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May 22, 2008

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council Members

**FROM:** Jim Ruff, Manager, Mainstem Passage and River Operations

**SUBJECT:** NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center presentation on recent research on the effects of toxic contaminants on salmon

At the June 11, 2008, Council meeting in Spokane, Washington, Dr. Tracy Collier from NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center in Seattle will provide a briefing on recent research on the effects of toxics on salmonids. Dr. Collier is the Director of the Environmental Conservation Division at the NOAA Science Center.

He will present the results to date of the Northwest Fisheries Science Center's collaborative surveys of toxic chemical exposures and effects in outmigrating juvenile salmon collected at several sites in the lower Columbia River. He will put these levels of exposure in context with other investigations in what were presumed to be more highly contaminated estuaries. Finally, he will present results comparing the projected increased mortality resulting from contaminant exposure in the lower Columbia River to that projected from stress associated with passage through portions of the hydropower system.

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