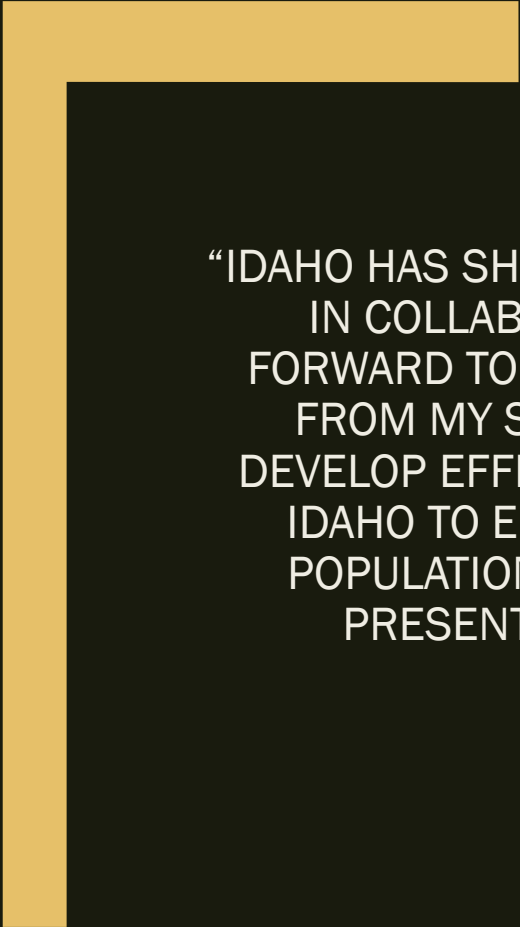
An underwater photograph of several salmon swimming in clear, blue water. The fish are in various positions, some facing left and some right. The lighting is bright, creating a clear view of the fish's scales and fins. A white L-shaped graphic element is positioned to the left of the text box.

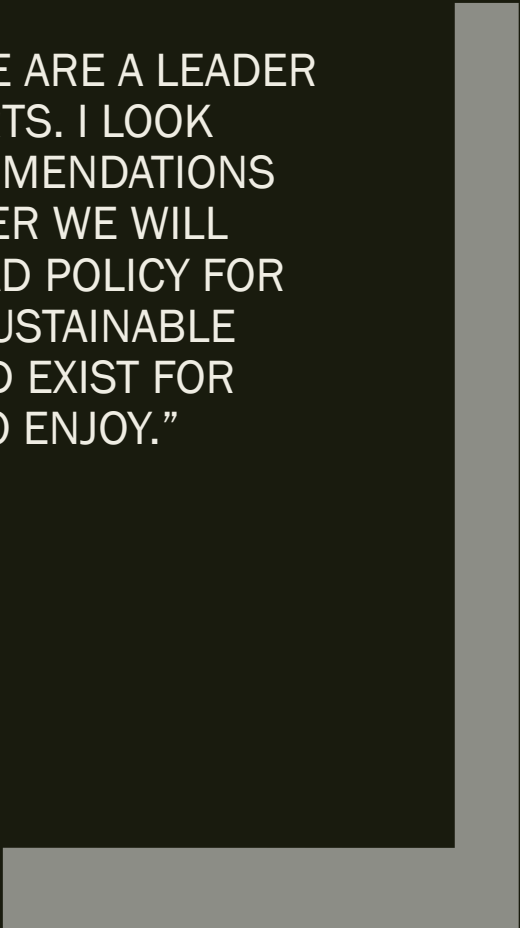
# IDAHO GOVERNOR'S SALMON WORKGROUP

Paul Arrington (IWUA) & Michael Gibson (TU)

