

Meeting of the Governor's Salmon Workgroup

1-17-2020, Boise

See sign in sheet for Attendance

Public Comment

Introduction – Scott Pugrud

- Thank you, workgroup members, for taking the time this evening to be here
- We're holding this public comment period so people who deeply care about this issue can provide feedback
- We wanted to provide opportunity to comment to those who work during the day and couldn't make the comment periods at our previous meetings
- I want to also say thank you to the public who are here at 5 on a Friday
- This is your opportunity to share your perspectives with the Workgroup
- Testimony is limited to 3 minutes and are available on first come first serve basis
- 3 minutes is what we've limited all our public comments to at all our meetings
- We're scheduled to be here until 7 and we're looking forward to your input

Public Comment

Jim Nunley

- Members of the workgroup
- I am a past president of the Idaho Wildlife Federation, and I've worked on wildlife and fisheries and anything that has to do with preserving Idaho for Idahoans
- I was in US Navy and stationed in Midway in 1950
 - There was no freshwater and we had to seed clouds to get it to
- Modification of weather is something I talk about and I have the understanding that if we don't preserve quality and volume of water, we have available, it will be gone one day
- When it comes to weather modification, it can be done
 - It may not be viable now but in 50 years it could be, and they could increase water availability
- When you are an inland state like Idaho you've got to preserve what you've got
- I hear a lot about public lands, and we need to think about public water
- You should be thinking about water modification and think about preserving quality and volume
- Salmon cannot live without water and if we continue as usual, we may wonder one day where the water went

Will Tiedemann

- Thank you, Workgroup, for your time
- I was born and raised in Boise and I work as environmental engineer
- I am also an avid outdoorsman

- I like to white water raft with family and friends in Idaho s river
- Salmon are something I really care about
- It seems like there is a change going on in Idaho
- This Workgroup is evidence of that
- I would like to speak on empathy
- These issues cannot be solved without mutual understanding
- Solving it does not require you to abandon views but understand others
- I ask the following, that each member examine each members' viewpoint on this issue, not because it is nice or polite, but because it is important

Shiva Rajbhandari

- I am Freshman at North Junior High
- I am a native Idahoan and my mom is too
- It saddens me that I won't be able to see the things my mom saw and that my children won't either
- They're not making more rivers or land so maybe we should start preserving what we have
- The Native Americans said it best when they said "we do not inherit the earth, we borrow it from our children"

Jeff Bitton

- Thank you
- I represent Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association and the small businesses that are riverside that depend on abundant fish
- Those people are being affected now and they are the ones hurting now
- They are having to move or find other businesses
- I hope you guys take your job seriously and find that compromise, because we need our fish back in abundant numbers

Gary Brown

- Member of the Trout Unlimited chapter in McCall
- Thank you for being here, this is a monumental challenge
- We put man on moon years ago, but you probably don't have the same issues or budget
 - I'm sure your budget could fit in a paint can
- My dad got me started with salmon as a kid
- I'd go out on commercial fishing boats with him
- I've been able to pass that along to my children to the point one of my sons got a fisheries degree and works for the Nez Perce in McCall
- Our chapter of Trout Unlimited focuses mainly on habitat restoration
- I also used to do land management

- Some of the frustration I hear is that the work you do locally doesn't always show results in fish numbers
- I think we need to look hard at what we need to do and take big bold steps
- Its' a big risk and I don't think it should fall all on agriculture and shipping
- My other son is a diesel mechanic
 - Got kids on both sides and want to keep them both employed
- Please put us to work to help you guys

Nic Nelson

- I represent Idaho Rivers United
- I am discouraged today that The Office of Species Conservation chose Martin Luther King Day weekend for comment
- With no comment last meeting, it seems the purpose to limit public comment
- I am more discouraged at number the 161 regarding salmon returns
- The river used to give us thousands
- After spending billions of dollars on recovery efforts the cost comes out to about 17.9 million dollars per fish
- This is reckless and irresponsible to Tribes, Idahoans, and businesses
- If your recommendations are only to do what we've already been doing, then you are dooming salmon
- If that's what you do you are culpable in extinction of these species

Link Jackson

- I'm in the riverboat business
- I would like to speak to group and collective humanity
- Have been examining this issue for a lot of years
- Salmon been decimated by many things
- Mitigation efforts have primarily been focused on things that are not scientifically proven
- I'm talking about hatcheries
- Fact that hatchery fish are different than natural fish was not considered when they were put in
 - The fact that they're regressing and belligerent to natural fish was not considered
- Salmon evolved to go back exactly back to where they're born
 - Hatchery fish don't do that
 - Was thought that you could just put more fish out there and they would thrive
 - They aren't like livestock, it doesn't work that way
 - Their ecology has to match a specific fish
- It's resulting in a degradation of genetic pool of fish
- Dams are main culprit I think
 - Creates warms spots
 - Makes salmon easy prey for predators

- The only thing that'll work would be removing the dams
- Dam removal would be easy in light of the 17 billion spent.
- We could do it cheaper than that

Bert Bowler

- Members of the workgroup
- I am from Boise and have had a 30-year career with Idaho Fish and Game as a fisheries biologist
- A document was produced many years ago on recovering salmon in the northwest called *Return to the River*
- That document was delivered to the Norwest Power and Conservation Council
- The authors believed that restoring and maintaining natural ecological processes and functions are the only way to meet recovery goals
- Dams and reservoirs are the antithesis to ecosystem function
- There are examples of breaching improving salmon recovery in the Elwha and Glines Canyon dams
- The robustness of salmon data has increased since 2000
 - 17 years of SARs describe difference in upstream and downstream stocks
 - Downriver stocks are 2-3 times better
 - Spill data
 - Ocean data
 - Predations data
 - Habitat restoration data
 - Climate change data
 - All available now
- The elephant in the room is climate change and its influence on water temperature
- Past decade was warmest on record
- Salmon have experience increased mortality partially due to warmer waters
- Temps above 64 degrees have had large effect of steelhead conversion rates between Bonneville and McNary dams
- A free-flowing Lower Snake River combined with Dworshak Reservoir is the only action that will significantly lower summer water temperatures on a long-term basis

Doug Stowers

- I am a founder of a group called the Idaho Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Project
- Governor has asked you to provide recommendations for salmon recovery
- There are people across the land that are depending on you
- You can show that solutions are found through successful collaboration, or you can be responsible for a lost piece of Idaho culture
- We are all depending on you
- Ladies and gentlemen, it should be understood that current and future generations are depending on you to not whine and to solve these issues

- I have met with many of you and have gotten to see various viewpoints on this issue
- I see that the intent is pure but there is a focus on blaming others
- You are making history today and writing a legacy
- Are you the group of 20 that is going to maintain only your groups' interest or the one that will work together and solve this?

