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January 8, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

FROM: Lynn Palensky, Program Development Manager

SUBJECT: Presentation on Regional Sturgeon Framework Plan

In the final programmatic recommendations (Issue #7) for the sturgeon projects in the RME/AP review, the Council called for the “*development of a comprehensive management plan for white sturgeon through a collaborative effort involving currently funded projects*” and submission to the Independent Science Review Panel (ISRP) for review. The primary team (Team) working on the document consists of Tom Rien (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife), Blaine Parker (Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission) and Brad James (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife). Now referred to as the Columbia River Basin White Sturgeon Framework, the team will present an overview of the Framework and submit it for ISRP review at the January Council.

At the December meeting, the Committee agreed to request public comments on the Framework concurrent with the ISRP review, at the request of the Team. *The document should have broad distribution and review by parties interested in Sturgeon conservation and management.* By having the Council request comments from managers and the public, concurrent to the ISRP review, it should help increase attention to the document.

The plan will serve to summarize and synthesize the large volume of past and present sturgeon research, monitoring, and management efforts on a basinwide scale; provide information specific to individual management units; and identify regional goals for conservation, management, restoration, and mitigation activities. Planning and perspective information is drawn from existing regional sturgeon planning documents and input received at several sturgeon workshops. The next regional sturgeon workshop is scheduled for late March 2013. The timing of the reviews and the workshop works well with the schedule for our program amendment process. This document could lay the foundation for additional sturgeon-specific program recommendations.