



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

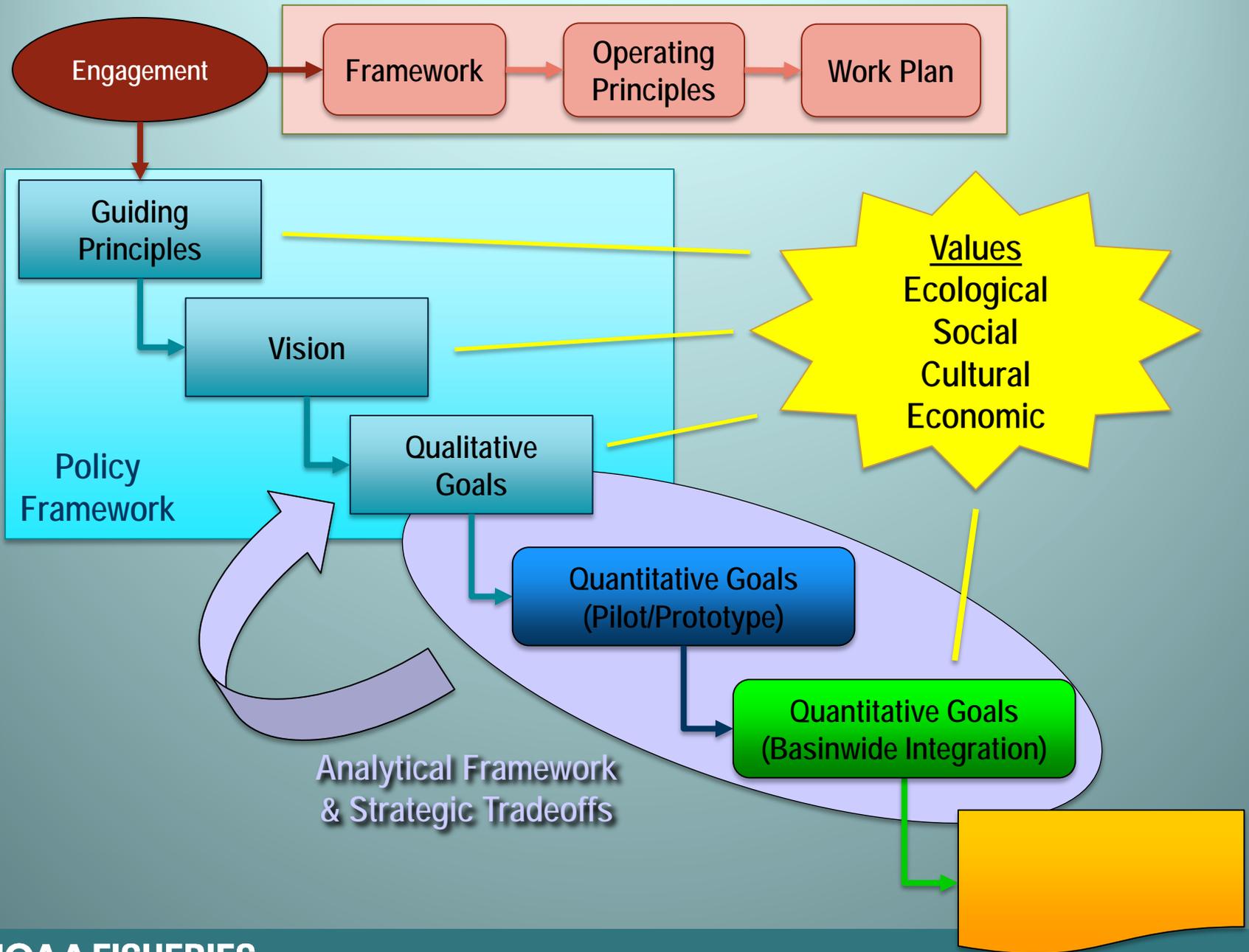
# Update on Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force

Barry Thom, NOAA Fisheries  
West Coast Region

**November 6, 2018**

Heath Heikkila, Coastal  
Conservation Association

Jennifer Anders, State of  
Montana, Salish-Kootenai Tribes  
and Kootenai Tribe of Idaho



# Update on Activities Since June, 2018

- CBP Task Force members shared draft products with communities and constituents over the summer. Feedback generally positive and some specific questions about qualitative goals.
- October meeting focused on resolving few questions and concerns about the quantitative goals. Next meeting in November will address resolution of those issues.
- Drafting Team working on recommendations report
- Additional discussions about continued work in next phase to further explore and refine goals.