CJ Pierce

- Thank you
- You need to talk about real ideas
- Let's be realistic with time and goals
- Short-term goals should be 9 years
- Mid-term should be 25 years
- Long-term goals should be thrown out but need to worry about here and now
- Need to think about things we need can do here and now
- Goals need to be mutually beneficial
- Need to find solutions with the best cost to reward ratio
- Look at state of New York recovery program
- Could model off of their success
- Spill crest drawdown in 90s was successful
- Max spill could work March 1st through June 1st to let the salmon go down and everyone still gets water
- Work on predatory fish
 - Squawfish reward program
 - Modify bass and walleye limits
- Increase hatchery production
 - More fish out equals more in
- More hatcheries on unutilized systems
- Install dam retrofits like NY cause it's proven to work
- We need a call to action and don't miss your opportunity
- Without your action these salmon are doomed to extinction
- We've got the people to do it
- Everybody gives a little and let's do it

Grant Simonds

- Middle Fork Outfitters Association (MFOA)
- In 2018 MFOA initialed red alert program with salmon challis national forest to create additional awareness of salmon spawning and to avoid additional limits on boating on river
- We passed out tags on every boat in the main stem
- Historically over 425 spawned in the mainstem and this year it was much less
- Spawning has been much lower than historical norms even though it's the best habitat

- Our organization passed a resolution
 - *(Passed out handouts)*
- We support lower dam breaching to restore chinook salmon
- *(Passed out handout on local economies in Custer and Lemhi county)*
- Summary – these economies would dry up if boating seasons were restricted for whole spawning season
- They would explode if we had salmon

Triton Rimkus

- I am a private citizen and 3rd generation Idahoan
- I come from a family of ranchers and loggers out of Ola
- I have children that I've taught to respect nature
- I live here because I appreciate wide open natural spaces and the people that work and depend on it
- We have an identity maintain
- I think it's one that requires necessary management to preserve these things that are important to us
- Our identity relies much on wholeness
- Anyone can recognize what happens to a system when you remove a key piece of that system
- I have always said that this state was built on 2 degrees of separation
- We are all built on our collective needs rather than the individual
- People want nothing less than abundant salmon
- I want to say to our policy makers that we are watching with great concern
- I believe we can save the fish and preserve our identity

William Fowkes

- I worked for 20 years as water restoration specialist
- I had done significant work to reduce fine sediments to try to increase spawning habitat
- In recent years I've been witnessing a sterility of the entire valley
- There's little wildlife along or in the river
- I would like to speak as a salmon and say to you that I recognize that humans see salmon and call us an icon, because we are the pinnacle of sacrifice
 - We spend years in ocean
 - We are food for orca and walrus and bear, and are food everywhere we go
 - That's what we do
 - I see you humans are populating the world quite well, we salmon are not doing so well
 - Sacrifice is important, so who will sacrifice and make us whole?
 - Your children are important to you as my children are important to me
 - Will you let our children thrive or let us go?
 - You are clever please help us

Ron Harriman

- I am a native Idahoan
- I have been fishing all my life all the way from Mexico to up north and everything in between
- One thing we do not want to get confused about is that the dams are going to remain
 - We will not be able to get rid of them
 - Economy is too dependent on them
- Idaho is at the end of the line and have to take what comes up the river
- Oregon was recently charged to set a Total Maximum Daily Load for water temperature, and it will show it's too hot
- You can't affect the temperature
- The temperatures that the EPA are going to require are going to exceed the cold level temps in Idaho
- The reason you are losing Sockeye is because the water is too warm
- I will see you all tomorrow at the meeting
- I've worked on this issue for a long time and would like to discuss answers with you

Scott Brock

- I represent the 13-year-old in the back
- I am a native Idahoan and my family and I spend 100+ days in the woods and on the water
- Recovering salmon is a difficult if not an impossible task to do
- There are too many variables
- You are going to want to throw money and resources at it
- Money hasn't and won't fix it
- I encourage you to eat this elephant one piece at a time
- It has been shown that you can work on small stocks at a time
- I do not support fisheries, they are not cost effective
- It is possible to cut out fishery fish
 - Guides and fish towns will be mad, but give the natural fish a chance
- It has worked on trout, it can work on salmon
- It would be much more cost effective
- You have a huge task and whole state is watching

Chris Gesono

- I've spent 20 years as a fishing guide with Parks and Recreation Management degree
- I've also worked for the United States Forest Service
- I understand nature and have an idea of how government works
- I hope you can make the hard decisions, even if they're not the popular ones, to help salmon
- From what I've seen as a guide steelhead numbers have plummeted

- Haven't guided for them in the last 2 years because those fish should be spawning
- Salmon evolved around rivers without dams
- I know that's a very different and daunting task
- Would change the Northwest but the economics were changed when the dams were put in
- Glad to hear that Representative Simpson is on board for recovery
- In 1955 the commissioner of Bureau of Reclamation said it was "the most complex natural resource problem today, nothing else approaches it."
 - I think we're still there

Lori Ode

- I am a resident of Boise and a private citizen
- I want to bring your attention to the fact that many species are dependent on the decisions you make
 - At least 130 species rely on salmon for sustenance
- Our system used to have largest salmon run in the world now they're almost extinct
- The dire situation was on display last year when Tahlequah, a killer whale mom from the Southern Resident Killer Whale pod, carried her dead calf for 17 days when it died of starvation
- Orcas are starving because the salmon are facing extinction and is a chilling sign of ecological collapse
- These events are telling us what Chief Joseph plainly saw, "all things are connected"
- These species are on brink of extinction because of the lower 4 snake dams and only removal will allow restore Idaho's wild salmon runs, and with them the diverse species of wildlife that depend on them

David Cannam

- Breaching the dams is the only way to fix the issue
- This issue shouldn't be off the table, it should be discussed
- Science and fish counts show that past predictions that dams would lose fish have come true
- It's impossible not to flounder in the science produced around this issue
- Comparative survival studies are one way to analyze the issue
- There are 4 glaring reasons why downriver stocks have not suffered the same fate as our upriver stocks
- Mitigation plans for the dams have failed
- Tribes, sport fishers, and others are on the losing side of broken promises
- We have vacant habitat that is not being utilized
- Sockeye are on life support and orcas are signaling collapse
- Are we willing to sacrifice the benefits of these species because of shipping and irrigation needs?
- If we are unwilling to make this commitment, we should stop and go to the bar and figure out what we are going to tell future generations

Brian Thomas

- Member of Shoshone Paiute of Duck Valley
- We want our children to see what we had 120 years before reservation was born
- Salmon used to span across all the state and even extended into Nevada
- My grandparents used to talk about the salmon coming up the Owyhee River
- We want that for our children and want you to do a good job.
- Not for myself but for my children.
- This is the homeland of our people and the 5 tribes of Idaho
- Tribes have seen lots of salmon and we want to see it again in the next 120 years
- I think it's important to have Native American representatives on working group
- Thank you for taking this on and I believe you can do a good job

Pat Ford

- I have 3 things I want to cover
- I've tried to follow the workgroup and I've got feeling that some want to look at short goals or low hanging fruit
 - The issue with that is that we have is disappearing stocks
 - We have to get SARs up or we are going to lose them fast
- I do want to make a point on a short-term action that Idaho support could help
 - There is a Flex Spill agreement that will be in effect going forward
 - I'm not talking about violating that agreement, but there will be grey areas in that agreement, and I would ask that you recommend that the State would have IDFG in on those decisions and support the ones that would benefit maximum number of fish within the terms of the agreement.
 - Essentially, where there is grey area, manage for the most benefit for fish within the terms of the agreement
- I don't know where this workgroup is going but I know that something is occurring here, and I hope that it continues because this is how solutions will be developed.
- Please keep that going

Connor Jackson

- I've spent time guiding
- Looking at the beauty of this place I realized something was missing and it was salmon
- The river is deprived of nutrients needed for them to thrive
- Idaho is proud of our natural resources
- I want you all to understand the magnitude of the seat you are in right now to aid in preventing salmon from extinction after millions of years of life
- I was raised here, and my dad is a fisherman and I hold dear to my heart the first time I caught a steelhead but won't do it now because those fish need to spawn
- It means a lot to me that I was able to catch a steelhead without any conscience and hope that you can pass that along to future generations

