

Refining the Terms: “Fish and Flood” and “Aggressively Pursue an Integrated Long-term Strategy”

Umbrella Question Homework Results (14 Suggestions)

As we start preparing for the final strategy negotiations, it is time to better define what those words mean on the ground so you can enter that phase with a clearer consensus about what success conceptually looks like. I appreciate the devil will be in the final details, but your actions from this point forward will benefit from more clarity. If you don't do it now, it will be harder down the road when words are often used more positionally.

This clarity is also essential to guide your discussions and decisions until the formal negotiations start. For example, when I ask you in the near future to agree now on the information you will need to make the best decision later, I will suggest the discussions be filtered through the lenses of your Umbrella Question.

The homework version of the Umbrella Question appears below in yellow. I track-changed the suggestions from the three members into it for our March 2nd Board discussion.

Beyond “Fish and Flood” and “Aggressively Pursue an Integrated Long-term Strategy”

Member Comment: I don't agree with the wording “beyond” fish and flood. As the law plainly states we are to find solutions, aggressively, for flood damage reduction in the basin + aquatic species restoration. “Beyond” means to me “move past”. Here's a dictionary definition: happening or continuing after (a specified time or event): I think you mean “flesh out”, create a deeper understanding or put more substance to “fish and flood” at least that's what I expect that you mean. And I also don't want to move past “aggressively pursue” or to move past “integrated strategy” for that matter. I am good with fleshing out what those phrases really should mean in our context in 2023.

Facilitator Response: I agree with the comment.... Good Catch! The exercise is now called:

Refining the Terms: “Fish and Flood” and “Aggressively Pursue an Integrated Long-term Strategy”

Recognizing the clear urgency to take effective, integrated actions that are timely, practical, politically viable, and cost beneficial;

Suggestion 1:

Recognizing the clear urgency to take effective, integrated actions that are timely, practical, politically viable, and cost ~~beneficial~~effective;

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How can we work with and incentivize basin residents and partners to voluntarily restore and protect native aquatic species and natural habitat, enhance tribal and non-tribal harvest levels [or: support self-sustaining, abundant, harvestable fish populations throughout their historic ranges, or combo of the two], and protect cultural resources in the face of climate change (add: flood and drought?) and population growth;

Suggestion Two:

How can we work with and incentivize basin residents and partners to voluntarily restore and protect native aquatic species and natural habitat, ~~enhance tribal and non-tribal harvest levels [or: support self-sustaining, abundant, harvestable fish populations throughout their historic ranges, or combo of the two],~~ and protect cultural resources in the face of climate change (add: flood and drought?) and population growth;

Suggestion Three:

How can we work with and incentivize basin residents and partners to voluntarily restore and protect native aquatic species and natural habitat, ~~enhance tribal and non-tribal harvest levels [or: support self-sustaining, abundant, harvestable fish populations throughout their historic ranges],~~ and protect cultural resources in the face of a changing climate and population growth;

Suggestion Four:

How can we work with and incentivize basin ~~residents and partners~~ stakeholders to voluntarily protect and restore and protect natural ecosystems and native aquatic species, ~~and natural habitat, enhance tribal and non-tribal harvest levels [or: support self-sustaining, abundant, harvestable fish populations throughout their historic ranges],~~ and protect cultural resources in the face of a changing climate and population growth;

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While at the same time significantly prevent, reduce, and minimize basin-wide flood damage to human, aquatic species, and natural infrastructure from a changing climate, before the next catastrophic event;

Suggestion Five:

While at the same time significantly prevent, reduce, and minimize basin-wide flood damage to human, ~~aquatic species, and natural~~ infrastructure and aquatic habitat from a changing climate, before the next catastrophic event and in the face of an increasing threat of flooding due to climate change;

Suggestion Six:

While at the same time ~~significantly prevent, reduce, and~~ minimize ~~ing~~ basin-wide flood and drought damage from a changing climate to human and natural infrastructure, ~~before the next catastrophic event~~ [sense of urgency — from fish, flood, and funding perspective];

Suggestion Seven:

While at the same time significantly prevent, reduce, and minimize basin-wide flood ~~and drought~~ damage ~~from a changing climate~~ to human and natural infrastructure, ~~before the next catastrophic event~~ [sense of urgency — from fish, flood, and funding perspective]; in the face of increased development pressures and the urgent threat of more frequent and damaging floods;

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Thereby creating an equitable, balanced, and sustainable long-term strategy that supports the net (gain or benefit?) [recognition of personal, socioeconomic toll on people/communities] for all those who live, work, and recreate in the Chehalis Basin while simultaneously avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating any associated negative consequences to aquatic species and flood protection?

Suggestion Eight:

Thereby creating an equitable, balanced, and sustainable long-term strategy that supports ~~the a net (gain or benefit?) [recognition of personal, socioeconomic toll on people/communities]~~ improvement for human and natural communities, including ~~for~~ all those who live, work, and recreate in the Chehalis Basin, while simultaneously avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating any associated negative consequences to aquatic species and flood protection?

Suggestion Nine:

Thereby creating a balanced, sustainable, and implementable long-term strategy that supports the net-interests [recognition of personal, socioeconomic toll on people/communities] of all those who live, work, and recreate in the Chehalis Basin while simultaneously avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating any associated negative consequences. Strategy should be supported by both the as seen through the eyes of ASRP SC and the for aquatic species and as seen through eyes of FA, for flood damage?

