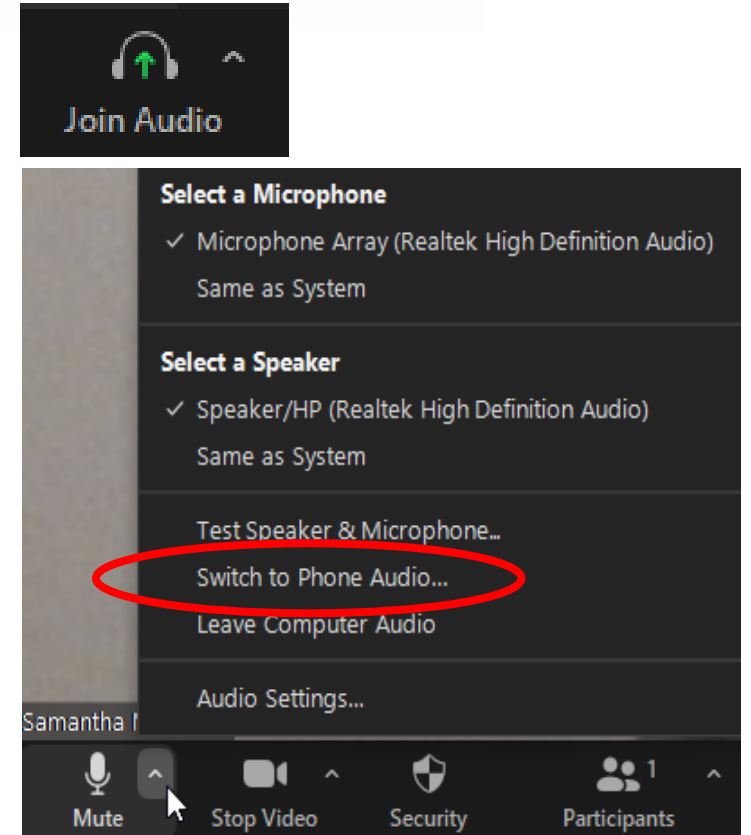


# **Columbia Basin Collaborative Integration/Recommendations Group**

**October 19th, 2022  
12:30-5pm PT/1:30-6pm MT**

# Zoom Webinar Features

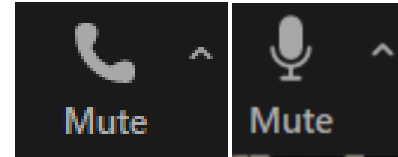
- If you have not **connected your audio**, click on the “Join Audio” at the bottom left of your screen.
- To **switch to phone**, click the arrow next to the microphone icon and select “Switch to Phone Audio”.
- If you have joined by browser, please click “Audio Settings”



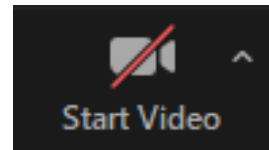
*For technical support, please contact Samantha Meysohn, 360-536-3660*

# Zoom Webinar Features – I/RG Members

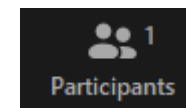
Keep yourself on mute when not speaking.



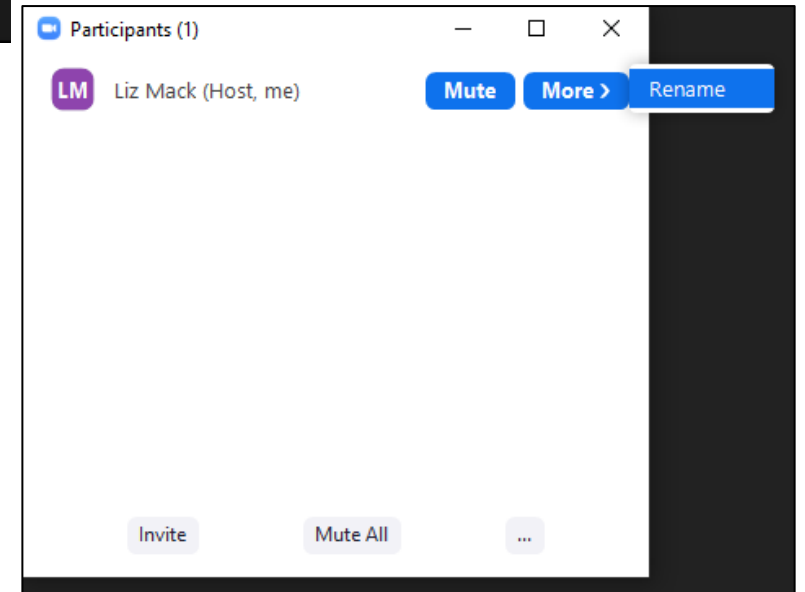
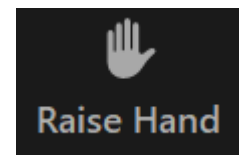
Use video, if possible, to promote face to face communication.



