

Idaho Governor's Salmon Workgroup

IDAHO'S GOALS FOR HEALTHY AND HARVESTABLE SNAKE RIVER STOCKS

Columbia Basin tribes and diverse Northwest stakeholders, including many of the Idaho interests and sovereign tribal nations that are participating in this workgroup, participated in NOAA Fisheries Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee's Columbia Basin Partnership (CBP) and helped to craft provisional quantitative goals for salmon and steelhead restoration in the Columbia and Snake River Basins and metrics to track progress.

The workgroup adopts the quantitative goals outlined in a report prepared by the CBP (the "Phase 1 Report"), to the extent endorsed by the Idaho Fish and Game Commission. The workgroup acknowledges that the CBP goals do not incorporate quantitative fish goals for currently blocked areas of the Upper Snake River Basin and that discussions between the tribes, Idaho, Oregon and various stakeholders are ongoing. The CBP goals represent not only delisting (the low-end goals), but also include the levels of abundance (high goals) that this workgroup and Idahoans desire. The workgroup views the high goals defined in the CBP Phase 1 report as intended to represent "healthy and harvestable" abundance levels that would sustain species viability, significant fisheries opportunity and harvest, a fuller range of ecological values, and an "equivalent to empirical estimates of abundance under conditions when populations were previously considered to be reasonably healthy."

Achieving these abundance goals will require actions that address hatchery management, harvest, habitat, the hydro system, predation, and ocean conditions. There are several metrics that can be used to measure success, including, but not limited to, smolt-to-adult return (SAR) rates in the 2% to 6% range (with an average 4%) and other metrics identified in the 2014 Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fish and Wildlife Program and the CBP Phase 1 Report.

The workgroup recognizes that reaching Idaho's goals will require immediate, ongoing, and persistent efforts by federal, state, local, and tribal governments and stakeholders. The workgroup further understands that reaching Idaho's goals will vary among Snake River stocks and that significant actions and adaptive management measures may be necessary to ensure that goals are reached as quickly as possible.

Approved by Governor's Salmon Workgroup on 4-29-2020