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June 28, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee members

FROM: Jim Ruff – Manager, Mainstem Passage and River Operations
Patty O’Toole – Program Implementation Manager

SUBJECT: Overview of August 2012 Predation Workshop

The purpose of this briefing will be to provide Fish and Wildlife Committee members with an update and overview of the Council’s August Science-Policy Predation Workshop. The workshop will be held on August 9, 2012, at the Ambridge Event Center in Portland, Oregon.

The workshop’s objectives are to increase our understanding of the role of predation and predator control actions in the Columbia River Basin, the effects on the ecosystem, and the scope of predation issues throughout the Basin, in both anadromous fish and resident fish (blocked) areas, and to consider new management alternatives. The workshop will include discussions of fish, bird, and marine mammal predation management and ecosystem predation dynamics.

Attached for your information and review is a draft outline for the workshop, including a list of confirmed and invited participants for each of the three predation panels (fish, avian and marine mammal predation). Dr. Robert Naiman, one of our Independent Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) members who is a Professor of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences at the University of Washington, and who is an expert in river ecology, will be assisting us and leading the workshop. It will also be professionally facilitated by Dave Ward of HDR consultants.

Attachment

July 5, 2012

Draft Framework for Science-Policy Workshop on Predation and Effects on CRB Ecosystem

Workshop title: Predation in the Columbia River Basin – What are the Management Alternatives?

Facilitator: Dave Ward, HDR Engineering, Inc.

Objectives for the Workshop

The workshop's objectives are to increase our understanding of the role of predation and predator control actions in the Columbia River Basin (CRB), the effects on the ecosystem, the scope of predation issues throughout the CRB, in both anadromous fish and resident fish (blocked) areas, and to consider new management alternatives. The workshop will include discussions of fish, bird and marine mammal predation management and ecosystem predation dynamics.

Current Management Goals and Objectives for Predation

- Identify the predator control strategies and actions in the Council's *2009 CRB Fish and Wildlife Program*
- Identify the predator control actions contained in the NMFS FCRPS Biological Opinion
- Identify other legal or institutional drivers affecting predation and predator control efforts, including the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Migratory Bird Act, Endangered Species Act, etc.

Description and Status of Current Predator Control Efforts

This part of the workshop will be accomplished by three panels comprised of several scientists on each panel to address the science behind predator control efforts in short, concise descriptions in the following major categories.

- Piscivorous predators
 - Bonnie Ellis-Ecological Impacts of Non-native Species in Flathead Lake (confirmed)
 - Holly McLellan-Ecological Impacts of Non-native Species in FDR Lake (confirmed)
 - Deane Osterman-Ecological Impacts of Invasive Northern Pike in Pend Oreille River (confirmed)
 - John Skidmore-Northern pikeminnow sport-reward fishery program in Columbia River (confirmed)
- Avian predators
 - Julia Parrish-Ecosystem-based Management of Predator-Prey Relationships between Piscivorous Birds and Salmon (confirmed)
 - Dan Roby-Summary of Predator-Prey Relationships between Piscivorous Birds and Salmon in the Columbia River Basin (confirmed)
 - Holly Freifeld or another rep from USFWS (invited, not yet confirmed)
- Marine Mammals
 - Robert Stansell-Summary of Observed Sea Lion Predation on Salmonids, Sturgeon and Lamprey below Bonneville Dam on Columbia River (confirmed)
 - Bill Wilson-Ecological Role of Sea Lions as Predators and Competitors (confirmed)

Discussion of Predation Dynamics

- Matt Mesa (USGS)-Predation Dynamics and Role of Predation in Ecosystem (confirmed)
- Group discussion on whether our original predator control assumptions remain valid today

Group Discussion of Available Predation Management Strategies and Alternatives

- Discuss whether there are alternative predation management strategies for the Columbia River Basin
- Identify advantages and disadvantages of each potential alternative strategy

Workshop Summary and Wrap-up (Bob Naiman-ISAB)