If needed rename yourself in the participant panel.



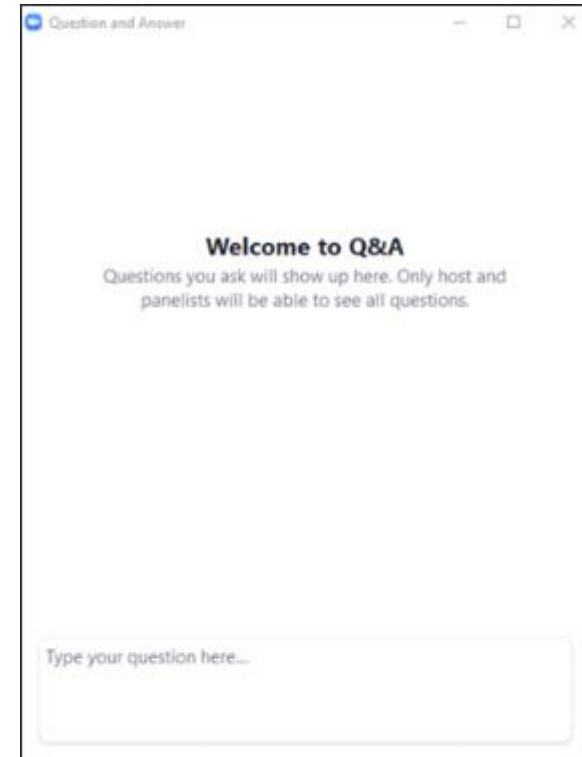
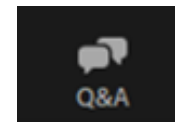
Find your raise hand function at the bottom of your screen



# Zoom Webinar Features – Audience Members

Audience members will remain muted.

If you have technology issues, please use the Q&A feature to reach our team



*For technical support, please contact Samantha Meysohn, 360-536-3660*

## In Room Logistics

- Limit background noise, including side conversations.
- Turn your table tent if you have something to add to the discussion.
- State your name before speaking.

# **Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Agenda**

# Agenda Review

Time (PT)	Topic
12:30 – 12:50 pm	Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Agenda
12:50 – 1:30 pm	Updates from Around the Region
1:30 – 2:00 pm	Coordination with External Forums
2:00 – 3:45 pm (including break)	Share Updates from the Work Groups
3:45– 4:30 pm	Rebuilding Interior Columbia Basin Salmon and Steelhead Report
4:30 – 5:00 pm	Approach Going Forward, Confirm Upcoming Topics, Next Steps, and Summary
5:00 pm	<i>Adjourn</i>

# Meeting Guidelines

- Honor the agenda
- Listen to understand and ask questions to clarify
- Balance speaking time
- Don't pile on
- Be hard on the problems, soft on the people
- Seek alignment and common ground wherever possible
- Be present





# Updates From Around the Region

# Coordination with External Forums

Updates on:

- Inslee/Murray Process (Kramer LSRD Report)
- Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services
- Treaty negotiations
- Other forums



# Discussion

- How does the CBC want to coordinate with these external forums?




Photo credit: US Department of Energy

# Updates from Work Groups

Updates on:

- Science Integration
- Estuary/Tributary Habitat
- Hydropower/Blocked Areas
- Hatcheries/Harvest
- Predation
- Water Resource Development Act Sub-group