Reece Hodges

- I represent Idaho Rivers United
- I would like to share a personal story
- One my first memories of Red Fish Lake is when my family went, and dad told me about why it was called that
- The loss that my generation has faced in the loss of salmon is significant
- We are in a time of tremendous opportunity
- I have been a guide on middle fork for 10 years
- I like to tell stories to people about the salmon migrating up to the stronghold of habitat in Idaho
- What I ask is, what will we do to honor the people of the past that worked to preserve those areas?
- People are asking why aren't we looking at the science
- Please ask the hard questions and be willing to be bold
- I understand this a hard issue
- I think I represent more than myself and also represent generations to come
- What will we do so our grandchildren can fish for salmon and steelhead in Riggins and Whitebird?
- Ask hard questions and be bold

Caitlin Straubinger

- I work for Idaho Rivers United
- I was fortunate last summer to live between Red Fish Creek and Red Fish Lake
- Visitors were often confused about return numbers of salmon that we tracked on our whiteboard and confused about why it was called Red Fish Lake when there are so few sockeye
- You're tackling a tough issue with many stakeholders
- For fish, the most impactful and scientifically supported option is returning the Snake River to a free-flowing river
- A study found that benefits of dam removal would exceed the costs by \$8.6 billion
- There are alternatives to barging and hydro, but no alternatives to wild native fish
- Our state motto is Esto Perpetua, so let it be perpetual for fish

Brent Mathien

- I have degrees in human biology and science
- I am a native of Montana and grew up eating fish
- I've been in ID for 23 years and have fished for and eaten salmon
- I have had spawning salmon slap my legs before
- I would echo that we need to think for 7 generations
- Think for my grandchildren and your grandchildren
- 7 generations ago by family myth I may be a descendant of Sacajawea

- Life is calling us. Please save life
- Poet once said “When will we cease to make clay pots and cement dams to hold back water from the ocean”
 - The snow on the mountain knows it must melt and go to the ocean
 - The ocean refuses no river

Stephen Pfeiffer

- I am an Idaho Rivers United member
- I first saw an Idaho chinook 6000ft high in elevation and 8 dams from the ocean
- We must not lose this
- Much of the talks seem to put people on 2 sides
- Agriculture and energy on one side and natural fish on the other
- There is no need for “us vs. them”
- Everybody wants healthy economies and fish
- We need to follow sound science without political influence
- We must breach the lower Snake River dams
- Our political reps should bring us together, not apart
- We can have a strong agricultural economy and abundant salmon population
- I want to be able to see it years from now and not in a museum
- If we want abundant and sustainable salmon, we must act now

Syver Pearson

- I am a native to Anchorage originally
- I am pretty fortunate to grow up in a place where I was exposed to natural resources
- You really have an opportunity here to demonstrate your values
- I hope when you think about this, you think about the story of salmon
- Story of salmon goes back a long time and we’ve brought a lot of our values here in how we take advantage of the land
- How does modern salmon management look in this modern age?
- I hope you all value a wild salmon returning to these rivers
- You have the opportunity to show how we can develop a new power grid
- Such an accomplishment could be a model for the rest of the country
- I certainly don’t envy your position but thank you for taking this on.

Scott Pugrud

- Thank you
- Well, it’s a little past 6:30 and we’re scheduled to be here until 7, so I propose we take a 15-minute break to see if any late-comers arrive or if anyone in the audience decides they would like to provide comment.

Took 15-minute break

Scott Pugrud

- No one has signed up to give additional public comment so at this point I would like to open it up to the Workgroup members to comment if they wish

Comments from Workgroup**Justin Hayes**

- Thank you so much for being here
- I recognize it's Friday of 3-day weekend
- It's important for us to hear from you

Brett Dumas

- Thank your for bringing your passion here and sharing with us
- We may not all agree on every issue, but I appreciate the passion

Richard Scully

- Thank you
- One thing I heard repeatedly is that people expect something to come out of this
- We've spent some time listening about all the issues but it's probably about time we start working on some recommendations

Scott Pugrud

- I also want to take the time to thank workgroup and public for being here on a Friday night
- We start tomorrow at 8am at U of I water Center.

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting of the Governor's Salmon Workgroup

1-18-2020: Boise, ID

See sign in sheet for Attendance

Presentations Available on Office of Species Conservation Website on Governor's Salmon Workgroup page

Introduction – Katherine Himes

- Gave purpose and history of workgroup
- Since June, workgroup has been holding meetings around Idaho
- Next meeting will be March 5th in Boise
- No meeting scheduled yet for late April
- Another meeting scheduled in July 8th and 9th in Riggins
- This meeting was held purposefully on a weekend given commitment constraints and deliberately had evening public comment so that people who generally work during the day could have the opportunity to participate
- We've been tracking policy ideas that have come up over the meetings and will eventually take ideas and work them into recommendations
- With that, we will jump into Agenda Subgroup and then Mission Statement subgroup
- Agenda group has pretty good idea what March 5th meeting will be (Columbia River System Operations Environmental Impact Statement. (CRSO EIS)
- Working on developing schedule for April meeting

Agenda Subgroup

- Scott Pugrud
 - For the workgroup members, please complete doodle poll so we can schedule the April meeting
 - Are there any questions for agenda group or comments from subgroup members?
- Paul Arrington
 - Before we talked about March meeting being about discussing the CRSO EIS coming out. Is that still accurate?
- Scott Pugrud
 - Yes
 - The Feds believe we'll have a draft available in February of this year and that will be our objective of March meeting
 - That meeting will be livestreamed so all group members will not have to be here to avoid having to travel in bad conditions
 - Purpose of the March meeting will be to go over 4 alternatives of the CRSO EIS and hopefully a preferred alternative
 - Is there any other discussion around agenda?

Mission Statement Subgroup

- Scott Pugrud
 - The Mission Statement Subgroup has worked on some language to try and capture the goals of the workgroup to look at the scope of what the Columbia Basin Partnership (CBP) did and help define what abundance might look like
 - We have a draft circulating subgroup and we have had some different views on that draft
 - The draft is continuing to receive feedback and we're working on reaching some consensus language on that
 - Main question we have is whether the whole workgroup believes this is an appropriate task for this subgroup?
 - Our plan is to refine it and present it to overall workgroup to consider for adoption
 - Is there any other comment from subgroup members?
- Kira Finkler
 - I think this is an important exercise to identify goals
 - I can say that it is important for my organization
 - I think we need the collective brainpower of the whole group on this
 - I'm willing to listen to suggestions
- Mark Menlove
 - It seems like we're far enough in this timewise that we should be arriving at some consensus in full workgroup, so if that would get us there, I would support it
- Justin Hayes
 - Everyone not on committee is at a little bit of a disadvantage since you haven't seen the language
 - From my perspective, we are attempting to identify what this Workgroup should be shooting for
 - We've talked a lot about it but not with a lot of specificity
 - There are different interpretations to some of the words we've used so I think it's important to define them
 - Some think just more fish is OK
 - Some think ESA delisting is OK
 - Some think lets get more than delisting and get to a level where we can meaningfully interact with them
 - If the workgroup fails on agreeing where it's trying to end up, then we won't be able to provide recommendations efficiently to see if it's going to make a difference
 - I'm sure we're we'll find common agreement on things like efficient facility operations but that alone won't be enough to get us to recovery and abundance
 - So we're trying to find some language that uses information that has already been developed, often regionally
 - CBP report has lot of categories of abundance

