

National Marine Fisheries Service

Willamette Falls Pinniped-Fishery Interaction Task Force Meeting

AGENDA

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Day 1—August 20, 2018

- 9:00** Welcome and Introductions – Marie and Jinnae, Facilitators, Write Brain, LLC
- 9:30** Review Agenda and Task Force Logistics – Marie and Jinnae, Facilitator, Write Brain, LLC

- 9:45** MMPA §120 Overview and Context – Robert Anderson, NMFS

- MMPA §120—Pinniped Removal Authority
- Purpose of Convening the Task Force
- Role of the Task Force
- NMFS’ Expectations of the Task Force
- Questions from the Task Force

Meeting Procedures, Task Force Decision-Making Process, Public Participation – Marie and Jinnae, Facilitators, Write Brain, LLC

Review of Pinniped Removal Authority – Robert Anderson, NMFS

- State of Oregon Application, October 6, 2017
- Public comments received on the states’ application
- Background Materials
- MMPA §120 Decision-Making Process and Timeframes
- Questions from the Task Force

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11:00 Break

11:15 Marine Mammal Protection Act §120 Retrospective – Robert Anderson, NMFS

11:30 Brief History of Willamette Falls and the Willamette River – Shaun Clements, ODFW

11:40 UWR Chinook salmon and UWR steelhead status, life history, ecology, etc. – Bernadette Graham-Hudson, ODFW

12:00 UWR Chinook salmon and UWR steelhead Harvest Management – Tucker Jones, ODFW

12:30—1:30 Lunch

1:30 UWR Chinook salmon and UWR steelhead Hatchery Management, Bernadette Graham-Hudson, ODFW

1:50 Comprehensive recovery strategy for UWR Chinook salmon and UWR steelhead – Bernadette Graham-Hudson, ODFW

2:30 Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife pinniped research and monitoring program, and annual sea lion/salmonid interaction at Willamette Falls – Brian Wright, ODFW

15:30 Break

15:40 Summarize day's discussions – Marie and Jinnae, Facilitators, Write Brain, LLC

4:00 Adjourn

Day 2—August 21, 2018

- 8:00** Welcome Back – Marie and Jinnae, Facilitators, Write Brain, LLC
- Review Day 2 Agenda.
 - Questions from the Task Force.
- 8:30** UWR Chinook salmon and UWR steelhead population viability analysis – Matt Falcy, ODFW
- 9:30** California sea lion and Steller sea lion population status, life history and ecology, behavior, distribution, etc., Bob DeLong, NMML
- 10:30 Break**
- 10:50** State of Oregon Application – MMPA §120(d) Considerations, Benefits Analysis – Bryan Wright, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- 12:00—1:00 Lunch**
- 1:00** Task Force Business – Marie and Jinnae, Facilitators, Write Brain, LLC

MMPA §120(d) Considerations:

- (a) Population trends, feeding habits, the location of the pinniped interaction, how and when the interaction occurs, and how many individual pinnipeds are involved;
- (b) Past efforts to nonlethally deter such pinnipeds, and whether the applicant has demonstrated that no feasible and prudent alternatives exist and that the applicant has taken all reasonable nonlethal steps without success;
- (c) The extent to which such pinnipeds are causing undue injury or impact to, or imbalance with, other species in the ecosystem, including fish populations; and
- (d) The extent to which such pinnipeds are exhibiting behavior that presents an ongoing threat to public safety.

In addition to the MMPA §120(d) Considerations, NMFS requests that the Task Force respond to the following questions when preparing its recommendation:

- (1) If lethal removal is included in the recommendations, what (if any) additional criteria, in addition to the criteria proposed by the state in their application, does the Task Force recommend that would improve the effectiveness of the lethal removal program?
- (2) If lethal removal is included in the recommendations, does the Task Force recommend a limit (different than the limit proposed by the state in their application) to the number of sea lions that may be removed, and if so what is the justification for that limit?
- (3) If lethal removal is included in the recommendations, what limitations (if any) would the Task Force recommend on timing, location, take methods or duration of the authorization?

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(4) There are various proposed pieces of legislation to amend Section 120 of the MMPA (e.g., HR 2083, S 1702S, 3119) in Congress. Of particular interest are the proposed modifications to the individually identifiable and significant negative impact criteria. Our initial assessment of the proposed legislation as it relates to these two criteria, is that measures for identifying predatory sea lions via branding, natural features, etc., and documenting predation to determine its impact on salmonid fishery stocks, would no longer be required. Instead, identification of sea lions for removal would be based on a geographic criterion, so that any sea lion within a specified geographic area, e.g., above river mile 112 on the Columbia River, or a tributary to the Columbia River that includes spawning habitat of threatened or endangered salmon or steelhead, would be deemed eligible for removal.

Therefore, we are asking the Task Force to provide us with their views regarding the proposed modifications to the individually identifiable and significant negative impact criteria, and include those considerations in your recommendations to NMFS.

(5) If NMFS approves the states' application, what criteria does the Task Force recommend for evaluating whether the implementation of the lethal removal program has been successful in addressing the pinniped—fishery interaction?

(6) Regardless of the outcome of this process, what might be the most effective means to achieve a long-term resolution to the pinniped—fishery interaction?

3:00 Break

3:30 Task Force Business – Marie and Jinnae, Facilitators, Write Brain, LLC

- Continue with Task Force deliberations — MMPA §120(d) Considerations and questions 1-6.
- Formulate Task Force responses to questions 1-6.

4:45 Summarize day's discussions Marie and Jinnae, Facilitators, Write Brain, LLC

5:00 Adjourn

Day 3—August 22, 2018

9:00 Welcome Back – Marie and Jinnae, Facilitators, Write Brain, LLC

- Review Day 3 Agenda
- Questions from the Task Force.

9:15 Task Force Business – Marie and Jinnae, Facilitators, Write Brain, LLC

- Continue with Task Force deliberations — MMPA §120(d) Considerations and questions 1-6.
- Formulate Task Force responses to questions 1-6.

10:15 Public Input—any other material not covered above that the Task Force should consider?

- Facilitator will announce opening of public input and solicit comments.
- Depending upon the number of participants, the Facilitator may limit your time to permit each member of the public an opportunity to provide input to the Task Force.

Note: We will move to the next agenda item either at TIME or when public input is finished, whichever is first.

11:00 Break

11:15 Task Force Business – Marie and Jinnae, Facilitators, Write Brain, LLC

- Wrap-up Task Force deliberations — MMPA §120(d) Considerations and questions 1-6.
- Wrap-up Task Force responses to questions 1-6.

12:30—1:30 Lunch

1:30 Task Force Business – Marie and Jinnae, Facilitators, Write Brain, LLC

Finalize Task Force deliberations.

Task Force votes on the states' request for the intentional lethal taking of pinnipeds in the Willamette River — recommend to NMFS to either approve or deny the states' application.

Finalize and vote on recommendations in response to questions 1-6.

3:30 Break

3:40 Summarize day's discussions and the recommendations to be provided to NMFS – Marie and Jinnae, Facilitators, Write Brain, LLC

- Review schedule and process for documenting meeting results and submitting the Task Force report and recommendations to NMFS.

3:55 Closing Comments – Robert Anderson, NMFS

4:00 Adjourn