 <b>CBC Technical Planning</b>	4) Confirm science-based approach for working groups	<b>CONFIRM BIOLOGICAL FOUNDATION</b> Review and confirm matrices that use the data from the CBPTF to serve as the foundation of the working groups	April 2022- June 2022	Biological Sub-group	- Biological Matrices - Approach for TSWGs
	5) Identify Needs for: - Tributary Habitat - Mainstem Hydro - Blocked Areas - Estuary Habitat - Predation - Hatcheries - Harvest - Integration across threat categories	<b>IDENTIFY ACTIONS/PROJECTS BY TOPIC</b> - Using CBPTF tools and data, identify priority restoration actions/programs that address impact reduction need for each respective mortality factor and collaborate with existing forums (for example, regional recovery organizations) and the IRG as needed - Consider recommendations, actions, and shovel-ready projects from existing forums (for example the CBPTF P2 report) - Consider actions that benefit multiple stocks and regions/watershed populations - Estimate mortality magnitude, source, and location	Ongoing starting July 2022	Topic Specific work groups	List of actions to address needs
		- Acknowledging tribal and treaty rights and legal constraints			
		<b>IDENTIFY ACTIONS/PROJECTS INTEGRATED PACKAGES</b> Using CBPTF tools and data as well as additional information to look across threat categories to identify cross-cutting actions to achieve L/M/H goals by multiple species that can be integrated with recommendations from the Topic Specific Work Groups. - Consider packages of actions as well. Focus on optimal actions to be taken. - Do analysis on DPS/ESU level. - Can have others help support the technical work. - Make recommendations to the IRG on project/program actions - Acknowledging tribal and treaty rights and legal constraints	Ongoing starting July 2022	Science Integration work group	List of actions to address needs
	6) Identify Responsible Management Entities for: - Tributary Habitat - Mainstem Hydro - Blocked Areas - Estuary Habitat - Predation - Hatcheries - Harvest - Geographic specific management authorities	<b>IDENTIFY WHO &amp; HOW MUCH</b> - Identify entities having management authorities or responsibilities that effect fish survival by threat category and by region - Align remedial actions/approaches with responsible entities - Rank effectiveness and urgency actions by entity	Ongoing starting July 2022	Topic Specific work groups	List of management entities and existing forums

Work Group Title	Kick-Off Meeting	Upcoming Meeting
Estuary/Tributary Habitat	9/20/22	11/9/22
Predation	9/28/22	11/3/22
Hatcheries/Harvest	9/30/22	11/1/22
Hydropower/Blocked Areas	10/4/22	11/2/22
Science Integration	10/4/22	11/7/22

# Science Integration Work Group (SIWG)

## Kick Off Meeting

- Provided context for work group.
- Identified Science and Infrastructure Gaps.
- Discussed need for a standard proposal format for actions developed by TSWGs.
- Discussed Salmon Slider and its use for facilitating discussions on actions.

# Recommended Action Form

1. Work Group developing the action:
2. Summary of action:
  - a. Is this part of an existing program or new program?
3. Benefit: (link to matrices)
  - a. What benefit will the action provide?
  - b. What data support this?
4. Entities that would implement that action:
5. Timing:
  - a. How long will it take to implement that action?
  - b. How long until fish populations benefit from action?
6. Stock(s) benefited by the action and magnitude of benefit for each stock(s)
7. Estimated cost:
8. Uncertainties related to the action:
9. Regulatory processes or policies associated with the action:
10. Potential challenges:
11. Adaptive management (describe how this will be incorporated into to action):



# SIWGW Work Plan

Meeting	Topics
Kick-off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Come to shared understanding of the assignment from the I/RG and information available from the CBPTF.</i></li><li>• <i>Assess science, implementation and infrastructure gaps that reach across the threat categories.</i></li><li>• <i>Agree on next steps.</i></li></ul>
Meeting 2:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review any feedback from the I/RG and come to a shared understanding of the assignment.</li><li>• Review the CBPTF Salmon Slider and decided if and how the work group will use it as a tool to facilitate discussion on cross-cutting actions.</li><li>• Also consider identified science and knowledge gaps and discuss potential actions that could address these.</li></ul>
Meeting 3:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue discussions on potential cross-cutting actions with the aim of developing draft actions.</li><li>• Look across the geographies within the basin and see if there are actions needed that aren't captured by one of the threat categories.</li></ul>
Meeting 4 and beyond:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop recommendations on cross-cutting actions.</li><li>• As recommendations come out of the topic-specific work groups, evaluate the actions for integrated impacts to inform recommendation to IRG.</li></ul>



