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Montana

Rhonda Whiting
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Tom Karier
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Bill Bradbury
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Oregon

June 30, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Tony Grover

SUBJECT: Charter for the Fish Tagging Forum

Attached is a draft charter for the Fish Tagging Forum, formed as a follow on activity to the Council's 2010 and 2011 category review of Research Monitoring Evaluation and Artificial Production projects. The Fish and Wildlife Committee asked staff to develop a charter for a facilitated workgroup to address costs, efficiencies and gaps for all fish tagging efforts that take place under the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, including expense, capital and reimbursable programs. This Forum will address the cost-effectiveness and the program effectiveness of tagging under the Program as well as other issues discussed in the March 2009 ISAB/ISRP report regarding fish tagging technologies and programs. The Forum will generally follow up on the ISAB / ISRP review of Fish Tagging (ISAB/ISRP 2009-1). However due to several Council member's interest, there will be a focus by the Forum on coded wire tagging projects.

The Forum will report to the Executive Director; estimated annual operating costs are \$35,000 to \$40,000 and three staff months; the Management Officer of the Forum is the director of the Council's Fish and Wildlife Division; and the duration of the Forum is two years from the date of selection of a facilitation contractor. All members of the Forum serve at the pleasure of the Council.

Also attached are comments on the proposed charter received from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

enclosures

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PACIFIC NORTHWEST ELECTRIC POWER AND CONSERVATION PLANNING COUNCIL

~~DRAFT~~—CHARTER OF THE FISH TAGGING FORUM —~~DRAFT~~

1. Official Designation: This Forum will be known as the Pacific Northwest Electric Power and Conservation Planning Council's Fish Tagging Forum.
2. Background: During the Council's 2010 and 2011 review of all Research Monitoring Evaluation and Artificial Production projects the Fish and Wildlife Committee requested staff develop a charter for a facilitated workgroup to address costs, efficiencies and gaps for all fish tagging efforts that take place under the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, including expense, capital and reimbursable programs. The workgroup will follow the general structure of the Independent Science Advisory Board and Independent Science Review Panel joint comprehensive review of Columbia River Basin fish tagging technologies and programs, promulgated on March 17, 2009 (ISAB/ISRP 2009-1). In that report the ISAB/ ISRP stated: *"For proposal solicitations, the ISRP's technical review is not designed to address cost effectiveness. If project budgets appear unreasonable, either too large or too small, concern is often expressed, although this is not a technical review task. This is an aspect of tagging that would be best addressed as part of the Fish and Wildlife Program amendment and program-level decision process... As important as cost effectiveness is program effectiveness. Program effectiveness of tagging activities might be better incorporated into decision management frameworks where reference points from tagging activities trigger management response (e.g., return rates or harvest rates at a fixed limit or threshold)."* The Fish Tagging Forum will address the cost effectiveness and the program effectiveness of tagging under the Program as well as other issues discussed in the ISAB/ISRP report.

The Fish Tagging Forum will consider the following types of tagging technologies:

- Coded Wire Tags
- PIT Tags
- Radio Tags
- Acoustic Telemetry
- Data Storage Tags
- Genetic Markers
- Otolith Thermal Marks
- Natural Marks and Tags (Otoliths, Scales, and Parasites)

3. Objectives and Scope of Activity: The Fish Tagging Forum will advise the Council regarding the following issues. Activities of the Forum will include:
 - (A) Developing and recommending to the Council a commonly accepted description of fish tagging funded by Bonneville Power Administration, including what fish are tagged and released and recovered, in what numbers, where, by what entity, for what purposes and at what cost.
 - (B) Recommendations to the Council on ways to improve the cost effectiveness of fish tagging under the Fish and Wildlife Program.
 - (C) Recommendations to the Council on ways to improve the program effectiveness of fish tagging to address key management questions under the Fish and Wildlife Program.
 - (D) Describe the various data systems used to organize and track tagging data including recovery information.
 - (E) Describe the degree of coordination within and among tagging efforts and recommend improvements in coordination within and among tagging efforts where efficiencies and cost effectiveness may be improved.
 - (F) What is the objective of each tagging effort and are the right tags being used, or proposed to be used, to accomplish that objective. If the objective can be achieved by different means, how does the cost differ between options?
 - (G) Review issues related to fish tagging, such as the adequacy of geographic coverage, span of species diversity or completeness of life cycle tracking. The forum could provide recommendations on cost efficient, technologically practical and acceptable changes to current tagging programs.
4. Official to Whom the Fish Tagging Forum Reports: The Fish Tagging Forum will report to the Executive Director of the Council.
5. Authority of the Forum: The Fish Tagging Forum will serve in an advisory capacity only. Neither the Forum nor its members are authorized to make statements or commitments on behalf of the Council. Forum members will not be considered to be members of the Council staff.
6. Estimated Annual Operating Costs in Dollars and Person-Years: \$35,000 to \$40,000 and three staff months.
7. Forum Management Officer: The Forum Management Officer ("Management Officer") for the Fish Tagging Forum will be the Director of the Council's Division of Fish and Wildlife. The Management Officer will designate members of the Council's staff to coordinate and attend meetings of the Forum.
8. Chair:
 - (A) The Chair of the Fish Tagging Forum will be appointed by the Chairman of the Council, with the concurrence of the Council members, and will serve at the pleasure of the Council.