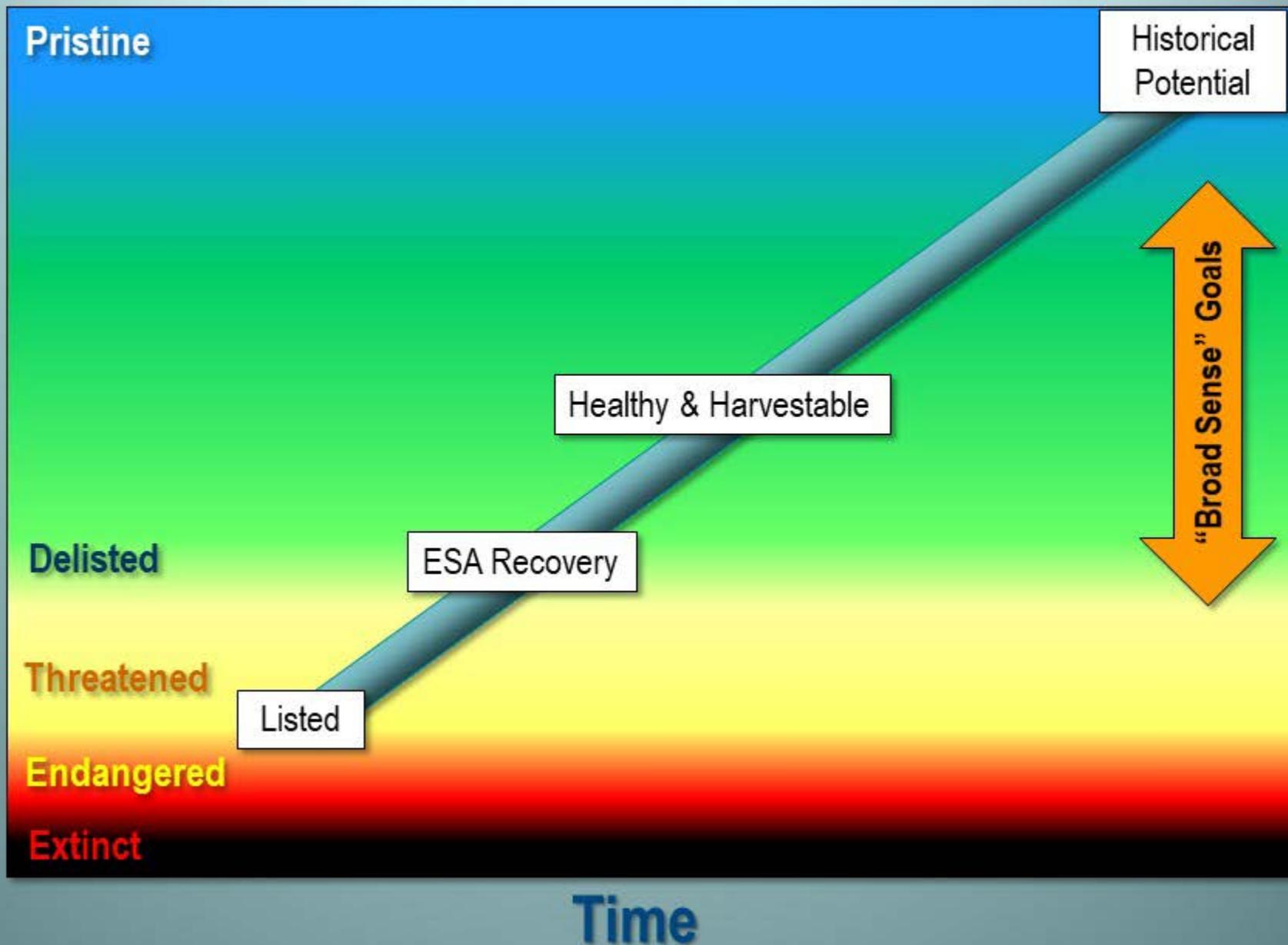
# Provisional Nature of Quantitative Goals