- If we can use and build off of that, it could build a foundation to allow us to build towards success
 - Other part is the SARs
 - We've had much talk on this and many don't believe they're the only metric, but many believe it is a relevant metric
 - One idea is to reference Power Council numbers because it's a regional document and it points to SARs as a key metric
 - Trying to grab at things that have regional agreement so we can have a base and move forward
- Paul Arrington
 - The only clarification I would say is that I don't think anyone in the Subgroup just want delisting and agree abundance is more than that
 - We're getting to that point on this issue where we're trying to thread the needle of providing language that we can all agree on but not paint anybody in a corner
 - I think the Subgroup agrees in pointing to CBP for information in there while recognizing other issues and other metrics are good and we're just trying to figure out how to say it the right way
- Brett Dumas
 - I don't really see the point
 - We're asked to provide consensus-based recommendations and it doesn't matter what the goal is
 - To me, I don't see the point of arguing whose goal is the right goal when it is not relevant to the policy recommendations
 - I think we can move forward
- Paul Arrington
 - We talked about this at length in the Subgroup about how much we need to do as a sub committee
 - There seems to be general agreement around pointing to CBP numbers and we start putting language together
 - We thought that this last thing that the Subgroup would do before it dissolved
- Fred Wood
 - I would agree with Brett
 - Mission statement was set by the governor
 - Provide him with recommendations to recover salmon and he can choose what are feasible and possible
 - He gave us the charge and that's where we should go
 - Should provide him what we can agree on
- Aaron Lieberman
 - I couldn't agree more with what Fred and Brett have said but I don't think what we're doing is in conflict with that
 - We can develop recommendations and talk about what things about what we can do beyond that

- I agree we need consensus-based policy recommendations, but it will likely take more to reach recovery
- In order to respect the Governor's desires and everyone else's here, we should be willing to talk about issues more broadly
- I don't think we get derailed talking about those issues
- Richard Scully
 - I would like to see a metric that we can look to to see that we are accomplishing our goals
 - A metric that has been around for years are the 2-6% SARs
 - Metric would let you know that numbers are increasing and being recovered
 - If we don't have something quantitative and use vague terms, then everyone may have their own definition
 - Quantitative metric lets you know for sure whether you are making progress towards our goal
 - If we don't have quantitative metric in Mission Statement, we should have one to know whether we've accomplished goal
- Joe Oatman
 - I'm a member of the Subgroup and want to provide some perspective on where we think its at
 - From the Tribe's perspective we are looking to more than delisting
 - Seems to be agreement on that issue
 - More than delisting can be quantified and there seems to be interest in what other goals can be quantified
 - We've talked SARs which are a metric but not the only one
 - I think we're trying to provide some key goals consistent with the Mission Statement
 - I think when trying to solve something you should be strategic and would be helpful to define where you're trying to go
 - Without that anything will get us more fish
 - I think the SARs are something we put forth because the state has already adopted documents that include them
 - Trying to do what Governor Little has said and not reinvent the wheel
 - Hopefully we are able to thread the needle with this language
- Brian Brooks
 - I agree with Rep Wood that Governor has clear meaning for us
 - I have some science background and have done measurement analysis on plants and wildlife
 - If you're trying to recover without a goal then you're flunking the most basic college course
 - If you don't set any objective then we can't know if we are successful
 - Have to have some sort of goal and I don't think it conflicts with our charge
- Chad Colter
 - I'm not on Mission Statement Subgroup

- I don't have any issue with setting of goals and think it's a part of process that we need
- Helps us find some agreement on where we're trying to go
- There are SARs, there are CBP quantitative and qualitative goals
- I do hesitate latching on to something tribes haven't fully vetted yet, speaking of the CBP stuff
 - Could accept the qualitative goals but haven't fully vetted the quantitative goals
 - Tribes will probably take some more time to make sure those goals meet our needs
- Just reaching delisting will not provide much more to tribes in protecting culture and treaty rights
- In supporting goal in needs to be high end and not be just delisting because we'll end up in the same boat in a few years
- We've heard over the past meetings that there are a handful of short term measures that could improve conditions relatively quickly
- Let's not provide recommendations for things that are already occurring or going to occur
- I want to think longer term and goals should have some value to it and I think that there is a need for some numbers to have something to shoot for
- I don't want to be bad negotiator for the tribes so I may need more time to analyze what the proper numbers would be for the tribes interest
- When talking CBP, I want to make sure those numbers will work
- Will Hart
 - For the record as far I know there is no one on this group that is just talking delisting so I don't think that we need to talk about that anymore
 - I am on the Mission Statement Subgroup and we did the mission statement and now we're trying to do something else
 - I worry about making the perfect the enemy of the good
 - There are a lot of numbers when it comes to CBP and there are different levels we can achieve
 - I think aiming at something so high that it's not realistic isn't beneficial
 - We need to continue to talk in the Subgroup so we can bring you some realistic consensus-based language that isn't political
 - Need to provide something realistic and attainable
- David Doeringsfeld
 - I believe there is consensus that we're talking abundance and not just delisting so we can get by that
 - In regards to the Subgroup language, I don't think there's anything that will hinder or enhance our ability to provide recommendations
 - Getting bogged down in these details is not what I'm looking forward to
 - I look forward to hearing more presentations and providing recommendations

- I don't think it should be one goal and that we need to broaden that perspective so we don't get locked into one thing
- Fred Wood
 - I think the danger of goals is that you can take a bunch of recommendations off the table because they don't fit the goal
 - I think if we can agree that if the goal won't take any recommendations off the table then I think we can do it
 - I think we ought to discuss that today on how the goals will be used
- Kira Finkler
 - As we have a stack of recommendations I feel a responsibility to ask if they will move us towards something
 - If we as a group can't come up with goals I personally will be coming up with goals to determine whether recommendations are helping
 - If not then I likely won't be able to agree to them
 - Just want to be up front with everybody

NOAA's Estuarine and Ocean Salmon Research: Brian Burke

- Presentation Available on OSC Website; Salmon Workgroup page

Questions

- Brett Dumas
 - Could you give as an age size variability on the fish you are talking about
- Brian Burke
 - Age 0 fish chinook they are coming out in summer and have spent 0 winters in freshwater and are smaller because they don't overwinter
 - Spring Summer chinook spend 1 winter in freshwater
 - Steelhead will be similar in size coming out as Spring Summer Chinook
- Brian Brooks
 - Are these birds at historic numbers for predation or are they up or down
- Brian Burke
 - There's variation year to year but there doesn't seem to be a constant trend
 - There are more birds that nest in New Zealand because there is much biomass and usually doing it around the time salmon are out-migrating
 - This would be considered a normal trend
 - I personally think that these 2 bird species is one of the main drivers of declining salmon populations, but I have no data
- Richard Scully
 - How much of change in migration decline is due to jacks or ocean
- Brian Burke
 - Unfortunately I can't parse that information out of the model
- **Brett Dumas**
 - When you talk about ability to manage forage fish what are you referring to

- Brian Burke
 - Not saying anything will be easy but we have management plans to manage forage fish and harvest
- Brian Brooks
 - How can we manage for fish size? How can we affect that
- Brian Burke
 - We manage hatcheries to put out bigger fish than wild fish which gives them competitive advantage
 - Habitat restoration will affect growth rates before they head out to ocean
 - Can also affect outmigration timing
- Brian Brooks
 - If we grow bigger hatchery fish how does that relate to listed wild fish, is there competition there?
- Brian Burke
 - Say we add 25% more hatchery fish, that will likely have an impact on feeding of wild fish but we don't have the data to know how significant that impact would be
 - Density dependence is important
 - There are also a lot of other competitors with salmon in the estuary
 - Those relationship are hard to define and characterize
- Chad Colter
 - Is this list in order of importance?
- Brian Burke
 - Not necessarily
- Merrill Beyeler
 - I would like to comment on how we control fish size
 - The studies that we've seen on Lemhi
 - If you have outmigration in fall do not survive well and spring migrators have higher survival
 - Timing may be something we can control
- Richard Scully
 - Was really interested in Bonneville to Bonneville SAR graph and how it shows the river impacts are in relation to ocean impacts
 - In Lower granite to lower granite SAR in past years we've had different SARs at John day and snake River
 - Data I've seen on those SARs was from 2017 I would like to see if the difference between John Day and Snake River SARs are still very different
- Brian Burke
 - Created that plot last year and the trouble with that is that there are some older fish that have not come back
 - There is variability in maturation rates
 - If conditions are good in freshwater and elsewhere, they tend to come back earlier/younger
 - Try take age structure into consideration

