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August 29, 2012

MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members

From: Erik Merrill, ISRP/ISAB Program Manager; Jim Ruff, ISAB Ex Officio; and Laura Robinson, Program Implementation and Liaison Specialist

Subject: Independent Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) Review of the Fish and Wildlife Program

This memo is to inform the Council of an ISAB review and to ask for feedback to refine the scope of the review. A central task described in the ISAB's Terms of Reference and the Council's 2009 Fish and Wildlife Program (page 66) is for the ISAB to "evaluate the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program on its scientific merits in time to inform amendments to the Fish and Wildlife Program and before the Council requests recommendations from the region." The Council intends to formally begin its amendment process in March or April of 2013. The ISAB review should provide guidance to the Council and region on aspects of the Program that could be improved by incorporating up-to-date scientific findings and methods.

Many ISAB and ISRP reviews have informed the development of the current Program, but some Program areas might benefit from further review and updating based on ISAB and ISRP reviews completed after the last Program amendment, for example the ISAB's Food Web ([ISAB 2011-1](#)) and Landscape-Scale Restoration ([ISAB 2011-4](#)) reviews and the ISRP Category and Retrospective reviews (for example, [ISRP 2011-25](#)). In addition, comprehensive summaries of emerging Program areas such as lamprey, ocean, estuary, and sturgeon have been developed by fish and wildlife project sponsors in recent years. These reports could influence the next Program amendments, and the ISAB could highlight critical points.

The ISAB will evaluate the Program's scientific principles, biological objectives, and the suite of strategies. Areas of particular interest are artificial production, predation, habitat restoration approaches and effectiveness monitoring. The ISAB review product should be concise and written for policy, management, and scientific audiences. It should reference and summarize past ISAB and ISRP findings as appropriate. The review will begin in October 2012 and be completed by February 2013. Based on similar reviews in the past, the cost to complete the report is expected to be approximately \$100,000 of the ISAB's \$550,000 annual budget.