

Columbia Basin Collaborative

Assessments and Trends Sub-group

Proposal for Monitoring Progress towards the CBP goals

About

The Assessment & Trends (A&T) sub-group was charged with coming up with a proposal for the Columbia Basin Collaborative to monitor progress towards the Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force Goals. The group discussed an interest in relying on existing information, and focusing on abundance at the stock-level across the Columbia Basin compared to the goals. Additional data interests included seeing trends over time per stock, hatchery mitigation status compared to CBP goals, natural productivity metrics, confidence intervals, and tracking actions being taken to support salmon and steelhead. The A&T sub-group compared existing information options and developed the following proposal to bring this information forward to the Integration/Recommendations Group (I/RG).

Monitoring progress towards the CBPTF goals has been identified as a priority in several regional planning documents.^{1,2,3,4}

Proposal

- The I/RG will reach out to StreamNet manager to identify which stocks have complete information, and which stocks have incomplete information. Where data gaps have been identified, I/RG representatives will advocate for funding for the fish and wildlife managers to compile data to increase the data available in StreamNet (approximately 4 Full Time Equivalentents over 9 states and tribes).
- Then the I/RG will work with StreamNet to identify the data summary staffing needs (approximately 1 FTE) for the I/RG and public to receive updates on the Columbia Basin Stocks. I/RG members will advocate for additional resources to develop public facing dashboards (including software costs).

¹ The [Phase 2 Report of the Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee](#) outlines a strategy to, “expand monitoring and assessment efforts to assess status and progress toward salmon and steelhead recovery.”

² The [Northwest Power and Conservation Council Columbia River Basin Fish & Wildlife Program 2020 Addendum](#) states, “the Council expects work implemented under the program will contribute toward achieving these distributed targets along the way to achieving the overarching program goal, and thus the Council will track progress toward these distributed abundance targets as part of program performance.”

³ The [Independent Scientific Advisory Board’s 2024 review of the Council’s Columbia River Basin Fish & Wildlife Program](#) provided several recommendations for improvement including to, “Establish Strategy Performance Indicators to be tracked for each salmon and steelhead stock for the major subbasins.”

⁴ The [Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative’s](#) recommended approach for ensuring accountability to fisheries recovery goals outlines their aim to, “establish a long-term biological performance monitoring and reporting program to measure progress and support accountability towards the qualitative and quantitative recovery and abundance goals identified in the CBP Phase II Report.”

- The data summaries on the dashboards will be appropriate for public non-scientist audiences and will show adult abundance by stock compared to the CBP quantitative goals, as well as hatchery mitigation status compared to hatchery goals.
- A report will be provided to the I/RG on an annual basis. The I/RG data summaries will start with the complete information stocks and will share updates on 5-6 stocks per year to cover all 27 stocks over the course of 5 years. Consider which stocks to bring forward first based on geography or status.

Outstanding questions for the I/RG

- Where does the funding come from?
- Where do the dashboards live?