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August 30, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee

FROM: Tony Grover, Fish and Wildlife Division Director
Nancy Leonard, Fish Wildlife and Ecosystem Monitoring and Evaluation Manager

SUBJECT: Future Development of Council High Level Indicators

The 2009 Fish and Wildlife Program guides the Council to “*adopt and periodically update high-level indicators for the purpose of reporting success and accomplishments to Congress, the region’s governors, legislators, and citizens of the Northwest. High-level indicators will include biological, implementation, and management components.*”

The Council, after several years of development and multiple comment periods, passed the following motion during the October 7, 2009 Council meeting in Idaho (scroll down webpage to see motion at http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/program/hli/2009_10.htm):

The Council approved the following three HLI:

- 1. Abundance of Fish and Wildlife,*
- 2. Hydrosystem Passage and Survival; and*
- 3. Council Actions.*

The Council chose to postpone its decision on the fourth HLI, Ecosystem Health, until it is defined more clearly. This motion was passed:

Motion from F&W Committee as Adopted by Full Council

October 7, 2009

Sun Valley, Idaho,

That the Council:

- Approve three High-Level Indicators in the Council's report to Congress: 1) Abundance of Fish and Wildlife, 2) Hydrosystem Survival and Passage, and 3) Council Actions.*

- *Approve fish and wildlife program management questions as a working list*
- *Recommend that CBFWA include the fish and wildlife Program indicators in the status of the Resource report; all as presented by the staff and recommended by the Fish and Wildlife Committee and approved by the Council [with changes adopted by the Members at today's meeting].*

The Council understands that the information for these indicators is either currently available or will be collected within existing budgets and that no additional Council funding obligation will result from the adoption of the indicators unless first approved by the Council.

The Council, between 2009 and 2012, worked to develop its first HLI report for the three HLIs approved during the October 2009 Council meeting in Idaho. The staff is in the final steps of incorporating comments received from the Independent Scientific Advisory Board, data providers and experts, and from the June-July 2012 public comment period (see <http://www.nwcouncil.org/library/report.asp?docid=681>) prior to finalizing the HLIs report for posting on the Council website.

With this first step nearing completion, the Fish and Wildlife Committee requested that staff address the process and timeline by which to further develop the draft HLIs not yet approved by the Council (see <http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/program/hli/Indicators.asp>). Staff has assessed the potential of engaging in the second step of the HLIs task given the current status of related activities and other large Council and regional processes that are ongoing or will be initiated in the near future.

From this assessment, three factors that may affect the feasibility of near-term future development of HLIs were identified. The first is the current uncertainty regarding the future role committees, organizations, regional databases, and processes on which staff have relied to develop and inform Council HLIs, including:

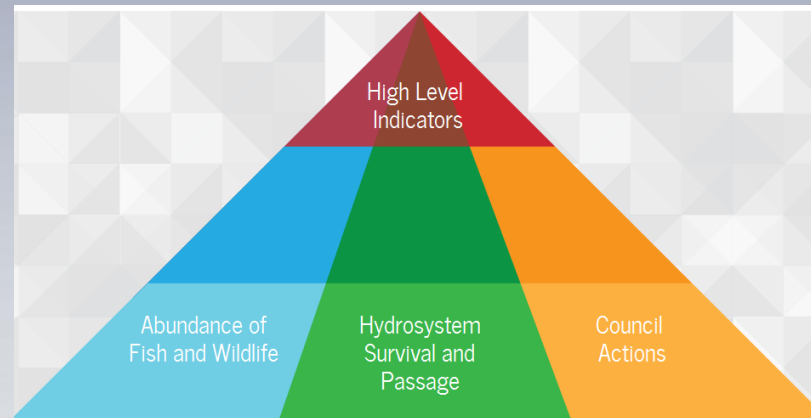
- (1) anadromous fish, resident fish, and wildlife committees that had been facilitated by the CBFWA;
- (2) coordination and data management organizations such as CBFWA, StreamNet, and NHI;
- (3) regional databases both existing and proposed, such as StreamNet and the CRITFC Tribal Data Network; and,
- (4) the coordination assessment workgroup co-facilitated by the PNAMP, CBFWA, and StreamNet.

