



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

JUL 10 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR: Members of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC)
and the Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force (Task Force)

FROM: Chris Oliver 
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries

SUBJECT: Phase I Report of the Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force

On behalf of NOAA Fisheries, I accept the goals and recommendation report, *A Vision for Salmon and Steelhead; Goals to Restore Thriving Salmon and Steelhead to the Columbia River Basin*, as approved by the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee on April 30, 2019 and recommended by its Columbia River Partnership Task Force. I congratulate you and this work which has, for the first time, developed provisional numerical goals for Endangered Species Act-protected and unlisted salmon and steelhead.

NOAA Fisheries recognizes that achieving healthy and harvestable levels of salmon and steelhead will take all regional interests working together in an integrated and efficient manner. We could not do it alone, nor could any individual state, tribe, or stakeholder group. The importance of these stakeholder-endorsed shared goals is that they provide all partners a common and coherent path for recovery of salmon and steelhead throughout the entire Columbia Basin. We hope that our partners will begin to consider these goals, although provisional, in various planning and management processes.

As you move forward with your ongoing Phase II work, the momentum and working relationships that you have established will be essential. Developing scenarios and exploring how to integrate the Provisional Quantitative Goals to identify how they may be achieved for long-term conservation and harvest/fishing of salmon and steelhead throughout the Basin will be challenging. It will be equally important to understand the broader implications of these goals for all federal, sovereign, and stakeholder interests. Nevertheless, I greatly value direct stakeholder engagement and applaud the collaborative process that was mutually established and forged to achieve Phase I. Its strength will continue to serve you during Phase II and beyond.