## Stretch break



# Estuary/Tributary Habitat Work Group

## Kick Off Meeting

- Many recovery plans exist across Federal, State, Tribal and regional entities
- There is funding for planning and pieces of implementation, but insufficient funding to achieve the goals
- Lack of information and monitoring on habitat status
- Need better understanding of how climate impacts factor into restoration work and best ways to mitigate impacts
- Desire to collaborate with the other workgroups

# Estuary/Tributary/Mainstem Habitat Work Group

Meeting	Goals
<b>Kick Off</b>	Introduction to CBC Estuary and Tributary Habitat Work Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Come to shared understanding of the assignment from the I/RG and information available from the CBPTF</li><li>• Identify existing forums, gaps, and funding needs and sources</li><li>• Start developing work plan</li></ul> Assess gaps in existing forums, science, and funding
<b>Meeting 2:</b>	Finalize Work Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Further identify priority habitat programs, locations, responsible entities and limiting factors</li><li>• Further understand challenges and opportunities to habitat restoration efforts</li></ul> Assess existing plans and reports
<b>Meeting 3:</b>	Developing short term recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identifying priority areas for restoration and protection related actions</li><li>• Identify implementers, partners, and collaborators in the work</li><li>• Identify challenges and potential solutions</li></ul> Understand challenges and opportunities to habitat restoration
<b>Meeting 4:</b>	Start development of long term recommendations
<b>Meeting 5 and beyond:</b>	Developing long term recommendations

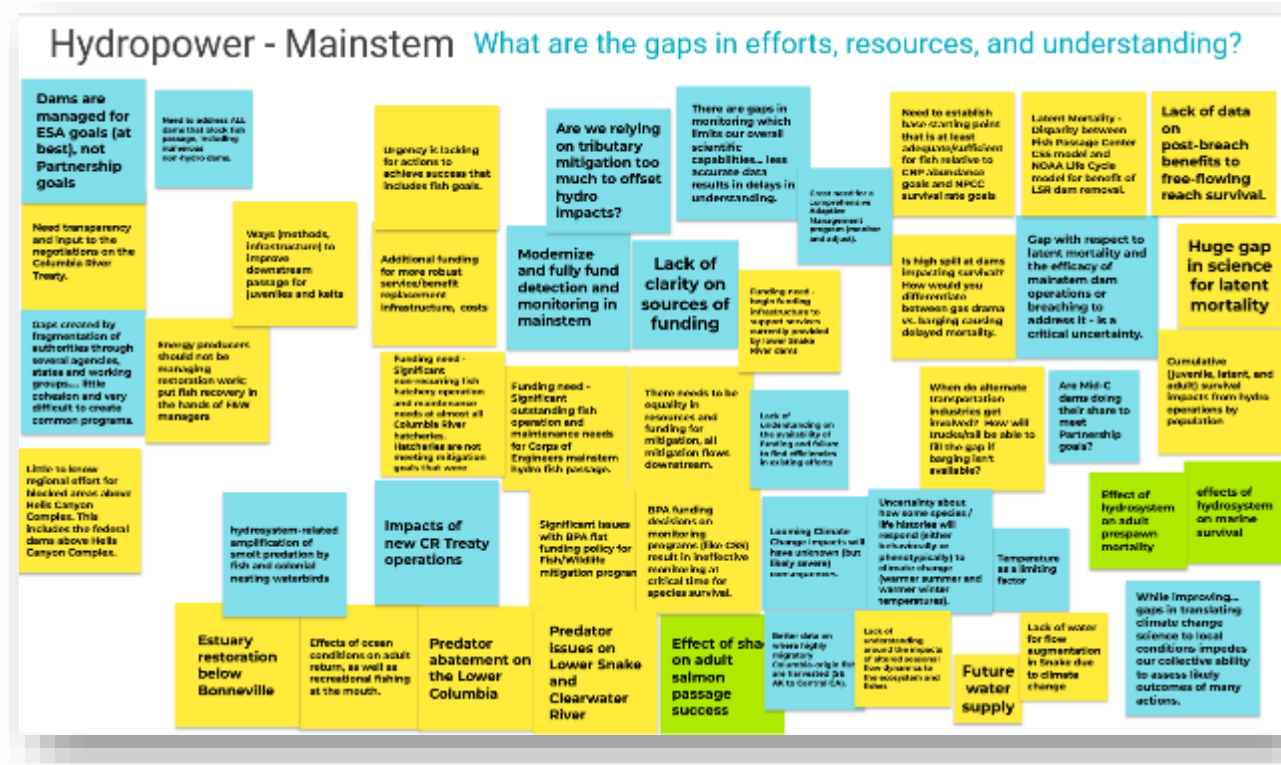
# Hydropower/Blocked Areas Work Group

- Diverse group with many interests and different levels of expertise
- Respectful dialogue
- Interest in clarifying the deliverables of the work group
- Missing participants who are involved in other forums