- Brett Dumas
 - How might ocean harvest come into play in terms of how we manage what's happening in the ocean?
 - We could make decisions on levels of harvest depending on oceans conditions?
 - Do you have thoughts on how that may work in terms of managing for recovery
- Brian Burke
 - One of the ways we manage info on returns is have preseason estimate on returns and we base harvest rate on that
 - As runs come we can how many there actually are and can adjust the harvest rates
 - As the season progresses we get more and more info but it can be hard to know if the run will be small or late
 - If we can get a more accurate pre season estimate from ocean conditions then we'd have to adjust less
- Brett Dumas
 - What about adjusting harvest on condition of fish? Would that have an effect
- Brian Burke
 - Hadn't given much thought to that but it's a good point
 - I know there's been some studies on disease and returns but I'm not going to try to answer cause it's not my area of expertise
- Aaron Lieberman
 - Respond to Richard and clarify
 - About the graph on variability in SARs
 - I think the clarification is that the two graphs are looking at two separate things, is that correct?
- Brian Burke
 - Right
- Aaron Lieberman
 - If you could encourage the workgroup to participate in any one that we can affect in Idaho what would they be?
- Brian Burke
 - Engaging in the fact that freshwater effects have implications beyond freshwater system
 - If you're looking at data that says take action X and result XYZ will occur there are carryover effects
 - Freshwater activities have immediate and delayed effect and actions you take here will affect survival in ocean
 - I do think there are some things we can do to affect ocean conditions
 - For example in freshwater
 - Understanding better the effect of size on survival
- Justin Hayes
 - Could you help me understand how it is that when we hear people say ocean conditions are bad how are some areas having good or better runs?

- How can you contextualize the fish we're looking at when other stocks are doing well?
- Brian Burke
 - I do agree that over generalization of the ocean is counter productive
 - Fish do go to separate places in the ocean and I wish I would have included slides
 - There are spatial dynamics in ocean conditions
 - And when you hear that ocean conditions are bad it's usually in reference to impacts on fish in a particular location and not on a global scale
 - In Alaska the water is colder up there so that is likely why they're seeing higher returns
 - For snake river fish coming out of Columbia the conditions there are more important
 - Its also a combination with predator and competing species
 - There shouldn't be a general global statement on ocean conditions because of that spatial variability
 - Some models are limited in that they don't account for the variable of the specific place that salmon go in the ocean
- Mark Menlove
 - Does seem to be high correlation between blob and mortality rates
 - What's the best science on the cause of the blob
- Brian Burke
 - It was an atmospheric driver pressures system
 - I think the overall driver is climate change
 - So solutions will likely be not be short term
 - Paper came out that the last 5 years were highest for ocean temp and that ocean heat waves will be more common
- Brett Dumas
 - Can you talk a little more on limiting factors in estuary that we may able to address? Is there opportunity for it to be improved and benefit salmon
- Brian Burke
 - I think there are opportunities but I'm not in that area as much and can speak to specifics. I don't work in estuaries directly much
 - Opening up habitat is a benefit
 - Plume nutrients are affected by flow so affecting flow could have benefit in survival in early ocean
 - Could be opportunities to explore that more
- Brett Dumas
 - Understanding the work you do in ocean is critical in us moving forward
 - Are their constraints to your work that we could help with?
 - What could open up opportunities
- Brian Burke
 - Two things come to mind
 - Predator survey is one because it is one of the biggest data gaps we have

- The birds are extremely important and we're not measuring their diet and there are other predators we're not monitoring
 - Used to and lost funding
 - Used to have a September survey on top of May and June survey that gave us more info on fall chinook.
 - Having that helps us understand dynamics that affect their mortality
 - Steelhead come out before we sample in May and we only get tail end.
 - A new survey in April would tell us more about steelhead
- Dave Doeringsfeld
 - When we release hatchery fish is that setting the dinner bell for everything in the estuary?
 - Does it signal to predators and would varying that date affect predation?
- Brian Burke
 - Complicated answer because many predators are there for other reasons
 - Releasing all at once could be benefit because it could swamp predators
 - If you put them out before forage fish, then it could be detrimental
 - It's hard to tell
 - I think experimental releases could be helpful but would hesitate from programmatic change without more information
 -

Middle Fork of the Salmon River: Russ Thurow

- Presentation Available on OSC Website; Salmon Workgroup page

Questions

- Brett Dumas
 - How does lack of marine derived nutrients affect the quality of physical habitat and production?
 - Non-pristine may not have pristine habitat but may have more introduced nutrients?
 - Could you talk about that dynamic and how it would affect recovery
- Russ Thurow
 - Middle fork definitely has deficit of nutrients compared to where we were
 - There have been proposals on how we resolve that
 - One is adding nutrients artificially
 - There was a study done and the conclusion they made is to be careful because adding nutrients is not the same as having adult carcasses
 - I think you need more adults to create more carcasses
 - Nutrients are limited but not limiting the number of fish we have now
- Brett Dumas
 - So performance of juveniles is not affected by low nutrients?
- Russ Thurow
 - So abundance of other species have been affected by lack of nutrients

- Fish, terrestrial, and plants
- Work that has been done is whether current level is limiting
- Literature suggests they would do better under more nutrients, but they are surviving
- Real solution is getting more carcasses
- Aaron Lieberman
 - Chart showing red counts
 - 3 years of low returns
 - Is there any implications from that 3 year trend as opposed to overall trend
- Russ Thurow
 - Based on forecast 2020 looks like it will be another bad year
 - We've never had 4 consecutive years of below 400 returns
 - There is habitat that is not being used
 - When we look at different locations historically not every area has high populations at the same time
 - When we get really low numbers like this then they do track each other and everywhere is low which runs the risk of simultaneous extirpations
- Aaron Lieberman
 - Would density distribution curves apply to other basins beside Middle Fork?
- Russ Thurow
 - Yeah, based on what I've seen I would say yes
 - Part of it is demographics
 - Areas that have more reds, the areas that have core areas of fish will still have them and the fringe areas will lose them
- Joe Oatman
 - No specific questions but additional comments
 - What you presented on Middle Fork is pretty consistent with what the Tribe presented previously where it represents the best habitat and that we're not seeing the fish respond the way we'd like
 - As you pointed out in Middle Fork there is nothing you can really do to improve the fish habitat and there's very little harvest that occurs there
 - Tribes have developed a harvest plan for that area
 - In terms of harvest opportunity and levels of harvest has been something like less than 15 total for the past 7 years
 - A place that used to be very important to meeting Tribal needs now doesn't because there are so few fish there
 - So 3 of the 4 H's can't really be affected there which highlights the importance of addressing out of basin factors
- Russ Thurow
 - I would interject, Brett mentioned it being pristine but I wouldn't say it's pristine
 - But arguably it is the finest natal habitat in the Columbia basin
 - Areas that have been degraded are being addressed but natal habitat alone is insufficient