- Looking to November meeting for CBP Task Force to agree on provisional goals *in principle*, and support these goals being further explored in the next phase of this effort.
- Additional work to refine, integrate, and align goals for hatchery production and for harvest with the natural production goals will occur in the next phase of the CBP Task Force process.
- Initial thinking of next phase (approved up to two years) includes building and analyzing scenarios, or options, for how to achieve the goals over time.

# How will the CBP Goals be Used?

- While NOAA Fisheries convened the CBP Task Force, the goals are for all entities in the region. The CBP Task Force represents an opportunity to define a clear measure of success and a shared future for Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead.
- NOAA Fisheries' regulatory role is limited to the ESA, which represents the low-end of the natural production goal spectrum.
- In the long-term, tribes, states and NOAA Fisheries, and stakeholders, are all partners to achieve healthy and harvestable levels of salmon and steelhead.
- Having common, long-term goals would allow the region to align on a common path, and a means to measure progress and maintain accountability.

Salmon Status



# Provisional Quantitative Goals

## 1. Natural Production Goals:

- Low end goals represent abundance numbers to avoid listing (for non-ESA listed stocks) or delisting (for ESA listed stocks).
- High number reflects aspirational “healthy and harvestable” levels that might potentially be achieved with improvements in habitat and other conditions currently limiting stocks.
- Natural Production Goals are key driver in that both hatchery and harvest goals reflect conservation principles in support of natural escapement and sustainability.

# Provisional Quantitative Goals (continued)

## 2. Potential Harvest

- Potential harvest levels, under several scenarios, are expressed in terms of numbers of fish harvested and harvest rates by species and run type.
- Healthy stocks would likely support higher harvest rates than those currently in place to protect weak or listed stocks.

## 3. Anticipated Hatchery/Mitigation Production

- Anticipated hatchery production expressed as juvenile production levels and corresponding adult returns under existing conservation and mitigation programs throughout the basin.
- Anticipated additional hatchery production levels included where they were defined in existing processes and plans (e.g., the John Day Mitigation program) or where they were proposed by CBP Task Force members to address specific purposes (e.g., currently blocked historical anadromous production areas).

# Qualitative Goals

- Four categories:
  - Natural production
  - Hatchery/mitigation
  - Harvest/fisheries
  - Social, cultural, economic, and ecological considerations
- Qualitative goals serve as guidance for provisional qualitative goals.
- While the work of the CBP Task Force looks ahead to envision salmon runs 100 years into the future, members also recognize that there is an urgent *opportunity* to act today.

# Recommendations Report

- Drafting Team working on language to provide context for goals and to describe experience of CBP Task Force in building a regional partnership, creating a common foundation of understanding, and fostering a collaborative approach to developing long-term goals.
- Recommendations will include 2-page summaries for goals for each of the 24 stocks and a summary of methodology for natural production goals.
- Details of goals (metadata, sources, etc.) will be in appendices.

## Next Steps

- Intent to agree on recommendations and report language at the end of January 2019.
- Report will be transmitted to MAFAC and discussed with CBP Task Force at a meeting in late February/early March 2019.
- MAFAC will transmit finalized report to NOAA Fisheries Leadership.
- CBP Task Force anticipates beginning our next phase of work to analyze the provisional work in early spring, and have our work completed by the end of December 2019, followed by an additional report.

An underwater photograph showing three salmon swimming in a river. The fish are positioned horizontally across the frame, with the largest one in the foreground on the right. The water is clear, and the riverbed is composed of smooth, rounded rocks of various sizes and colors, including shades of brown, tan, and grey. Sunlight filters through the water, creating bright spots and reflections on the fish and the rocks. In the background, some submerged branches and leaves are visible near the surface.

# Questions and Discussion