Science, Service, Stewardship

FCRPS 2008 Biological Opinion & Adaptive Management Implementation Plan

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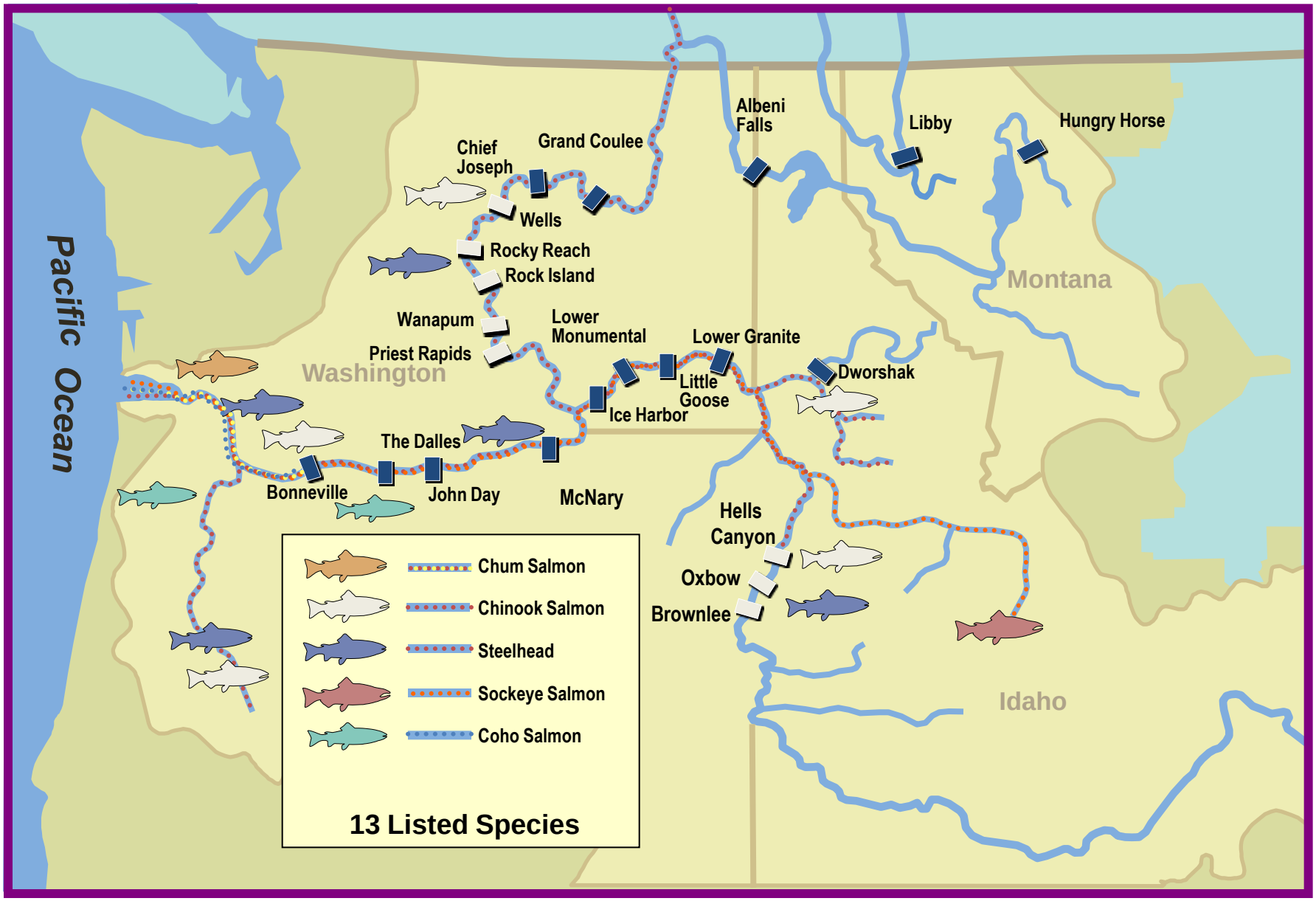
NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

Listed Fish & FCRPS Dams



BiOp Development

- Two year collaboration with sovereign parties
- Over 300 policy and technical meetings
- Collaboration begins October 2005
- Draft BiOp released October 2007
- Final BiOp produced May 2008

2008 BiOp Actions: An All-H Approach

- Hydro
- Predation
- Habitat- Tributary /Estuary
- Hatchery Reform
- Harvest
- Research, Monitoring & Evaluation

Columbia Basin Actions & Analysis: A Web of Interconnections

- **Comprehensive Salmon Life Cycle Analysis**
- **ESA Recovery Plans**

13 Species of Listed Salmon & Steelhead

Federal Hydro System BiOp
(10 years)

Upper Snake BiOp
(27 years)

Columbia Basin Fish Accords
(10 years)
- ID, MT
- 5 Tribes
- WA (partial)

Columbia River Harvest BiOp
(10 years)

Conclusion

NOAA Fisheries concludes that the actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the 13 listed salmon and steelhead nor result in the destruction or adverse modification of its designated critical habitat.

FCRPS Adaptive Management Implementation Plan (AMIP)

Administration Review

- The Obama Administration engaged in a substantial review of the BiOp at Judge Redden's invitation.
- Conducted listening sessions with parties to the litigation and with agency and independent scientists.