- Part of the take home on the Middle Fork is that we could spend time resorting the Snake Basin to be like Middle fork and we'd still have ESA listed fish
- Will Hart
 - Made comment that all of our fish are at high risk of extinction
 - I wasn't aware that all salmonids were at risk, is that the case?
- Russ Thurow
 - All Snake river stocks with exception of Fall Chinook
 - Rest are listed and at high risk of extinction
- Will Hart
 - Other point is on red returns when they were high in the early 2000s?
 - What were the SARs in those years?
- Russ Thurow
 - Had about a 5 fold increase in those years due to several factors
 - I should include those and it's a good point
 - I will look those up
- Will Hart
 - And we had 8 dams during that time?
- Russ Thurow
 - Yes
- David Doeringsfeld
 - On nutrient supplementation
 - When we get stretches that are good would nutrient supplementation help make it even better to get the numbers to an area that they would sustain themselves?
- Russ Thurow
 - Frankly I don't work in the nutrient enrichment arena, but my point is that the issue is getting enough eggs in the gravel
 - So putting nutrients in artificially is treating a symptom and not issue of getting more fish produced and then have carcasses
 - Some studies have shown some benefit of nutrient enrichment but it's not the same ecological responses as natural nutrients
 - Another thing to think about is that we have other species in there and nutrient enrichment could help them
- Chad Colter
 - I think this presentation will give good insight to WG on issues
 - Looking at our harvest numbers
 - When there's a take on wild fish it's been like 3 fish for the whole tribe
 - 2020 numbers are also dismal
 - I'm talking the whole Salmon River there and the majority of them back there are at 3 fish for the whole tribe except for those that are hatchery influenced
 - So populations are tracking across the entire basin not just Middle Fork
 - We are synchronized in population decline
- Brian Brooks

- If we're serious about recovery then we need to get past some inflammatory statements and make sure we're working the same environment
- I would like to address some public comments submitted by utility people that say that salmon trends are going up there
- What would be your response to claims like that?
- Russ Thurow
 - It's a distortion of the truth and that's why I included a similar slide in the presentation
 - We need to focus on the truth and not distort it
 - Unfortunately, I think statements like that confuse the public
 - Helping the public and policy makers understand the real evidence is critical
- Richard Scully
 - I think the presentation has broadened WG understanding of habitat
 - To expand, the 2000 large returns would have provided carcasses to the juveniles to provide the better survival but the numbers dropped again so the benefits of those extra nutrients were over shadowed by out of basin effects
 - Also looked at statements about record runs of salmon
 - Spring/Summer Chinook and steelhead are low
 - The few years of high returns don't represent the actual situation
- Mark Menlove
 - I've been in the Middle Fork for years and it seems that there has been increase in Northern Pike Minnow
 - Do you have any information on fish predation in the Middle Fork
- Russ Thurow
 - IDFG is keeping snorkel data
 - That data indicates that they're seeing fish like Northern Pike Minnow farther up the Middle Fork indicating warmer temperatures
 - Don't have data on predations
 - Other thing I'll add is that people think of Bear Valley Creek and Marsh Creek as main producers, but main stem of Middle Fork is also main producer
 - Past count indicated over 400 in main stem
 - We've averaged 10 over the last 10 years so that population has particularly declined

Harvest Panel: Guy Norman and Stuart Ellis

- Presentations Available on OSC Website; Salmon Workgroup page

Questions

- **Brett Dumas**
 - **When** you say harvest has gone down, what harvest do you mean?
- **Guy Norman**
 - In general stocks have been down the fisheries in the Columbia basin as well as in the ocean have been curtailed

- Jeffery Allen
 - Beyond the 12 miles that the US has with Canada, how are the fisheries managed beyond that?
- Guy Norman
 - Salmon focused fisheries are usually focused on coastlines
 - There is another forum Anadromous Fish Commission to ensure enforcement of offshore fishing to make sure they weren't targeting fish they weren't supposed to
 - Curtails that activity and they share science info
- Aaron Lieberman
 - You said that total number of chinook that harvest was not significant
- Guy Norman
 - So fall and summer chinook were most significant
 - Spring chinook and steelhead are not
 - I don't have updated numbers
 - Overall harvest has been reduced
- Aaron Lieberman
 - do you have numbers on Snake River stocks
- Guy Norman
 - I don't have updated numbers but could ballpark it
 - Usually 40-50% probably in that neighborhood
- Aaron Lieberman
 - So ultimately those different management bodies would be the Pacific Salmon Commission or combination of the groups
- Guy Norman
 - It's a combination of the groups
- Richard Scully
 - You had series of pie charts of salmon travel up to Alaska
 - Did not notice component that was significant Alaskan stock?
- Guy Norman
 - There is a piece there but its small
- Richard Scully
 - Is it because production is down in Alaska?
- Guy Norman
 - No there is lots of production but these are only the southern fisheries
- Dave Doeringsfeld
 - At a previous presentation
 - If steelhead are heading straight out do we know what the harvest rate is for Idaho stocks of steelhead in the ocean?
- Guy Norman
 - No but can safely say that it is a lot less than before forum enforcing fishing laws on ocean
 - There is still some illegal activity but it is far reduced

- Dave Doeringsfeld
 - As far as pounds of harvest what's the difference in pounds of harvest in the high seas
- Guy Norman
 - Safely say that its down with the coordinated enforcement effort
- Justin Hayes
 - What I'm taking away is that it's very regulated and it's getting better
 - I want to be comforted that Idaho fish are not being harvested at unsustainable levels
 - There's a slide on there that still scares me
 - The CBP phase 1 report does have harvest info in it
 - It may be very regulated and our fish may be disproportionately affected
- Guy Norman
 - It's tough because you're dealing with mixed stock populations
- Brett Dumas
 - If I'm thinking then the Snake River fall chinook are the only listed fish in these mixed populations that are being harvested
 - But out in the ocean there is no way to know if they're Idaho fish
 - So they get harvested out in the ocean then come back to Columbia River and get fished by Or and WA and get to Idaho and we get regulated on them so isn't Idaho getting the shaft a little bit?
- Guy Norman
 - So it's not just the Snake River chinook that are listed out there
 - Not to say it's anywhere where it should be but they are considered when the fisheries are set
 - Often it's the weakest stock that limit the fishery which is often Snake River Fall chinook
- Brian Brooks
 - Who are the Idaho reps on the group you referenced?
- Stuart Ellis
 - IDFG has a rep appointed by the director
 - And there are 2
 - Joe Oatman – its Pete Hassembler and Virgil Moore
 - The non-governmental reps serve 3 year terms
 - These are public forums and people can participate and give input
- Chad Colter
 - I think you can appreciate why we're here today
 - I'm sure you're familiar with the Tribes annual trips to provide testimony and info advocating that Idaho fish be allowed to make it through the gauntlet of harvest below us
 - You mentioned equity early in your presentation in that the risk to Idaho fish should be minimized

- When I read through the information CBP Phase 1 that talks about fishery distribution it shows a disparity between what the State of ID gets as opposed to downriver
- It's concerning to me in terms of equity and risk to our stocks
- How does it come to be that big of a disparity?
- Guy Norman
 - I was a Washington contact for many of those annual Tribe trips and enjoyed the testimony and passion
 - Not a good answer but US v Oregon has the equitable share issue for tribes to share harvest through some of that area
 - The mixed stock fishery issue comes into play when you have the downriver stocks and snake river stocks aren't targeted but are a by product
 - Need to rebuild these runs so we have good opportunity everywhere
- Joe Oatman
 - To expand during the 80s there was something like less than 300 wild fish that returned to Granite
 - When these fish were listed one of the first things NOAA tried to do was try to stop the main stem treaty harvest from occurring because it affected 4 or 5 fish. Not any of the other factors.
 - We entered negotiations to do a supplemental program to put fish above Granite
 - Don't want that to be lost that we have fish that the tribes and Idahoans can use because of the work the tribes have done
- David Doeringsfeld
 - Joe, you know more about this than most of us. What's your comfort level that our stocks aren't being hammered in the fisheries down from us?
- Joe Oatman
 - We don't have all the data but we can look and see where fish are harvested when they're marked and can tell us which fisheries they're being harvested in
 - NOAA looks more at setting ocean fishing at proper levels
 - Still need to make sure fish are on track for a positive trend which I think is happening

