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March 5, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

FROM: Patty O'Toole, Program Implementation Manager
Jim Ruff, Manager, Mainstem Passage and River Operations
Tony Grover, Fish and Wildlife Division Director

SUBJECT: Update on Ocean and Plume research workshop and forum

In February the Council hosted an ocean and plume workshop. The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Prepare for the upcoming 2013-14 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program amendment process, discuss 2009 Program language, discuss need to update current language.
- Identify Fish and Wildlife Program priorities for ocean and plume research and reporting.
- Integrate ocean science with natural resource management in the Columbia River.

The workshop was well attended. Approximately 90 people participated either in person or via conference line. Participants included researchers from NOAA, OHSU, U of Washington, OSU and representatives from various fish and wildlife agencies and tribes, along with Bonneville, USGS, and many others. Workshop presentations are posted on the Council's [website](#).

It was clear from the discussion that there were two priority needs going forward, one being the need for a forum for ongoing dialogue between scientists and managers, and the second being a list of priority uncertainties to guide future ocean research. The staff, with committee support, will work on establishing a small steering committee to develop options for who might host, facilitate and participate in an ocean and plume research and management forum.

A summary of the workshop is being developed by staff and will include a list of critical uncertainties identified at the workshop. These will be posted on the Council's website.