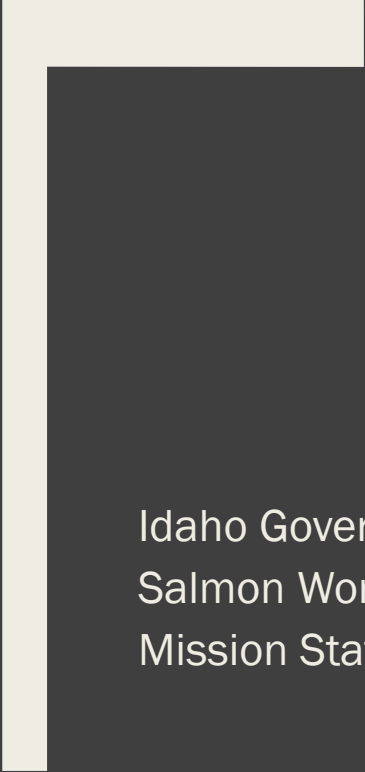


“IDAHO HAS SHOWN TIME AFTER TIME THAT WE ARE A LEADER  
IN COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION EFFORTS. I LOOK  
FORWARD TO RECEIVING THE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS  
FROM MY SALMON WORKGROUP. TOGETHER WE WILL  
DEVELOP EFFECTIVE SALMON AND STEELHEAD POLICY FOR  
IDAHO TO ENSURE THAT ABUNDANT AND SUSTAINABLE  
POPULATIONS OF SALMON AND STEELHEAD EXIST FOR  
PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS TO ENJOY.”


Governor Brad Little



DEVELOP POLICY  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR  
GOVERNOR LITTLE THROUGH A  
COLLABORATIVE, CONSENSUS  
DRIVEN, PUBLIC PROCESS TO  
RESTORE ABUNDANT,  
SUSTAINABLE, AND WELL  
DISTRIBUTED POPULATIONS OF  
SALMON AND STEELHEAD IN  
IDAHO FOR PRESENT AND  
FUTURE GENERATIONS, WHILE  
RECOGNIZING DIVERSE  
INTERESTS THROUGHOUT THE  
STATE.