# Hydropower/Blocked Areas Work Group

## Major Takeaways

- Many entities and forums working on blocked areas and mainstem hydro impacts
- Many funding and information gaps
- Need to coordinate with other work groups and other forums



# Hydropower/Blocked Areas Work Group Workplan

Meeting	Key Topics
<i>Kick off</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Come to shared understanding of the assignment from the I/RG and information available from the CBPTF</i></li><li>• <i>Identify existing forums, gaps, and funding needs and sources</i></li><li>• <i>Agree on next steps</i></li></ul>
<b>Meeting 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clarify the work group objectives and I/RG assignment</li><li>• Further identify the hydropower operations needs and impacts to salmon</li><li>• Presentation on USACE Fish Budget Needs at mainstem dams</li><li>• Presentation about the Upper Columbia Blocked Areas Anadromous Fish Working Group</li><li>• Identify the most critical information gaps and need and opportunities</li></ul>
<b>Meeting 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Start brainstorming actions to address the critical information gaps, needs, and opportunities</li><li>• Crosswalk actions with recommendations from this group with other efforts</li><li>• Evaluate recommendations and build consensus around round 1 recommendations to go to the Science Integration Work Group and the I/RG</li></ul>
<b>Meeting 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Finalize round 1 recommendations to go to the Science Integration Work Group and the IRG</li></ul>
<b>Meeting 5 and beyond</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Build consensus around round 2 recommendations to go to the Science Integration Work Group and the I/RG</li></ul>

# Hatcheries/Harvest Work Group

## Kick-off Meeting

- Provided context
- Identified existing forums, gaps, and funding sources and needs
- Discussed the following:
  - Escapement goals and adult returns
  - Differing views on the identified knowledge gaps
  - Need to further discuss the degree of impacts of fisheries and the hatchery/harvest interrelationship
  - Taking a stock-by-stock approach



# H/H Work Plan

Meeting	Key Topics/Outcomes
<i>Kick off</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Come to shared understanding of the assignment from the I/RG and information available from the CBPTF</i></li><li>• <i>Assess existing forums, gaps, and funding needs and sources</i></li><li>• <i>Agree on next steps</i></li></ul>
Meeting 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review relevant data and further discuss the impacts of fisheries and the hatchery/harvest interrelationship.</li><li>• Identify levels of harvest that the medium and high level goals would support.</li><li>• Identify most critical information and implementation gaps and needs and opportunities. Then, crosswalk these with recommendations from other efforts to develop early recommendations.</li><li>• Look stock by stock for any additional needs considering work from other groups such as HSRG recommendations and recovery plans.</li></ul>
Meeting 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Share proposed recommendations for actions/programs considering the discussion from meeting #2 and the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Equitable distribution of harvest</li><li>○ Finer-scale impacts</li><li>○ Mitigation and treaty obligations</li></ul></li></ul>
Meeting 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Finalize recommendations to go to the Science Integration Work Group and the IRG.</li></ul>

# Predation Work Group

## Kick-Off Meeting:

- Many existing programs have not yielded long-term desired outcomes
  - Consistent and sustainable efforts are needed to be effective
  - Consistent, long-term funding is a challenge
- Regulatory and policy changes are necessary for certain actions
- Actions taken across various geographies can have positive benefits
- This work group should think about actions holistically
- Data gaps hinder successful implementation of predator management programs
- Lack of funding also inhibits successful programs from continuing or expanding

# Predation Work Group

Meeting	Goals
<b>Kick off</b>	Introduction to CBC Predation Work Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Come to shared understanding of the assignment from the I/RG and information available from the CBPTF</li><li>• Identify existing forums, gaps, and funding needs and sources</li><li>• Start developing work plan</li></ul> Assess gaps in existing forums, science, and funding
<b>Meeting 2:</b>	Finalize work plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review summary of existing programs and effectiveness</li><li>• Define what “success” looks like</li><li>• Correlate programs, challenges and solutions with specific predators</li></ul> Assess predator specific challenges and opportunities, including those exacerbated by habitat
<b>Meeting 3:</b>	Develop short term recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop research/data requests</li><li>• Identify budget needs and requests</li></ul>
<b>Meeting 4:</b>	Develop long term recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Include research/data questions and requests</li><li>• Build consensus around recommendations to go to the Science Integration Work Group and the I/RG</li></ul>