Administration Review

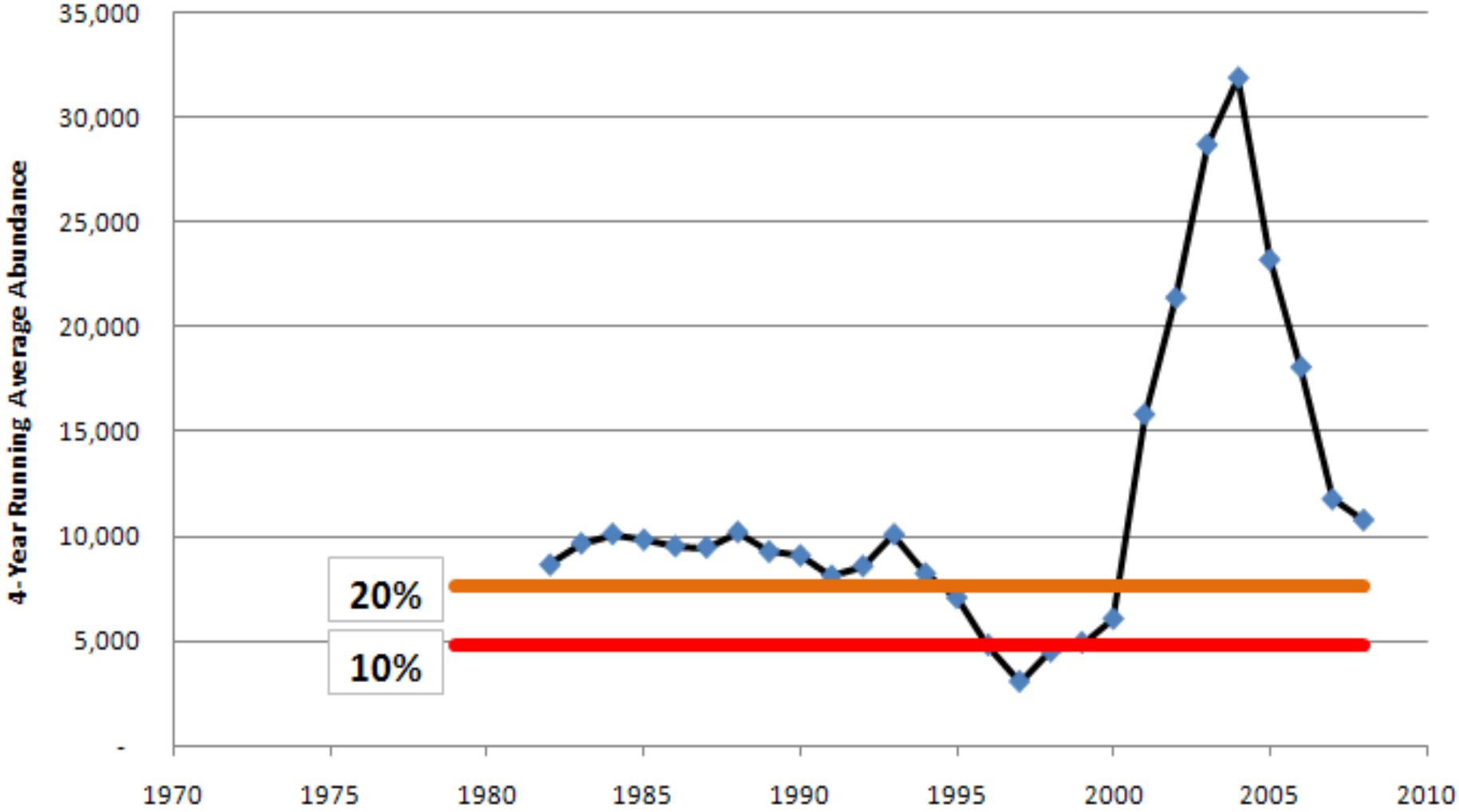
Review indicated the science underlying the BiOp was sound, but that there was uncertainty in some predictions of future fish status. As a result, we developed an insurance policy for the fish that will be implemented as part of the 2008 BiOp.

Adaptive Management Implementation Plan

- Accelerates and enhances certain BiOp mitigation actions
- Enhances research and monitoring
- A new adaptive plan with biological triggers that result in contingency actions
- Dam breaching studies as a contingency of last resort
- Ongoing commitments to regional collaboration and science review

Example:

Naturally-Produced Snake River Spring/Summer Chinook At LGR Dam



Contingency Actions

- Rapid Response Actions- implemented within one year of a trigger.
- Long-term Actions- to be implemented if necessary

Administration Conclusions

- As implemented with the AMIP, the 2008 Biological Opinion (BiOp):
    - Is biologically and legally sound
    - Is based on the best available scientific information
    - Satisfies the ESA jeopardy standard
- The current BiOp reflects great regional consensus of states and tribes.
- Must move on to implementation. It is time to end the litigation.

FCRPS Litigation

- Judge Redden expressed procedural concerns regarding the inclusion of the AMIP
- Judge issued a letter giving federal defendants options on moving forward 1) voluntary remand, 2) ruling on BiOp without AMIP
- Currently weighing the options and will respond this week