFRB Technical Foundation, using documents individual members had developed since the last meeting (see below for list of documents). The group focused on the eight areas laid out on the agenda (though these were subsequently consolidated into five main areas: overview; recovery standards; factors for decline; habitat analyses and IWA; and EDT).

[Note: Given the short time frame for finalizing TRT comments to the LCFRB, the next steps associated with the review were sent out by email on September 8, 2003. They are included here as well.]

In the meeting, the group agreed on the overall tenor of the response to the LCFRB and felt that a single document that captured the collective TRT assessment of the Technical Foundation could be developed by COB this Friday. In order to do that the following timeline for next steps will have to be met:

- ⇒ **Tuesday, September 9 COB** – drafts distributed by primary authors to TRT for review;
- ⇒ **Wednesday, September 10 COB** – comments by TRT members on any document submitted to full TRT for consideration;
- ⇒ **Thursday, September 11 COB** – primary authors submit revised documents based on comments to Paul McElhany;
- ⇒ **Friday, September 12 COB** – TRT submits package to LCFRB.

Individuals noted below are considered the ‘primary authors’ for the following sections:

- Paul McElhany – final decisions on structure/cover memo to LCFRB
- Jim Myers – overall document introduction (includes technical foundation)
- Steve Kolmes – Factors for Decline (includes life cycle model)
- Craig Busack – Recovery Goals
- Ashley Steel – Habitat Analysis (includes case studies)
- Cleve Steward – EDT

In addition, the group agreed it would be useful to submit the specific comments on each section (already submitted by individuals), but not to consider them TRT comments. It was suggested

that these may have been written without the author knowing they would be submitted directly to the LCFRB. As such, all members were asked to review their individual comments and, if necessary, scrub them to address some of the sensitivity issues discussed during the meeting. **Please send revised comments to Paul McElhany by COB Wednesday, September 10** (if you determine you do not need to revise the comments, please let Paul know). Paul will incorporate these comments into one document for submission to the LCFRB.

III. REVIEW DATA AND ANALYSIS TEMPLATE FOR EVALUATING POPULATION STATUS

Paul McElhany, Jim Myers, and Ashley Steel presented the group with preliminary results of the efforts to compile data for the Washington populations. Michael Mahr, who works for NOAA at the NWFSC and has been assisting with this effort, also presented some of the maps being developed as part of the background packet for each population. The group began to discuss some of the priorities for information given the amount of time remaining before the information packets need to be completed. Paul indicated he would take the general advice and incorporate it to the extent possible as the packets are developed. The group also briefly discussed the value of doing as much work as possible prior to the face-to-face meetings. Paul and Paul agreed to lay out an approach, possibly to include preliminary scoring of individual populations, in advance of the meeting to help expedite the process.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

Action Items	Who	When
1. Send out schedule for revising the LCFRB review.	Paul De Morgan	ASAP
2. Complete LCFRB review (see more detailed next steps above).	All TRT members	September 12
3. Draft letter to NOAA Fisheries regarding strata and Recovery Units.	Paul McElhany	September 15
4. Review draft letter to NOAA Fisheries on strata and Recovery Units and send comments.	All TRT members	September 22
5. Finalize and distribute letter to NOAA Fisheries on strata and Recovery Units.	Paul McElhany	September 22 (as appropriate)
6. Develop schedule for activities in advance of the Washington population evaluation meeting on November 6-7.	Paul McElhany and Paul De Morgan	September 30

Documents Distributed at the Meeting

1. Delineation of Recovery Units
2. Key Comments on LCFRB Technical Foundation – Paul McElhany, 9/3/03
3. Review of Lewis River and IWA – Ashley Steel, 8/29/03
4. Critique of Mortality Source Calculations in Vol 1, Section 6 – Craig Busack, 8/20/03
5. Review of Recovery Standards of LCFRB Recovery Document – Craig Busack, 8/19/03
6. Draft Comments on LCFRB Draft Technical Foundation (*synthesis*) – Steve Kolmes
7. LCFRB Comments – Jim Myers, 8/21/03
8. Comments on LCFRB Draft Technical Foundation – Paul McElhany
9. Comments on LCFRB Draft Technical Foundation – Steve Kolmes
10. Habitat (*synthesis*) – Ashley Steel, 9/2/03
11. Memo to Paul McElhany re: IWA – Tim Bechie, 9/2/03
12. Draft Comments (*synthesis*) – Jim Myers
13. Critique of Volume IV, Chapter 5 IWA – Tom Backman, 8/26/03
14. Review of Grays River Subbasin, Volume II, Chapter 3 – Tim Whitesel, 8/16/03

TRT Members in Attendance:

- Tom Backman
- Craig Busack (by phone)
- Steve Kolmes
- Paul McElhany
- Jim Myers
- Ashley Steel
- Cleve Steward
- Tim Whitesel (by phone)

Others in Attendance:

- Paul De Morgan, RESOLVE
- Michael Mahr, NOAA Fisheries
- J.J. Westfall, NOAA Fisheries