Columbia River Treaty Mainstem Fishery Stuart Ellis

- Presentation Available on OSC Website; Salmon Workgroup page

Questions

- Dave Doeringsfeld
 - Understand you're not counting every fish
 - If you look at what the count is at the dam below and above, do those numbers come out pretty close to your numbers?
- Stuart Ellis
 - The trick with that is timing and counts

- With steelhead will see them go over one dam and then won't go over another for an extended period of time
- Think that they may hang out to wait for more proper temperatures and then we start see them go over the dams
- So dam count data may or may not be helpful for any stock of fish
- We do look at that data a lot though

Q and A with Stuart and Guy

- Jeffery Allan
 - Question for Guy
 - There's a legend that often the forecasts are not accurate and by the time they're adjusted the Idaho stocks are whacked
 - Could you talk about the accuracy of forecasting and adjustment?
- Guy Norman
 - I think you're thinking of 2010 when forecast was higher than run significantly
 - After that occurred the update did not catch up with the reduction
 - A couple of things happened
 - When forecasts were done they reduced it by 30% before doing the update
 - Even though the legacy of that year carries on I think things have been pretty good
 - Even when forecasts have been off the updates have been quicker to catch up with the change
 - I think with buffer and dam counts and other factors we've been pretty successful at updating
- Stuart Ellis
 - I may add that around 2005 we saw an odd thing that runs of Spring chinook became later arriving and reached their midpoint later
 - The time of 70% and 90 % haven't shifted that much
 - When that came about it took us a while to realize it wasn't a one-time thing and took us some time on how we adjusted forecast of run size
 - As time has gone on we've paid closer attention
- Justin Hayes
 - Guy could you give us some context for how non-Idaho fisheries work
 - I understand that some fisheries are more of a terminal fishery
 - Like Bristol bay target Bristol bay fish and some just target migrating fish
 - Stuart, are there opportunities for even more selective fishery techniques that would satisfy treaty rights
 - Heard efforts of updating fishery wheel
- Stuart Ellis
 - Tribes have always utilized available tech to catch fish
 - By the time the Europeans settled the McCaws had some copper fish hooks from crashed fishing vessels
 - Tribes have always tried to incorporate best tech into fishery

- Short answer is yes
- Some tribe members have gotten a fish wheel and tried to catch chad
 - Didn't work as well as expected but are going to try to do more work with it
- I would guess now we have more hook and line fishers than we did 20 years ago
- Tribes are always looking for good ways to catch fish and target the fish they want
- One of the reasons that gill nets remain popular is that it has been tribal focus to provide fishing opportunity to the most fisherman as possible
 - Gill nets are not that efficient so you can put out many and not catch many fish
 - By using gear that's not the most efficient we can allow more people to fish
- The downside of increased efficiency like fish traps is that you could catch the total allowed harvest with few traps and fewer people would get to fish
- That factor does weigh in to some of the decision making
- Guy Norman
 - So where are the fisheries directed at local stocks and those targeting mixed stocks
 - The closer you get to the origination of the local stocks the more local it will be
 - Depends on timing often
 - They have northern Alaskan fisheries that are almost all local stocks
 - Between the technical information we receive there's a pretty good understanding of where these fish are at each time of the year.
 - So sometimes local stocks migrate so local origination areas are gone until they return
 - Good idea of where local and non-local stocks are
- Richard Scully
 - Guy – relative to our spring chinook fisheries
 - I've heard that since Idaho snake river stocks migrate the furthest so they enter ocean first
 - I've heard because of the long distance they migrate they get harvest disproportionately
- Guy Norman
 - I think there's quite a bit of technical info on stock timing
 - In the lower river the season does open earlier like Feb 1st
 - Real catching happens around mid-March
 - I know there's more info on stock timing
- Stuart Ellis
 - Some years Idaho fish account for 70% of the stock
 - Idaho is a substantial producer of all the fish
 - Some stocks can be hit harder than others

- We do a lot of monitoring of stock compositions at Bonneville of the fisheries so we have info to assess harvest levels on different stocks
- It varies but some of those early stocks get caught in those early fisheries but all these stocks come through over an extended period
- Stock timing isn't always the same either
- Definitely something that people pay attention to and factors into how harvest gets structured
- Guy Norman
 - Harvest rate on hatchery fish is probably 10-20%
 - I think there's also more genetic stock info that's being gathered
 - Seasons are always different depending on variable factors
 - Would need substantial data to make that call
- Brett Dumas
 - Following Guy's talk
 - I think we all have concerns on how Idaho is represented in the process of getting those harvest levels set
 - I think we should have IDFG come in and explain to us Idaho's role and the other board members feelings in that process
- Stuart Ellis
 - IDFG is involved in those processes
 - And I think that in the past 20 years there is definitely improved coordination among the parties
- Justin Hayes
 - Your work as a manager of fisheries perhaps you have knowledge outside of salmon
 - I've heard of other places that have hiatuses from fishing and saw recovery, have you heard of other fisheries doing that?
- Stuart Ellis
 - One of the big areas that have changed is the move toward utilization of individual quotas
 - So each individual is allotted a certain percentage of the catch
 - Tried to reduce "derby fishing" where everyone just fishes hard and tried to catch all that they can
 - Been increased onboard monitoring and is a heavily monitored fishing
 - There has also been a movement for a marine protected area where some areas of the ocean would be restricted from fishing in areas of ecological importance
 - Those closed areas can have significant economic effect on some ports that rely on fish
 - I think that there have been big strides made but they can have social and economic ramifications
- Guy Norman
 - I would add that there are 100s of groundfish species out there and there are several in poor shape

- One of the things that has been employed is depth management
- Certain depths of certain species can be observed and managed for so you manage for depth of fishing to reduce catch on certain species
 - Helps reduce impact on stocks and keep the fishing fleet out
- Allows opportunity albeit limited opportunity to fleet

Policy: Path Forward

- Katherine Himes
 - Putting on the professor hat
 - It was communicated that not everyone understands how we go from ideas to actually putting together recommendations
 - So going to give some policy 101
 - Going to show the slide that includes all the policy ideas that I've captured to keep tabs on the ideas that have been thrown around
 - These aren't adopted or supported, just a list of ideas for now
 - Have ideas in different categories
 - I've added some of the things that we've heard today
 - Is there anything else that the workgroup thinks needs to be added?
- Mark Menlove
 - One thing that occurs to me that came up in ocean conversation is Climate
 - We heard that we're not going recover fish with just Idaho actions
 - I think we should recommend to the governor a policy on Climate
- Richard Scully
 - Looking at hatcheries
 - 4 Hs are meant to list potential problems for recovery
 - Would like to add something under Hatcheries that allows us to discuss the negative effect of hatcheries on the recovery on wild fish
 - Want info on why hatcheries are a limiting factor to recovery
- Katherine Himes
 - This is not an exhaustive list
 - Agenda subgroup has raised that exact issue and will likely hear info on it
- John Simpson
 - Not on the list but may help us think about the list
 - We've had presentations with graphs that show years with better survival than other years, talked about 2001-2003 today
 - Would like to get info on what was different in those years so we can see what helped
 - What helped with out migration and returns? I think that info would be helpful
 - We are at the end of the ditch and we kind of just get what we get but we need to think about our rights and expectations are
 - Could recommend to the governor to review what Idaho's expectations are
- Scott Hauser
 - Something I think has come up several times today is equity