The second factor is the ongoing Program Evaluation and Reporting Committee (PERC) process that is meant to provide certainty to the above four projects -- CBFWA, PNAMP, StreamNet and NHI. Thus, staff prefers awaiting the recommendations of the PERC, which should provide more certainty to those committees, organizations, regional databases, and processes.

The third, and final, factor is the start of the geographic project review process and the 2013-2014 Program amendment process. These two processes will require substantial work and time investment by both Council staff and the staff of the Columbia River Basin's federal and state fish and wildlife agencies and tribes.

Staff, based on the above assessment, at this time recommends postponing further adoption of HLIs by the Council until the completion of the 2013-2014 Program amendment process.

Future Development of Council High Level Indicators



Tony Grover, *Fish and Wildlife Division Director*

Nancy Leonard, *Fish Wildlife and Ecosystem M&E Manager*

Fish and Wildlife Committee

September 11, 2012

Astoria, Oregon

Background

- 2009 Fish and Wildlife Program guides the Council to
 - “adopt and periodically update high-level indicators...”
- October 2009 Council
 - Approved 3 HLIs, and draft program management questions.
 - Recommend including the FW Program indicators in the SOTR.
- 2009 to 2012 Council develop
 - First HLI report.
- July to October 2012
 - Staff incorporating comments.
- October 2012
 - Release the revised HLI report.

High-Level Implementation Indicators to Measure Success of the Fish and Wildlife Program

July 2012

[Table of indicators updated](#)

October 2009

Council members approved three high-level indicators that will be used to monitor the progress of the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program:

1. abundance of fish and wildlife
2. hydrosystem survival and passage; and
3. Council actions.

The indicators will be used to report to Congress and the Northwest's governors.

See [motion and table of indicators](#) and [presentation](#) (5mb PDF).

May 2009

See [public comments](#) and [ISR/ISAB comments](#)

March 2009

As part of the process for refining these high level indicators, the Council is [requesting public comment](#) on a list of indicators to stimulate discussion and begin the process of aligning, as appropriate, with existing high level indicators used by others in the region in reporting the status and trends of the region's natural resource

November 2008

[Request for comments](#)

July 2008

[Working list of high level indicators](#) adopted

June 2008

[Presentation and comments](#)

Next Steps for Council HLIs

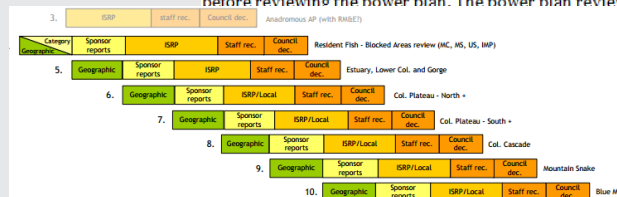
- Defer adoption of additional HLIs by the Council until completion of the 2013-2014 Program amendment process due to
 - Ongoing Program Evaluation and Reporting Committee (PERC).
 - Current uncertainty of committees, organizations, regional databases, and processes that assist with this work.
 - Staff workload for geographic project review process and the 2013-2014 Program amendment process.

About the amendment process

Amending the [Fish and Wildlife Program](#) is the most significant action the Council takes regarding its fish and wildlife mission under the Northwest Power Act.

[Section 4h](#) of the Act closely prescribes the process and standards for an amendment process. The process takes about a year, and the Council's final decision to amend the program requires a super-majority vote.

The Act requires the Council to review the [power plan](#) every five years, and to amend the fish and wildlife program before reviewing the power plan. The power plan review must be completed within the first 60 days of the Council's annual meeting.



Program Evaluation and Reporting Committee

Save the date:

September 13, 2012 (Portland)

The Council has instituted this committee (PERC) to engage in a regional discussion of how existing data management systems, tools and processes support the Council's evaluation and communication of their Fish and Wildlife Program.

Questions?



HIGH LEVEL INDICATORS

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council