- (B) The Chair may be called upon to report to the Executive Director of the Council on appropriate matters, including the Fish Tagging Forum's progress on the tasks described in Part 3 of this Charter.
 - (C) The duties of the Chair will include presiding over the Fish Tagging Forum meetings, ensuring that detailed minutes of such meetings are prepared and submitted to the Executive Director of the Council in a timely manner, and maintaining communication between the Forum and the Council's staff.
 - (D) The Chair will certify detailed minutes of meetings of the Fish Tagging Forum. The minutes should include a complete and accurate description of matters discussed, conclusions reached, actions taken, persons invited to meet with the Forum, and persons in attendance. The minutes also will include copies of reports received, issued or approved by the Forum. Minutes of meetings will be prepared and released within ten days of the meeting, unless an extension is granted by the Management Officer. The Management Officer will distribute copies of the minutes to members of the Forum and the other interested persons.
 - (E) Sub-groups of the Fish Tagging Forum may be established by the Chair of the Forum to undertake particular aspects of the Forum's work. Methods for organizing the work and procedures of the Forum must follow the scope of responsibilities assigned to the Forum by the Council. The work of the staff for the Forum will include making arrangements for Forum meetings, solving logistical problems, and providing clerical services.
9. Vice-Chair: A Vice-Chair of the Fish Tagging Forum may be appointed by the Chairman of the Council, with the concurrence of the Council members, and will serve at the pleasure of the Council. The Vice-Chair will perform the duties of the Chair of the Forum in the absence of that Chair, and such other duties as the Chair of the Forum may assign.
 10. Rules: The Advisory Committee rules approved and adopted by the Council on March 17, 1982, as amended from time to time, will apply to the Fish Tagging Forum.
 11. Estimated Frequency of Forum Meetings: The Chair of the Fish Tagging Forum, after consultation with the Management Officer, or his designee, will call meetings as necessary. The estimated frequency of meetings is monthly. All meetings will be open to the public, unless closed pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c). Timely notice of meetings, including agendas, will be made. Interested persons may attend Forum meetings and appear before or file statements with the Forum, subject to such reasonable rules as the Council may prescribe.
 12. Duration: The Fish Tagging Forum will terminate two years from the filing date of this Charter, unless renewed in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. All Members of the Forum serve at the pleasure of the Council.

This Charter for the Fish Tagging Forum was approved and adopted at a duly called meeting of the Pacific Northwest Power and Conservation Planning Council, 13 July 2011 at Portland, Oregon.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST ELECTRIC POWER
AND CONSERVATION PLANNING COUNCIL

By: _____
Bruce A. Measure, Chair

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Tony,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Charter of the Fish Tagging Forum as proposed by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC). Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) looks forward to working together to improve upon and make the best use of tagging and marking information in the Columbia River. WDFW has several comments regarding the forum as follows:

Ensure Broad Participation:

WDFW wants to ensure that the Fish Tagging Forum has broad participation by the fish and wildlife managers in the basin, including state fish and wildlife agencies and tribes. Let us know how we can be of assistance in achieving this broad participation.

Broaden focus:

WDFW is concerned that the Fish Tagging Forum is too narrowly focused on types of tagging only. The main purpose of the existing CWT Recovery Program is to representatively sample spawning grounds and fisheries to recover marks (fin, genetic and otolith), tags (CWT, PIT, radio and external tags such as Floy tags) and relevant biological data (scales, length, sex and weight). The data recovered by this sampling program, and other collaborating programs, is used to estimate tag and mark group abundance and harvest, and when the appropriate sampling designs are implemented, make estimates of population abundance, stock specific harvest and preseason abundance forecasts for specific population groups. The forum needs to review this program with an understanding of the broader applications that include fishery analysis and stock status assessment. We suggest that this forum be labeled the Fish Identification and Assessment Forum (FIAF) to reflect the importance of developing future marking/tagging and recovery programs plus providing adequate data to measure fishery impacts and provide identification in escapement areas for population accounting purposes.

Build upon the CWT program:

The CWT program is a proven technology that informs salmon recovery and Council high-level indicators. The existing CWT Recovery Program is essential for salmon recovery monitoring because the broad scale sampling design collects VSP metrics used to estimate persistence probabilities at multiple scales, along with the evaluation of hatchery programs and estimation of harvest from tag groups. This information is used to inform the Council's high level indicators such as abundance, smolt to adult ratios and productivity. The 40-year old CWT Recovery Program provides an extensive data base that supplies baseline (current and historic) population trends. This baseline information is critical to adequately monitor future population trends and is needed to determine the effectiveness of conservation actions implemented through the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) Biological Opinion (BIOP) and *U.S. v. Oregon*. Additionally, the past and present population trend and fishery data is an essential component of the FCRPS BIOP. The addition of PIT tags and genetic identification can serve to enhance the information derived from the CWT data base, and therefore provide a more thorough assessment of future population trends. This forum should focus on how additional recovery components can be incorporated efficiently and cost effectively to provide the most accurate data and best inform future policy decisions.

WDFW appreciates the opportunity to participate in this forum to improve population and harvest monitoring efforts in the Columbia River Basin. If you have any questions feel free to contact me.

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