# Water Resource Development Act Sub-Group

## Major Takeaways

- Nothing in WRDA bill language that would prevent the CBC from achieving its charter
- Individual entities could advocate via federal representatives – no unified message from the I/RG

# **Rebuilding Interior Columbia Basin Salmon and Steelhead Report**

# Rebuilding Interior Columbia Basin Salmon and Steelhead



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# Overview

- Why we developed the report
- What the report says
- Next steps



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# Developing the Rebuilding Report

- NOAA developed the rebuilding report to inform the Biden Administration's commitment to explore a durable long-term strategy to restore salmon and other native fish populations to healthy and abundant levels, honoring Federal commitments to Tribal Nations, delivering affordable and reliable clean power, and meeting the many resilience needs of stakeholders across the region.
- The report was prepared by NOAA, with input from USWFS, and considered the written comments of tribal and state fishery co-managers on the draft report.
- The report considered the salmon and steelhead goals from the Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force's Phase 2 Report, which were developed through an inclusive sovereign and stakeholder process over multiple years.



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# Developing the Rebuilding Report

- The mid-range Partnership goals exceed ESA recovery thresholds for abundance, and represent considerable progress toward healthy and harvestable status of these stocks.
- Rebuilding healthy and harvestable stocks is a substantially more ambitious goal than meeting ESA recovery standards, which are intended to achieve delisting, or ESA Section 7(a)(2), which is meant to avoid jeopardizing the continued existence of ESA-listed species.



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# What the Draft Report Says

- Summarizes the latest science and our experience.
- Describes a rebuilding scenario (like we did in the CBP Report) that identifies a comprehensive suite of actions to achieve the CBP's mid-range goals by 2050.
- In the form of ten key questions.



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# Question 1: What is the relative priority of stocks for protection and rebuilding?

- All Columbia River basin native salmon and steelhead are important.
- Protection and rebuilding priority is highest for stocks of spring/summer Chinook salmon and steelhead from the Snake River and for summer and fall Chinook, spring Chinook, and steelhead from the upper Columbia River.
- Prioritization takes into account risk of extinction, importance to tribal communities, potential to respond to large-scale actions, and resilience to climate change.



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## Question 2: What is the status and outlook for each stock?

- Sixteen stocks historically spawned above Bonneville Dam: four are extinct, seven are ESA-listed, and of the remaining five, only one approaches its historical numbers.
- For ESA-listed stocks, recent abundance trends are negative, and productivity values are below replacement.
- Stocks retain their ability to respond positively when environmental conditions are favorable, but future stock status will face continued pressure from a changing climate and the ever-expanding human footprint.



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# Question 3: What are climate change impacts to the life-cycle productivity, resilience, extinction risk, and recovery potential?

- Climate change is causing more frequent and large-scale environmental impacts that influence all phases of the salmon and steelhead life cycle.
- Climate change effects will only continue to intensify.
- The ocean is a critically important habitat influencing abundance and productivity, and it is also affected by climate change (e.g., more frequent marine heatwaves).



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# Question 4: What are the primary ecological threats or limiting factors to achieving abundance and productivity goals?

- Large-scale tributary and estuary habitat degradation.
- Hydrosystem impacts, including direct and delayed effects from transiting the hydrosystem that impact marine survival.
- Impassable human-constructed barriers prohibiting access to much of the historic habitat throughout the basin.
- Predation from pinnipeds, native and non-native fishes, and birds that are taking advantage of the CRS.
- Altered marine and freshwater ecosystems.



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## Question 5: Which actions have the highest likelihood of helping in the face of climate change?

- Systematic and strategic tributary and estuarine habitat and ecosystem restoration and protection.
- Significant reductions in direct and indirect mortality from mainstem dams, including breaching LSR dams.
- Direct and indirect management of predator numbers and behavior in freshwater and marine environments.
- Passage and reintroduction into priority blocked areas.
- Focused hatchery and harvest reform.