Idaho Governor's  
Salmon Workgroup  
Mission Statement



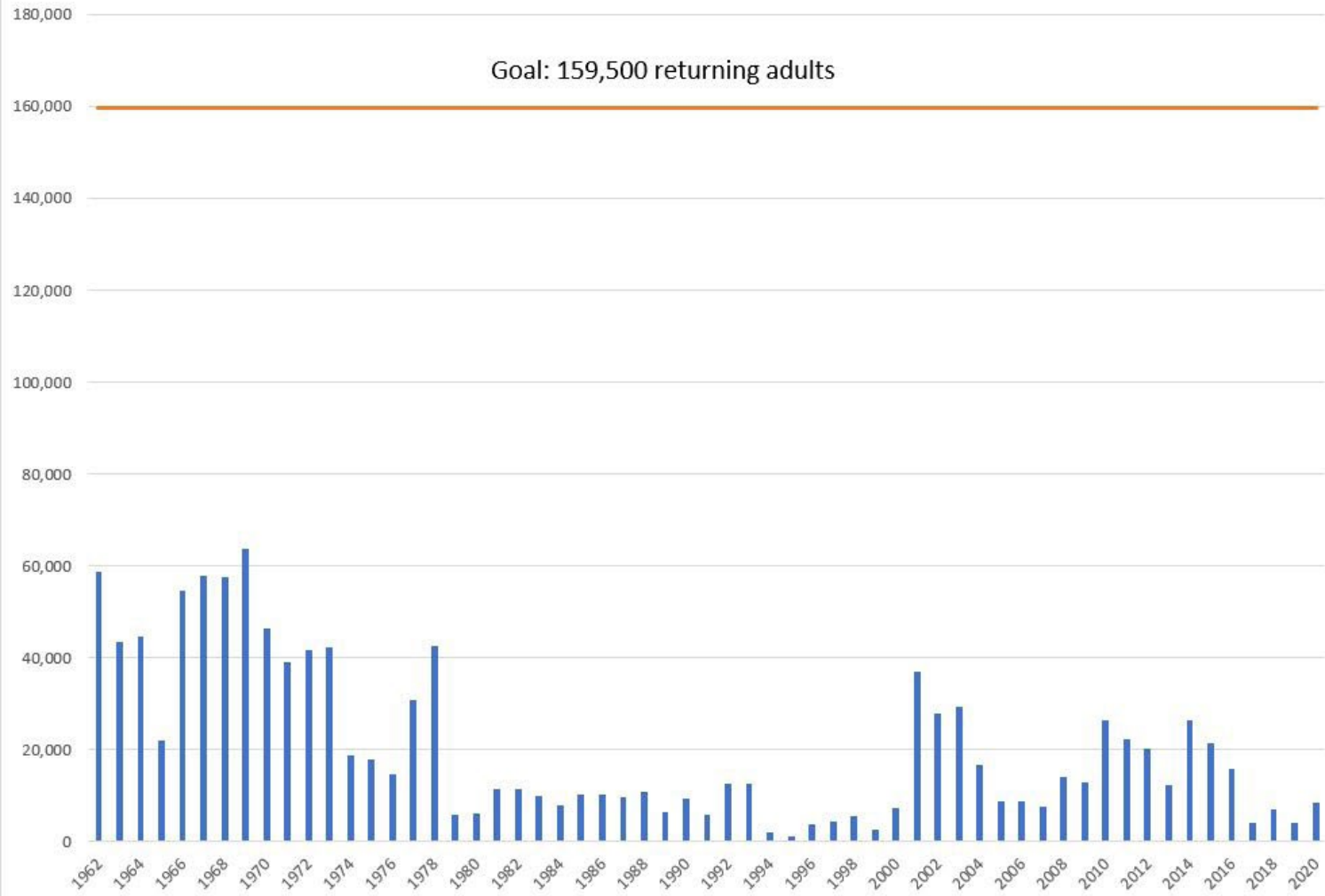
# Backdrop

- “Salmon and steelhead populations in Idaho and throughout the Pacific Northwest are at a fraction of their historical numbers.”
- Declines caused by multiple factors
- Snake River species listed as either threatened or endangered:
  - *Snake River Spring / Summer Chinook*
  - *Snake River Steelhead*
  - *Snake River Fall Chinook*
- Within the entire Columbia River Basin, 16 salmon and steelhead stocks are listed under the ESA

## Columbia Basin Partnership Goals for Wild Snake River Anadromous Fish<sup>9</sup>

Stock	Current Population	Historical Population	Low Goal	Medium Goal	High Goal	High as % of Historical
Spring / Summer Chinook	6,988	1,000,000	33,500	98,750	159,500	16%
Fall Chinook	8,360	500,00	4,200	10,780	23,360	5%
Coho	100	200,000	8,900	26,600	44,100	22%
Sockeye	100	84,000	5,500	15,750	26,000	31%
Steelhead	28,000	600,000	22,500	75,000	131,500	22%

