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September 3, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Patty O'Toole

SUBJECT: September Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment Work Session

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Fish and Wildlife and legal division staff

Summary: Staff will begin the work session by providing an amendment process check-in, providing an update on the draft outline for the next Fish and Wildlife Program. The rest of the work session is reserved for discussing amendment recommendations and preliminary staff suggested revisions for several Program sections.

Relevance: Per the Northwest Power Act, the Council must call for recommendations to amend the Fish and Wildlife Program prior to updating its Power Plan. The recommendation period closed on May 19, and the comment period on the recommendations closed on July 3.

Workplan: This work addresses a primary responsibility under the Northwest Power Act and task A. 4, 5, and 6 of the Fish and Wildlife Division Work Plan under the Program Policy and Planning function.

Since the August Council meeting, the staff have continued to review a large set of program amendment recommendations, and the significant number of comments the Council received on the recommendations, to prepare suggestions for preliminary, draft amendments. Both

recommendations and comments are found on the Council's [amendment webpage](#) along with other relevant materials.

At the September Council meeting the staff will review the Fish and Wildlife Program amendment schedule for the next several months and note any updates for the outline of the draft amended Fish and Wildlife Program. Most of the work session will consist of detailed review and discussion of preliminary draft amendments for several topics covered by the Program. These may include topics such as Program vision, science principles, a portion of the goals and objectives, wildlife mitigation, predator management, non-native and invasive species, the nearshore ocean and plume, and artificial production. We may also have updates or discussion regarding two previously discussed topics: protected areas and habitat protection and restoration.

Prior to the meeting, the staff will provide the Council members with draft amendment documents for review and discussion. These documents will be *pre-decisional* and not shared publicly. Staff recommends that the Council members and staff work through each document page by page during the work session. The staff seeks feedback from members but is not looking for any final decision at this time.