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## Question 6: Given the stock status, what is the urgency for implementation of actions toward the goals?

- Most of the highest-priority stocks are also the most vulnerable to elevated risk of extinction due to their low numbers and ongoing climate change.
- Important to avoid additional near-term declines in abundance and survival.
- Urgent action increases the potential for stocks to respond favorably once key management actions are implemented.



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# Question 7: What confidence exists that salmon and steelhead will respond favorably if actions implemented comprehensively?

- A comprehensive suite of actions provides the highest likelihood of protecting and rebuilding the priority stocks in the face of climate change and making progress towards healthy and harvestable levels.
- The scientific support is robust, and supports large-scale, multi-faceted restoration action strategies.



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## Question 8: If the actions are implemented comprehensively, how would they benefit or degrade conditions for other species?

- Aquatic native species will all generally benefit from restoration actions implemented for salmon and steelhead.
- Some exceptions may result from actions to intentionally reduce the abundance or distribution of species that feed on salmon and steelhead.
- However, this does not negate the need to balance the recovery of multiple overlapping and interacting protected species, which is inherently complex.



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# Question 9: Are there uncertainties associated with the efficacy of the actions identified in Question 5 and how might the region resolve these uncertainties?

- All of the potential population limiting factors are known, but some uncertainties remain.
- Remaining uncertainties unlikely to be resolved until large-scale actions are implemented and monitored through adaptive management.



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# Question 10: What is the role of a science-informed decision structure in the implementation of major management actions for priority stocks?

- Given the large-scale, long-term, and multidimensional nature of the rebuilding action environment, developing a science-informed, adaptive framework for planning and implementation will be important.
- Natural resource decision making at this regional scale is a society driven process, in which fisheries, physical, and social science all play key roles to support evaluation, design, and action.



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# Next Steps

- We expect the Report will be considered during the stay of litigation, along with other relevant information, as the region explores Basin-wide, durable, long-term strategies to restore salmon and other native fish populations to healthy and abundant levels.
- The CBC Integration and Recommendations Group may find the Report useful to inform some of the Work Group activities as well as when the IRG considers priority actions and Basin-wide strategies.
- The Rebuilding Report is not a regulatory or policy document that is binding on any party nor does it change NOAA ESA recovery or regulatory standards.



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# Thank you



John McMillan, NOAA, NWFSC



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# Questions?



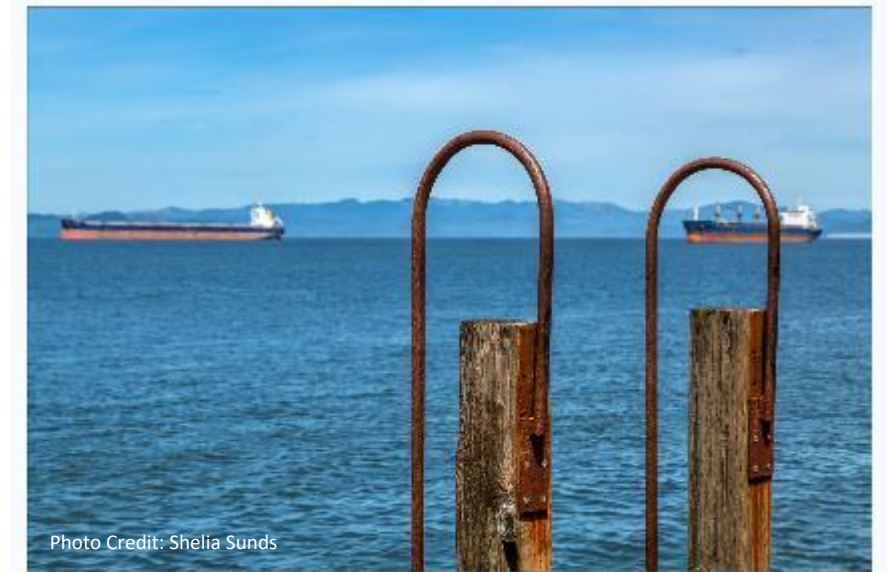
Photo credit: Roger Tabor

# **Approach Going Forward, Confirm Upcoming Topics, Next Steps, and Summary**



# Upcoming Topics

- Presentation from CSS and NOAA (spring)
- Ocean conditions updates (during summer meetings)



# Thank You!