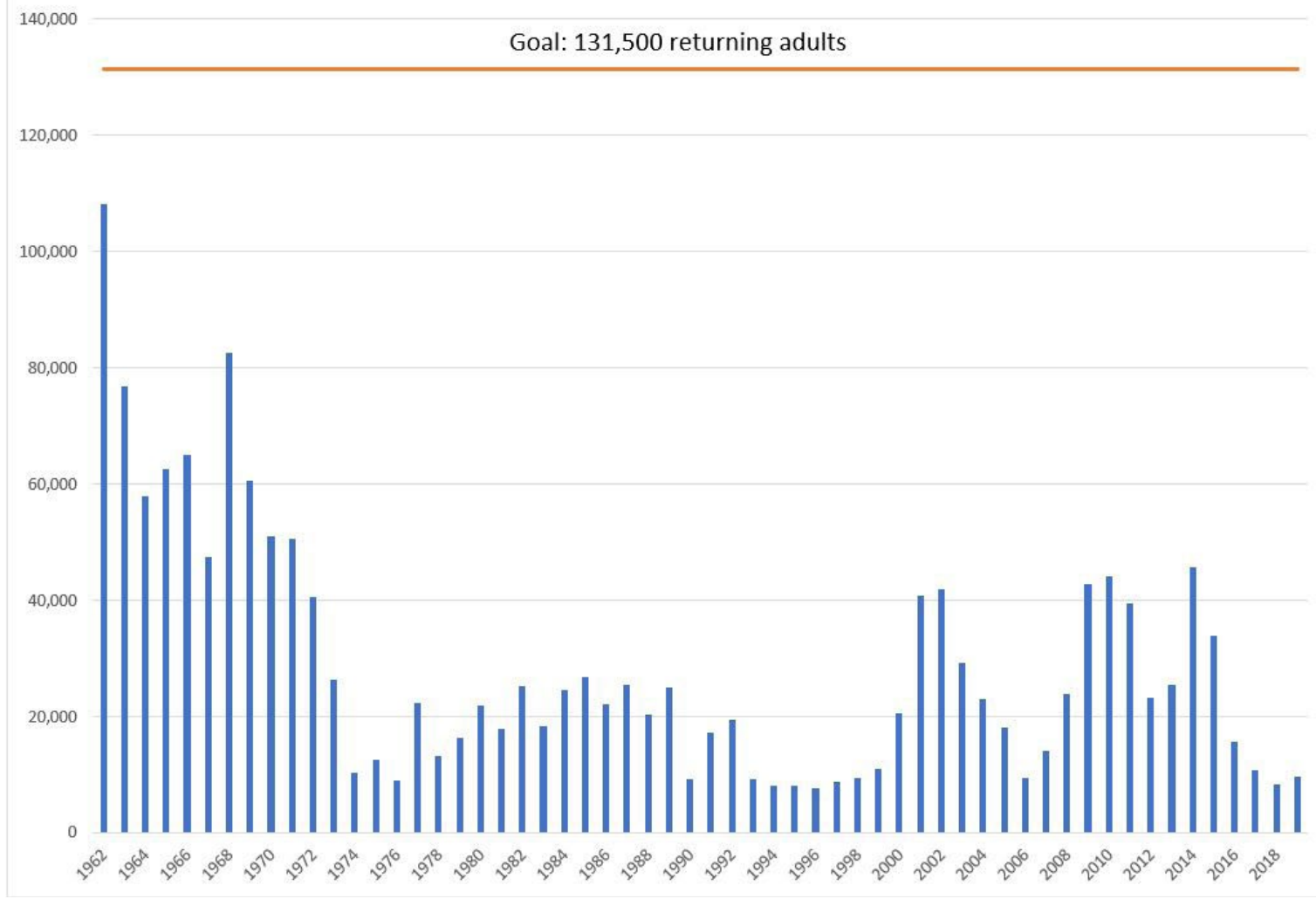
## Wild Spring/Summer Chinook





# Wild Steelhead

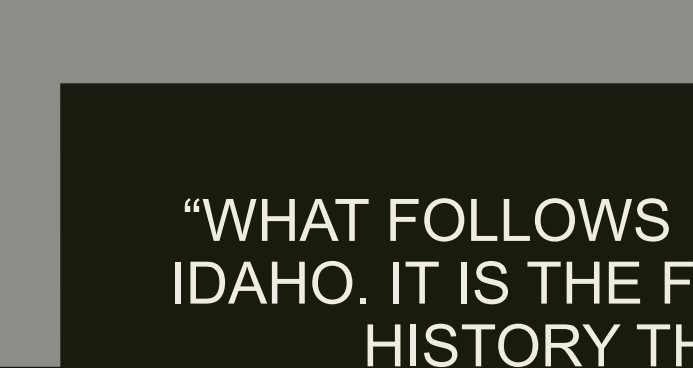
Goal: 131,500 returning adults



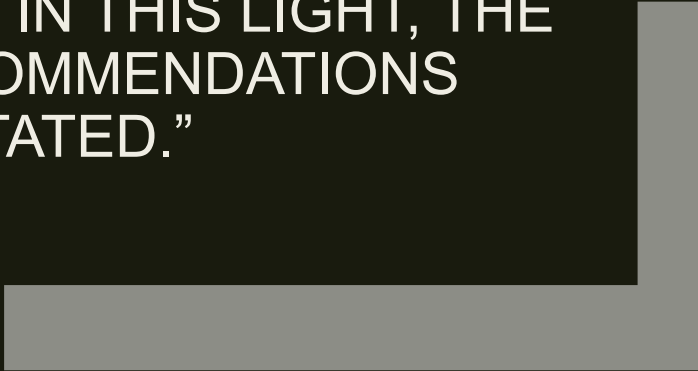
# The Workgroup

- Brian Brooks – Idaho Wildlife Federation
- Paul Arrington – Idaho Water Users Association
- John Simpson – Upper Snake Water Users
- Brett Dumas – Idaho Power
- David Doeringsfeld – Port of Lewiston
- Will Hart – Idaho Consumer Owned Utilities
- Scott Hauser – Upper Snake River Tribes
- Chad Colter – Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
- Jim Yost – Northwest Power and Conservation Council
- Joe Oatman – Nez Perce Tribe
- Kira Finkler – Trout Unlimited
- Justin Hayes – Idaho Cons. League
- Mark Menlove – The Nature Conservancy
- Stacey Satterlee – Idaho Grain Producers
- Senator Dan Johnson
- Representative Fred Wood
- Richard Scully – Sportsman
- Aaron Lieberman – Idaho Outfitters & Guides Association
- Roy Akins – Idaho River Community Alliance
- Merrill Beyeler – Rancher
- Mike Edmondson – Office of Species Conservation (Co-facilitator)
- Kathrine Himes – McClure Center for Public Policy (Co-facilitator)





“WHAT FOLLOWS IN THIS REPORT IS A FIRST FOR IDAHO. IT IS THE FIRST TIME IN OUR STATE’S RICH HISTORY THAT TRIBES AND DIVERSE STAKEHOLDERS, AS REPRESENTED IN THIS WORKGROUP, HAVE COLLABORATED ON SHARED VISIONS FOR SALMON AND STEELHEAD. THE REPORT REFLECTS A SIGNIFICANT EFFORT BY ALL MEMBERS TO FIND CONSENSUS. IN THIS LIGHT, THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE RECOMMENDATIONS CANNOT BE OVERSTATED.”



Final Report



# 16 meetings in 18 months

- June 29, 2019 (Boise)
- July 30-31, 2019 (Salmon)
- September 19-20, 2019 (Lewiston)
- October 29-20, 2019 (Twin Falls)
- November 19, 2019 (Boise)
- January 17-18, 2020 (Boise)
- March 5, 2020 (Nampa)
- April 28-29, 2020
