

June 2009-Council of Elders Discusses its Report with National Marine Fisheries Service

The Council's Columbia-Snake River Group met with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Pacific Northwest Office on June 4 to discuss the Council's report and recommendations. The Council is composed of now-retired senior resource managers and scientists whose mission is to provide unhindered, frank criticism of government environmental policy. The Group members expanded upon the report's description of the government's disastrous wild salmon policy; the conflicts of interest in, and mismanagement of, wild fish recovery versus hydropower; corruption and the failure of governance; constant, willful failure to follow federal laws designed to protect the fish; and the politically-motivated implementation of the Endangered Species Act; and the need to remove four dams that are putting the fish on the brink of extinction. The Council questioned the government's ability to incorporate climate change in managing the watershed as a whole, as well as the entire West Coast. The Council let NMFS know that it intends to continue pushing for the changes called for in the report.