

Exhibit J
DRAFT *Lower Columbia River*
Conservation and Recovery Plan

Supplemental Public Correspondence

**Public correspondence received
as of June 4, 2010.**



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
1201 NE Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 1100
PORTLAND, OREGON 97232-1274

May 27, 2010

Ms. Marla Rae
Chair
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
3406 Cherry Ave. NE
Salem, Oregon 97303

Dear Ms. Rae:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Northwest Regional Office, Salmon Recovery Division, is pleased to support the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission's adoption of the Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan for Oregon Populations of Salmon and Steelhead (Oregon LCR Recovery Plan). The plan represents a major accomplishment on the part of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) as well as the Oregon Governor's office and the many other state and federal agencies, local governments, tribal representatives, and stakeholders who participated in the planning process. It significantly advances our understanding of the current and target status of Oregon populations of Lower Columbia River Chinook, coho, chum, and steelhead, as well as of the factors limiting their viability and the targeted actions needed for their recovery. This plan will set Oregon populations of Lower Columbia River salmon and steelhead on a course to recovery.

NMFS is required to develop a recovery plan for any species under its jurisdiction that is listed as threatened or endangered under the US Endangered Species Act (ESA). We believe that local support of these plans by those whose activities directly affect the listed species, and whose actions will be most affected by recovery efforts, is essential. NMFS therefore supported and participated in collaborative efforts, like this one led by ODFW in the Lower Columbia, to involve local communities and state, tribal, and federal entities in recovery planning, and to coordinate the many conservation efforts already underway throughout the region.

In addition to the Oregon LCR Recovery Plan, work is also underway on two additional local plans that will address the Washington portions of the listed LCR salmon evolutionarily significant units (ESUs) and steelhead distinct population segment (DPS): (1) the Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery and Fish and Wildlife Subbasin Plan for southwest Washington, being developed by the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board and (2) the ESA Recovery Plan for the White Salmon River Basin, being developed by NMFS with participation from Klickitat County, the Yakama Nation, and other local stakeholders. In addition, the Columbia River Estuary ESA Recovery Plan Module for Salmon and Steelhead is being developed to address the Columbia River estuary recovery needs of all listed Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead.

The final ESA recovery plan adopted by NMFS must address the entire listed species, including the portions addressed by these locally developed plans. Thus, when these local plans are complete, NMFS will finalize a "roll-up," species-level recovery plan (roll-up plan) that addresses the entire listed ESUs and DPS. The roll-up plan will (1) endorse the local plans and make any needed additions or qualifications necessary to meet the requirements of the ESA; (2)

synthesize and summarize content from the local plans, along with any additional relevant information; (3) describe recovery strategies and actions, along with estimates of the costs and time required to implement them, at the ESU/DPS scale; (4) incorporate the local plans and the Columbia River Estuary Module as appendices; and (5) define formal ESA de-listing criteria for the listed ESUs and DPS.

NMFS expects to publish a *Federal Register* notice in early 2011 soliciting public review and comment on this proposed ESA roll-up plan. Although the extensive public involvement and review process that Oregon has undertaken in completing the Oregon LCR Recovery Plan reduces the likelihood of significant changes, it is possible that additional revisions to the plan will be needed based upon public comments received during the review period on the proposed ESA roll-up plan. The ESA recovery plan is expected to be finalized and formally adopted in late 2011.

NMFS has been involved in ODFW's planning process for the Oregon LCR Recovery Plan from its inception. We have reviewed and commented upon, and had input to, this plan on multiple occasions throughout that process. It is our view that the plan is based on sound science, contains the elements that address ESA recovery plan requirements, and is ready to be included as an appendix to the roll-up plan for public review and comment as part of the proposed ESA recovery plan.

Furthermore, we would like to emphasize that although the plan will need to go through public review and comment when NMFS proposes to adopt it as part of the formal ESA recovery plan for the LCR, we support moving forward with implementation of this plan now. We believe that the plan represents the best available information on species status, limiting factors and threats, and needed management actions. On that basis, we are currently using the document internally to inform section 7 consultations and other decisions, and we look forward to working with ODFW to implement this plan even while we continue the process of finalizing the formal ESA recovery plan for the LCR.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments in your decision regarding adoption of ODFW's Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan for Oregon Populations of Salmon and Steelhead, and congratulations on completing this document that significantly advances our understanding of the recovery needs of these precious resources. If you have any additional questions, please contact Patty Dornbusch at 503-230-5430.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Walton
Assistant Regional Administrator
Salmon Recovery Division

Cc: Bruce McIntosh, ODFW
Tom Stahl, ODFW
Suzanne Knapp, Oregon Governor's Office

Bcc: Sharon Houghton (file)

Sandra Fixsen

From: ODFW Commission
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 10:52 AM
To: Sandra Fixsen
Cc: Curt Melcher
Subject: FW: Salmon For All commentary on draft Oregon Conservation & Recovery Plan
Attachments: SFA letter on draft Conservation and Recovery Plan.pdf; Inventory of Items to be Submitted, 05-27-2010.pdf; Appdx E Ch 14 Chinook Str 2010 March.pdf; Appdx E Ch 13 Coho fishery risks 2010 March.pdf; Tod Jones, comments.pdf; Social Snapshot by Irene Martin.pdf; SFA letterhead re Draft Recovery Plan, signed copy.pdf; LCR Salmon ESU Commentary, Final.pdf

From the Commission inbox...

From: Salmon For All [mailto:info@salmonforall.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 1:42 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Cc: odfw.info@state.or.us; Jim Markee
Subject: Salmon For All commentary on draft Oregon Conservation & Recovery Plan

Dear Members of the Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission,

Salmon For All is a nonprofit trade association of Columbia River commercial fishermen and Processors, representing the Columbia River non-Indian commercial gillnet fleet. Our member fishermen and processors reside both in Washington and in Oregon. Our offices are in Astoria, Oregon, but we maintain a presence in both states. As you know, all Columbia River fisheries are managed the Joint Management Staff of the Washington and Oregon Departments of Fish & Wildlife under the Columbia River Compact. Most of the Columbia River's waters forming the boundary between our two states are under concurrent jurisdiction.

We wish to submit extensive commentary on the draft Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan for Oregon's Populations of Salmon and Steelhead, copies of most of which are attached as PDF files, accompanied by an Inventory of Items to be Submitted along with written testimony. Hard copies of all materials to be submitted will be mailed this afternoon by Flat Rate Priority Mail with delivery confirmation in order to ensure timely delivery, taking into consideration the fast approaching holiday weekend.

Respectfully,

Hobe Kytr, Administrator
 Salmon For All

Sandra Fixsen

From: ODFW Commission
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 10:50 AM
To: Sandra Fixsen
Cc: Curt Melcher
Subject: FW: SFA letter on Oregon draft Conservation and Recovery Plan

From the Commission inbox...

From: branchoffice96@gmail.com [mailto:branchoffice96@gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** Steve Watrous
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 5:48 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: SFA letter on Oregon draft Conservation and Recovery Plan

I am writing on behalf of Columbia Pacific Anglers Association. CPAA endorses all the points, and positions, in the SFA letter.

Steve Watrous
President
CPAA