- May 27-28, 2020
- July 8-9, 2020
- August 26-27, 2020
- September 29-30, 2020
- October 27, 2020
- November 12, 2020
- December 2, 2020
- December 15, 2020


# The Final Report

- “Policy Recommendations from Idaho Governor Brad Little’s Salmon Workgroup” (December 2020)
- 29 Recommendations
  - *Habitat*
  - *Harvest*
  - *Hatcheries*
  - *Hydropower*
  - *Block Area Fisheries*
  - *Predation*
  - *Other Recommendations*



## Policy Recommendations from Idaho Governor Brad Little’s Salmon Workgroup

December 2020




**Blocked Area Fisheries:** Support adult salmon and steelhead put-and-take Tribal and non-Tribal fisheries in blocked areas, consistent with Idaho State policy, through use of state allocated, non-ESA listed adults. Collaborate with Tribes and other implementation partners on plans to increase hatchery capacity and adult returns available for blocked area fisheries. (Final Report at 20)

# Amending State Policy on Blocked Area Fisheries

1. ~~The Task Force is advised that n~~ No reintroduction of ESA-listed fish to blocked areas ~~upstream of the Hells Canyon Complex~~ is supported by the State of Idaho.
2. ~~The Task Force is advised that~~ The reintroduction of non-ESA-listed fish to blocked areas ~~upstream of the Hells Canyon Complex~~ ~~needs to~~ must be consistent with Idaho state statutes (§ 67-302 and 67-818(5)), which require approval by both legislative (§67-6302) and executive branches of Idaho government (§67-818(5)) and is otherwise prohibited.
3. ~~The Task Force is advised that~~ The reintroduction of non-ESA-listed fish to blocked areas ~~upstream~~ ~~has to~~ must be consistent with Idaho's and Oregon's commitments in the 401 Water Quality Certification Settlement Agreement with Idaho Power Company pertaining to the FERC Application for the HCC Re-licensing (2019 Settlement Agreement).

