

## Attachment A:

### Human Health Focus Group Update

#### Background on Human Health Focus Group Development

The Human Health Focus Group (HHFG) members are technical experts with experience in the areas of toxicology, risk assessment and public health. The Planning Team put forth a call for nominations of HHFG members to the Core Group of workshop participants in April, 2007. The Planning Team reviewed the nominations from the Core Group members and chose the following six members:

Name	Affiliation
Dave McBride	Washington State Department of Health
Sue MacMillan	URS Corporation
Joan Rothlein, PhD	Oregon Health and Science University
Ken Kauffman	Oregon Department of Human Services
Elaine Faustman, PhD	University of Washington
Pat Cirone, PhD	Retired Federal Scientist

#### Questions Posed to the Human Health Focus Group

The Planning Team posed three questions to the HHFG:

1. Considering the available local, regional and national information on fish consumption, what is the scientific evidence Oregon should rely on in selecting a fish consumption rate to use in setting water quality standards?
2. How should anadromous fish (i.e. salmon) be considered in selecting a fish consumption rate?
3. To what extent are populations who consume more than the current fish consumption rate of 17.5 g/day at a greater risk for health impacts?

#### Meetings and Preliminary Findings

The HHFG has held six meetings over the past four months. They prepared and presented materials at Workshop 3 focusing on question 3 ("To what extent are populations who consume more than the current fish consumption rate of 17.5 g/day at a greater risk for health impacts?").

To date, they are near completion on questions (1) and (3), and are currently working on question (2).

Their preliminary findings include the following:

- Of the nine fish consumption rate studies evaluated, the Focus Group recommended six (all with caveats) that the State could use in choosing a fish consumption rate;
- Rates for consumers only, in most cases, tend to be higher than rates that include non-consumers of fish. Consumer only data is a better representation of a population of people who are actually eating fish.
- Populations who consume greater than 17.5 g/day are at a greater risk of health impacts for both cancer effects and non-cancer effects- which is especially concerning for vulnerable populations (women of child-bearing age, children);
- A review of the fish consumption rate studies, including regional data, indicate that: there are multiple and diverse fish consuming populations, populations are consuming fish at a rate higher than 17.5 g/day, and that 17.5 g/day is not reflective of the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of fish consumers in Oregon.

#### Products and Outcomes

Meeting notes and materials of the HHFG can be found on DEQ's website at:

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/standards/fishfocus.htm>. Presentations by the HHFG at Workshop 3 and meeting notes from that meeting are available on DEQ's website at:  
<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/standards/fish.htm>.

A report of the HHFG findings regarding the three core questions is currently being developed. The information from this report will be used by the Planning Team in informing the Policy Options for each Core Policy Decision (e.g. What fish consuming population will be protected? How will Pacific salmon be addressed in the fish consumption rate? What source of data will be used in choosing a fish consumption rate?). The final report will be included with the "Policy Options Paper" to the EQC.