Suggestion Ten:

Thereby creating an equitable, balanced, and sustainable long-term strategy that supports the net (gain or benefit?) [recognition of personal, socioeconomic toll on people/communities] for all ~~all~~ those who live, work, and recreate in the Chehalis Basin while simultaneously avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating any associated negative consequences to aquatic species and flood protection?

Suggestion Eleven:

Thereby creating a balanced, sustainable, and implementable long-term strategy that supports the ~~net-interests [recognition of personal, socioeconomic toll on people/communities]~~ variety of interests of all those who live, work, and recreate in the Chehalis Basin; while simultaneously avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating any ~~associated~~ negative consequences as seen through the eyes of ASRP SC for aquatic species and as seen through eyes of FA for flood damage? created by our efforts.

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Suggestion Twelve: Do you want to include language to address these issues?

- a) “When avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating impacts, are we looking at those legally required or are we going beyond those given climate change?”
- b) “What if the impacts are not within our practical or jurisdictional control?”

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Suggestion Thirteen: Do you want to incorporate concepts from the statutes?

RCW 43.21A.730, Office of Chehalis Basin

(1) The office of Chehalis basin is established in the department. The primary purpose of the office is to aggressively pursue **implementation** of an integrated strategy and **administer funding** for long-term flood damage reduction and aquatic species restoration in the Chehalis river basin.

(2) The office of Chehalis basin **must be funded from appropriations specified for Chehalis river basin**-related flood hazard reduction and habitat recovery activities.

(3) In operating the office, the department must follow, to the greatest extent practicable, the **model being used to administer the Columbia river basin water supply program** established in chapter 6, Laws of 2006. [**2016 c 194 § 1.**]

RCW 43.21A.732, Chehalis Basin Strategy

The Chehalis basin strategy must include a **detailed set of actions** to reduce flood damage and improve aquatic species habitat. The strategy must be amended by the Chehalis board as necessary to include **new scientific information** and **needed changes to the actions** to achieve the overall purpose of the strategy. The strategy must include an **implementation schedule** and **quantified measures for evaluating** the success of implementation. [**2016 c 194 § 3.**]

RCW 43.21A.731, Chehalis Board

(1) The Chehalis board is created consisting of seven voting members...

(5) The board is responsible for oversight of a long-term strategy **resulting from the department's programmatic environmental impact statement** for the Chehalis river basin to reduce flood damages and restore aquatic species habitat.

(6) The board is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the strategy and developing biennial and supplemental budget recommendations to the governor. [**2020 c 17 § 1; 2017 c 27 § 1; 2016 c 194 § 2.**]

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Suggestion Fourteen: Do you want to incorporate any concepts from the Columbia River Partnership? <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/vision-salmon-and-steelhead-goals-restore-thriving-salmon-and-steelhead-columbia-river-basin>

Vision for the Columbia Basin

The Partnership shaped a powerful Vision as a call for action:

A healthy Columbia Basin ecosystem with thriving salmon and steelhead that are indicators of clean and abundant water, reliable and clean energy, a robust regional economy, and vibrant cultural and spiritual traditions, all interdependent and existing in harmony.

Qualitative Goals

The Qualitative Goals capture different social, cultural, economic, and ecological values and describe desired outcomes throughout the Columbia Basin. The Goals call to:

1. Restore salmon and steelhead in the Columbia Basin to healthy and harvestable/fishable levels.
2. Provide diverse, productive, and dependable tribal and non-tribal harvest and fishing opportunities for Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead in fresh and marine waters.
3. Produce hatchery salmon and steelhead to support conservation, mitigate for lost natural production, and support fisheries, in a manner that strategically aligns hatchery production with natural production recovery goals.
4. Make decisions within a broader context that reflects and considers effects to the full range of social, cultural, economic, and ecosystem values and diversity in the Columbia Basin.

Together the Goals recognize a sense of urgency to help Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead now and well into the future.

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**APPENDIX
REFERENCE ONLY**

Facilitator’s Draft at Start of 2/2/23 Board Meeting

Facilitator’s Note: *The following draft came from my Assessment, and it was presented simply as an example of what umbrella questions can look like to kickstart the discussion.*

How can we restore and improve native aquatic species and natural habitat, support tribal and non-tribal harvest levels, and protect cultural resources;

While at the same time significantly prevent and reduce flood damage;

Thereby creating a balanced and sustainable long-term strategy that supports the interests of all those who live, work, and recreate in the Chehalis Basin while simultaneously avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating any associated negative consequences?

Status at End of Board Meeting

Facilitator’s Note: *This version captures your February brainstorming session.*

How can we work with and incentivize basin residents and partners to voluntarily restore and improve-protect native aquatic species and natural habitat, support tribal and enhance tribal and non-tribal harvest levels, for: support self-sustaining, abundant, harvestable fish populations throughout their historic ranges, and protect cultural resources in the face of a changing climate and population growth

While at the same time significantly prevent, and reduce, and minimize basin-wide flood and drought damage-flood damage from a changing climate to human and natural infrastructure, before the next catastrophic event

[sense of urgency – from fish, flood, and funding perspective]

Thereby creating a balanced, and sustainable, and implementable long-term strategy that supports the net-interests [recognition of personal, socioeconomic toll on people/communities] of all those who live, work, and recreate in the Chehalis Basin while simultaneously avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating any associated negative consequences as seen through the eyes of ASRP SC for aquatic species and as seen through eyes of FA for flood damage?

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