# Amending State Policy on Blocked Area Fisheries

4. Idaho will continue to focus the following funding sources to ESA-listed fish recovery and achieving mitigation objectives in connected areas: BPA's Fish and Wildlife Program, Idaho Fish Accord, NOAA's PCSRF Program, USFWS's Lower Snake River Compensation Plan (LSRCP), and/or other federal funding sources intended to implement the 2019 FCRPS BiOp or subsequent FCRPS BiOps. The intent is to ensure recovery of stocks and to meet LSRCP mitigation objectives in connected areas with the above referenced funding sources and not diminish these efforts by diverting from the above referenced funding sources to implement put and take fisheries in blocked areas ~~above Hells Canyon Complex~~.
5. So long as the above conditions are met, Idaho supports put and take fisheries in blocked areas ~~upstream of the Hells Canyon~~ with the following provisions:
  - a. A non-ESA listed hatchery stock must be identified and agreed upon among the parties intending to stock fish in blocked areas ~~upstream of the Hells Canyon Complex~~ with state fisheries managers.
  - b. Locations and timing for stocking of non-ESA listed fish must be identified and agreed upon by the parties intending to stock fish in blocked areas ~~upstream of the Hells Canyon Complex~~ with state fisheries managers.
  - c. Idaho does not support the collection or transport of any juvenile fish that may be produced by adult outplants intended for harvest in the agreed upon put and take fisheries.



**Habitat Policy Recommendations:** *Expand and support, further develop, undertake, and collaborate on programs and projects to restore, enhance, and protect habitat and watershed functions needed to support all life stages of salmon and steelhead. (Final Report at 15)*

# Habitat Policy Recommendations

## A. Habitat Policy Recommendations

**Restoration, Connectivity, and Protection:** Expand and support, further develop, undertake, and collaborate on programs and projects to restore, enhance, and protect habitat and watershed functions needed to support all life stages of salmon and steelhead.

The following actions in Idaho's connected watersheds to benefit salmon and steelhead support this policy:

- Create and maintain state-wide inventories of habitat in all basins, including identification of limiting factors for various life stages and watershed functions, to provide the best available information and science to assess and plan habitat projects.

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- Restore habitat and watershed functions on federal, state, and private lands to conditions that most closely represent the ecological features of a natural riverine ecosystem.
- Protect functioning habitat and watersheds on federal, state, and private lands to ensure that it continues to provide meaningful support for salmon and steelhead.
- Reconnect or improve connectivity within tributaries and mainstem waters for fish access.
- Provide resources to help landowners, communities, agencies, and Tribes protect habitat and watershed functions (e.g., easements, incentives).

**Coordination across Agencies:** Develop and manage processes that allow and encourage coordination between federal agencies, state agencies, local governments, Tribes, and stakeholders to increase the pace of implementation and ensure that Idaho is attaining its salmon and steelhead goals.

**Collaborative Focus:** Continue to support voluntary, collaborative programs with property owners, water users, Tribes, and other stakeholders to restore, enhance, and protect anadromous fish habitat and watershed functions.





**Harvest Policy Recommendations:  
Restoring abundant, sustainable, and well  
distributed populations of salmon and  
steelhead in Idaho for present and future  
generations...(Final Report at 16)**

# Harvest Policy Recommendations

## B. Harvest Policy Recommendations

**Healthy and Harvestable Fisheries:** Restoring abundant, sustainable, and well distributed populations of salmon and steelhead (and other anadromous fish) in Idaho for present and future generations supports management/implementation of treaty and non-treaty fisheries to provide important economic, livelihood, and tourism/recreation benefits to communities in Idaho.

**Downstream Non-Tribal Recreational and Commercial Fisheries:** Coordinate with other relevant managers involved with mainstem Columbia River non-treaty fisheries to ensure Idaho stocks of wild and hatchery salmon and steelhead and fisheries/harvest are considered in Columbia River management decisions.

Encourage the State of Idaho to pursue more significant involvement and decision-making authority in all regional forums and groups that regulate harvest of Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead, including support of federal legislation to add IDFG as a member of the Columbia

River Collaborative, to protect Idaho's wild fish, and to ensure that Idaho has equitable access to Idaho-origin hatchery salmon and steelhead for fishing.

**In-State Non-Tribal Fish Management:** Continue to assess and seek new opportunities to protect wild fish in non-Tribal fisheries consistent with the ESA. Continue to coordinate with NOAA Fisheries to maintain authorization to conduct fisheries. This includes managing fishery timing, locations, take limits, gear types to maximize protection for endangered populations, and access to harvest shares as described in NOAA authorized Fisheries Management and Evaluation Plans.