- I think clearly there is inequity in Idaho
- We are bearing a huge burden and not receiving what we deserve
- Extends to the tribes
- Heard from Stuart that some tribes have commercial fisheries and the ones I work for get 3 fish
- Think tribes and state and could coalesce around that and form some pretty serious recommendations around those
- We are sitting on critical habitat and not receiving the benefit for what we have here
- As an Idahoan it's time to stand up and bring our fish back
- We're doing a lot but there is a lot of inequality and think that should be an important factor in the recommendations
- I would make equity its own category
- Aaron Lieberman
 - Last night we heard a suggestion to recommend managing the flex spill to optimize it for fish within the terms of the agreement
- Merrill Beyeler
 - There's one thing that's been alluded to but not up there
- David Doeringsfeld
 - I think Brian Burke gave us about 5 things we could look at and add on there
 - Could go back and look and add the rest
- Katherine Himes
 - Moving on to mini lecture
 - Want to talk about how we get from these ideas to actual recommendation
 - Many ways that you can think about a good recommendation
 - Can depend on your audience
 - Going to describe 2 ways that go into a recommendation
 - 1) do you capture the issue in the recommendation
 - Do you capture the analysis?
 - What am I actually recommending?
 - Other way
 - Is it actionable? You want something that's not vague. Do you have enough in there that someone who gets it understands how you got there
 - Is it politically feasible? Sometimes it is and sometimes it's not
 - Is it a recommendation that recommends additional study?
 - If so, should specify how much additional study or
 - Should be timely.
 - Should be succinct. Don't want them to be paragraphs of text
 - Some are very detailed, and some are more broad
 - It's ok to have variability
 - I'm going to show you an example
 - Has an umbrella statement with more specific points that fit under the umbrella

- Just wanted to give an example to the WG of what a recommendation will look like
- Governor does expect that they be consensus based
- With that in mind it is important to take off the hat of your organization and think about what this group can accomplish
- Going to give homework assignment
 - Going to send the ideas list out and want you to prioritize what you think the group can accomplish in terms of consensus
 - Do this before the next meeting
 - Do it by section and list
- Any questions?
- May not be what your organization may want the most but what you think we can reach consensus on
- Richard Scully
 - Are these consensus ideas one that we think are going to recover salmon or just ones we think we can reach consensus on?
- Katherine Himes
 - I think we'll address that more in April, but our starting point is what can we find where we can reach consensus
- Paul Arrington
 - I know what you're asking but would it be helpful to have an earlier date so we can have a summary
- Katherine
 - Yes
- Scott Hauser
 - We talked earlier about what the Mission Statement Subgroup is doing and feel like we jumped passed what they're doing
 - Trying to do this without knowing where we're going
 - Don't think there's been an equitable discussion of that language and seems as if the work we've tried to do is being trumped by this assignment
 - I feel like the mission statement was in limbo and with the assignment it feels like it's not necessary
 - I'm still not clear what the goals and recommendations are of the policy recommendations
- Paul Arrington
 - I would disagree in that we had a mission statement that was drafted and accepted a long time ago and now the Subgroup is looking at something else addressing the extent that we might roll CBP numbers into a statement
 - So the Subgroup accomplished the mission statement and now it's a side language that we're working on
 - I think the intention will continue to work on that and hopefully will be done way before next meeting
- Kira Finkler

- Could you help us understand as facilitator what the roadmap is for us to get to recommendations
- We've got a few more meetings set then only a few months before December
- Katherine Himes
 - In all transparency we haven't gotten to that detail in the Agenda subgroup
 - I selected this for April because that is the first potential for the group to work together in potential small groups to begin talking what language may look like
 - This exercise was just to get you to begin to think what that language may look like
 - I have a roadmap where we could go in April, but this is meant to just be a sort of pre exercise
- Justin Hayes
 - I think that it's an important thing for us to work together and hash thing out and I support things
 - I think that if we spend a lot of time trying to identify things, we'll agree on that we may spend too much time on that and not enough on working with each other to reach agreement on things we don't agree on now
- Richard Scully
 - If we come to some consensus topics, I want to make sure that they are leading towards salmon recovery and not distracting us from our main task
 - I'm happy to do this but do have my concerns
- Aaron Lieberman
 - I feel like we did hash out some of the mission statement stuff in where we're going with the recommendations
 - On the assignment I recognize those concerns and I think that enough people have voiced them that we may not need to be concerned
 - I think everyone here cares enough to do this exercise without spending an exorbitant amount of time on it and be able to handle the tough things as well
- Katherine Himes
 - I want to stress that going home and thinking of these ideas in a consensus priority mindset is different than what you may do in the April meeting and what you may create together
 - The homework does not dictate the next action step
 - The point here is to take these ideas the WG has included and see where a place may be to start on consensus ideas
 - There may be a big jump from that point but just want to start getting your minds to that place
 - It's not meant to replace or cross with any other processes
- Kira Finkler
 - Want to make sure I understand
 - We will do this exercise at next meeting after doing this exercise to talk with each other and maybe find other ideas and places where we can agree?
 - It's not funneling down our final product right?

- Katherine Himes
 - That is right the group wanted more time
- Scott Hauser
 - You had mentioned Katherine that you had a road map in your head
 - This is a process question
 - We can either agree or not or not with CBP report but as we entered that process we knew where we were going
 - There was a schedule for the next year of where we would be
 - It's very concerning that you don't have a roadmap given to you
 - This is a very important workgroup and we heard last night and in other comment that there is not a roadmap from Governor or OSC is concerning to me
 - These fish are in dire straights
 - I am distressed that there is not a roadmap to lead us to success
- Katherine Himes
 - I would say that I have a roadmap of what I would do but I haven't pushed that yet because we haven't gotten to a point where we are ready to shift into another gear
 - I think there's been a balance of top down and bottom up from this workgroup
 - If this is something that the workgroup wants, we can shift to having a roadmap
- Brett Dumas
 - Justin's comment about the apple shining, I had some of the same concern
 - Here's what I think you're trying to do
 - You're trying to get us to try to take our hat off
 - Still think we're hearing a bunch of "this is what I want" and I think we need to figure out what we want
 - I think we have a challenge in figuring out what the scope is of what we're trying to do
 - I think that underlies some of the conflict of whether we need goals or other things
- Richard Scully
 - A while back I brought up the idea of scenario planning
 - Government entities used to think of where things may go
 - People are really doing that in regards to climate change at some point
 - If some people started brainstorming when their home of where they think they want this process to go
 - Maybe we could people share their ideas on where this is going we could figure something out
- Brett Dumas
 - That is exactly what I would like to do
 - Let's just put our ideas on the table and talk about them
 - How about by April we all share a first draft of what we think our policy ideas are and talk about it from there
- Scott Hauser

- Agree
- Will Hart
 - I think it's a little dismissive to waive your assignment so maybe we should do both
- Brett Dumas
 - How about when you write up your policy idea you indicate likelihood of consensus
- Merrill Beyeler
 - I don't think it's very different than what you're asking for
 - I think that we can combine the two and prioritize them and bring a policy recommendation
- Katherine Himes
 - I will send out this homework and share it with the WG members that are not here
 - Now, we all have the opportunity to meet in a social setting
 - Are there any closing statements?
- Justin Hayes
 - I would like to thank everyone for being here and speakers for being here
 - A lot of people come to me and want to believe it's not working, and I don't feel that way at all
 - I don't know where we'll end up exactly and I think this is a unique opportunity and special
 - I think the Idaho way in natural resources is to come together and discuss issues

Meeting Adjourned: