

Path Primer – An Overview

This primer is based on the Feb.25th Public Forum on PATH, sponsored by NMFS and the Northwest Power Planning Council. The Forum consisted of presentations on specific topics by PATH participants, followed by question and answer sessions with the audience. The file called “*transcript.pdf*” is a distillation of the presentations made at the Public Forum. We caution readers that the primer is intended only to provide an summary and non-technical overview of PATH – please refer to formal PATH reports for the most accurate and complete documentation of PATH activities.

The Forum was organized into the following sections:

- I. Introduction to PATH
 - a brief description of the PATH structure and process, and an overview of the spring/summer chinook decision analysis
 - material presented by PATH participants are included in the file called “*intro.pdf*”
- II. Overview of PATH Decision Analysis of spring/summer chinook
 - a brief overview of the spring/summer chinook decision analysis
 - material presented by PATH participants are included in the file called “*intro.pdf*”
- III. Explanation of Assumptions
 - Presentation by PATH participants on specific questions submitted by interested parties and agencies. There were six questions:
 1. Upriver vs. Downriver: Can Lower Columbia stocks serve as controls for Snake River stocks?
 2. Post-Bonneville Survival: What was assumed for post-Bonneville survival? What is the rationale, and what are the biological implications? Were decadal and annual variations in ocean and climate survival accounted for in PATH?
 3. Factors affecting juvenile salmon survival through the Federal hydropower system.
 4. Transportation.
 5. Survivals of juvenile and adult salmon under free-flowing riverine conditions (drawdown assumptions).
 6. Spawner-recruit function: What influence does the choice of underlying production function have on PATH results? How well does the empirical data fit to the chosen production function?
 - material presented by PATH participants on these questions are included in separate files, which are named according to question number (i.e. material for question 1 is in *Q1oh.pfd*, etc.)
- IV. Results

There were two questions addressed with respect to the results of the spring/summer decision analysis (questions in this sections were numbered consecutively with the previous section):

7. Juvenile salmon survival, Smolt-to-Adult return rates, and spawner-recruit function: How do the results of PATH compare to historical and the most recent empirical estimates in regard to value and pattern?
8. Efficacy of actions for recovery.

- material presented by PATH participants on these questions are included in separate files (i.e. *Q7oh.pdf* and *Q8oh.pdf*)
- V. Strengths and Limitations of PATH
- discussion of the strengths and limitation of the PATH analyses
 - material presented by PATH participants are included in the file called "*q9oh.pdf*"