Completing studies on the movement of adult fish within Idaho to inform new restrictions on fishing locations or timing such as Feaken et al. 2019 and Lubenau, W. and M. Quist (in progress), *Encounter Rates of Wild Steelhead in Idaho: Idaho Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, University of Idaho*, Moscow, ID, supports this policy.

**Ocean Commercial Fishing:** Engage with regional forums to identify and implement measures that address the impact of ocean fishing on Snake River fall Chinook salmon.

Promoting greater stakeholder involvement where the State of Idaho is involved in regional forums that discuss and regulate Pacific Ocean harvest (e.g., PFMC supports this policy).



**Predator Policy Recommendations:  
Promote more aggressive programs and  
projects of sufficient scope, scale, and  
distribution to protect anadromous fish  
from the effects of predators (Final Report  
at 21)**

# Predator Policy Recommendations

## F. Predation Policy Recommendations

### Predation Management

Promote more aggressive programs and projects of sufficient scope, scale, and distribution to protect anadromous fish from the effects of predators (e.g., piscivorous fish, pinnipeds, birds).



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Promote more aggressive engagement with federal partners for increased funding of predator control programs, and advocate for removal of regulatory/legislative constraints on predator control, where necessary.

Continue to manage non-native sport fish that prey on salmon and steelhead with no size or limit restrictions. In addition, implement bounty programs, where appropriate.

Support predation management with the following actions:

- Create and maintain data inventories of where predation occurs in all areas, consolidated at a state-wide level.
- Identify factors that favor predators and work to modify them to reduce or eliminate impacts to anadromous fish both in and outside of Idaho. Prioritize work according to the most limiting predator-prey life stages and locations (e.g., migratory pathway and estuary) and coordinate with federal agencies, other states, and Tribes to maximize the scope and impact of predator control. Monitor and record results and adaptively manage to improve effectiveness.

# Lower Snake River Dams

*“One of the most controversial discussions surrounding salmon and steelhead in the Pacific Northwest involves the hydropower system – particularly, the lower Snake River dams (LSRD). The LSRD benefit communities throughout the region and associated economies by providing recreational opportunities, access to hydropower, and a navigation route to deliver Idaho’s wheat and other commodities to ocean ports and then the world. However, the LSRD also altered recreational opportunities and significantly impact Idaho’s salmon and steelhead returns, resulting in devastating effects on Idaho’s Tribal, fishing, and other communities and economies.” (Final Report at 14)*

*“Issues surrounding the LSRD are complicated and highly technical. Any decisions about the maintenance or breaching of the LSRD will require broad discussions among the region’s states, Tribes, and stakeholders, and would require congressional actions. **Consensus on dam breach/ retirement could not be reached.** The Workgroup encourages the State to engage the federal government, regional congressional delegates, states, Tribes, and stakeholders in a process to restore thriving and abundant salmon and steelhead fish stocks for Idaho and for the region.” (Final Report at 15)*





**Governor Brad Little**

State Capitol :: Boise, Idaho 83720  
(208) 334-2100 :: gov.idaho.gov

July 30, 2021

Paul Arrington  
Idaho Water Users Association  
1010 W. Jefferson, Suite 101  
Boise, ID 83702

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your service on my Salmon Workgroup. Your time, dedication, collaboration, and thoughtful effort has produced a timely report to me with 29 policy recommendations. Implementation of your recommendations will move Idaho closer to meeting our goal to have healthy and abundant stocks of salmon and steelhead while fulfilling tribal needs, keeping Idaho rivers flowing, and making Idaho's economy vibrant.

My goal is for Idaho to be a place where our children can grow up to choose a career and well-being that is consistent with their values.

I have reviewed your report and policy recommendations, and I plan to carry forward all 29 recommendations as my administration enters into local, state, and regional dialogue.

... policy recommendations, and I plan to carry forward ... as my administration enters into local, state, and regional

Idaho has shown time after time that we are a leader in collaborative conservation efforts. Thanks to your efforts, Idaho is better positioned to advocate and implement policies that move us closer to abundant and sustainable populations of salmon and steelhead for present and future generations to enjoy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Little".

Brad Little  
Governor of Idaho



QUESTIONS