

Columbia Basin Collaborative Assessment & Trends Sub-group

Meeting Summary

Thursday, October 24, 2024, from 9:00am – 10:00am PT/ 10:00am – 11:00am MT

Attendees

Sub-group Members in Attendance: Leslie Druffel (McGregor Company), Liz Hamilton (Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association), Jay Hesse (Nez Perce Tribe), Kris Homel (Northwest Power and Conservation Council), Stacy Horton (Northwest Power and Conservation Council), Tom Iverson (Yakama Nation Fisheries), Joel Kawahara (Coastal Trollers Association), Nancy Leonard (Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission), Art Martin (Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife), and Mari Williams (Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission).

Facilitation Team: Sarah Davidson (Kearns & West), Liz Mack (Kearns & West), and Samantha Meysohn (Kearns & West)

Welcome, Agenda Review, and Context

Sam Meysohn, Kearns & West (K&W), welcomed members to the third Assessment & Trends sub-group meeting as part of the Columbia Basin Collaborative (CBC). Sam reviewed the meeting guidelines and provided an overview of the agenda, which focused on 1) developing a proposal for tracking progress towards Columbia Basin Partnership (CBP) goals and 2) confirming next steps and action items

Develop a Proposal for Tracking Progress Towards CBP Goals

Sam reviewed the discussion from the 9/24/24 meeting and then opened further discussion on how the I/RG should track progress towards CBP goals. The discussion centered on 1) what information the group should start with, 2) who is responsible for bringing the information forward, 3) what resources are needed for this proposal, 4) who is the audience for receiving these updates, and 5) what frequency should data be reported.

The following points were discussed:

Information Gathering & Presentation

- Group members expressed an interest in supporting fish and wildlife managers to better compile complete data for uploading to StreamNet. They noted that there is a range of available stock/population information on StreamNet from complete to entirely missing and a method for assessing missing/variable data needs to be developed. The group suggested that data be reported at different levels for different consumers, with disclaimers about the data. Using complete data sets existing in StreamNet would be an efficient approach for piloting how to use and share different StreamNet stock data for CBC purposes.
- Group members noted that there is a need to determine who would be the one pulling stock abundance data from StreamNet and analyzing/reporting it to I/RG and beyond. Ultimately, group members agreed that fish and wildlife members should be the ones compiling data. Group members championed a collaborative approach, reflective of the CBC, for pulling this data together, sharing it, and using it.

- The group discussed how this effort aligns with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NWPPCC) Fish and Wildlife Program and high-level indicators. Several members expressed an interest in leveraging ongoing activities. The group discussed if and how the NWPPCC could support this monitoring and communication effort. A group member reminded the group that the scope of NWPPCC is limited to hydropower system mitigation. NOAA Fisheries Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) regional targets (CBP goals) did not attribute responsibility specifically to hydro systems and so the NWPPCC does not promise to achieve them.
- The NWPPCC shared that they use StreamNet’s MAFAC dashboards to display information on abundance by stock, so referring to the NWPPCC’s indicators would point to the same information that is available on StreamNet.
- Although the I/RG directed the A&T Sub-group to develop a proposal for the I/RG to monitor progress towards the CBP goals, several work groups expressed strong interests in making this accessible to the public. Work group members noted that the StreamNet MAFAC dashboards are geared towards scientists and are not necessarily suitable for a broad public audience.

Resources

- Work group members raised a concern about the lack of I/RG capacity to support data compilation, analysis, and sharing. Several group members reiterated the importance of utilizing existing resources.
- To further develop public-facing elements of StreamNet, further funding would be required.
- A group member suggested that since CBC is now parallel to the federal government and the Six Sovereign process, the CBC could explore using these resources to improve the accessibility of data.

Timing

- The timing element was also discussed, with some groups members asking for annual data compilation and summaries into a report and others suggesting every 5 years. The group discussed that annual updates on all Columbia Basin stocks may be too ambitious, but an annual update about a few stocks every year would eventually cover all stocks over 5 years.

Next Steps and Action Items

Sam reviewed the discussion highlights, including aspects of the draft proposal that arose from the discussion, and asked for input from participants. She asked if there were any concerns, and none were shared. Sam asked for volunteers to work with the K&W team to further develop the proposal for the upcoming I/RG meeting, and Tom Iverson and Joel Kawahara volunteered. Finally, Sam welcomed all group members to review once a draft is put together.

Action Items:

- **KW:** Draft a meeting summary and circulate to work group members by **Thursday, 10/31**
- **KW:** Draft a proposal based on the conversation at the 10/24 Assessment & Trends Sub-group Meeting with Tom Iverson, Joel Kawahara, and others.
- **All:** Reply via email by **the end of day, today, 10/25** if you would like to be included in the small drafting discussions.
- **Work group members:** Review drafted proposal and provide feedback before sharing with the I/RG.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00am PT.