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October 21, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Patty O'Toole

SUBJECT: October Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment October 16 Work Session

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Fish and Wildlife and Legal division staff

Summary: A special Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment work session will be held by webinar on October 28 and 29. Staff will begin the work session by providing an amendment process check-in, then the rest of the work session is reserved for discussing new and updated draft amendments.

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 October Council meeting, the staff have continued to review program amendment recommendations, and the comments on the recommendations, and prepare draft amendments.

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

For the October special Council work session by webinar, most of the work session will consist of detailed review and discussion of draft amendments for topics covered by the Program. These *may* include new topics such as the *hydrosystem operations section and a section of the program containing provisions for program implementation, along with previously review sections regarding Program goals and objectives, blocked area mitigation, adaptive management and research, monitoring and evaluation, program performance, non-native and invasive species, predation, wildlife, ocean, program vision, scientific foundation and principles, the program framework* or perhaps others.

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 recommend 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. The topics and their order of discussion are subject to change as requested by the Council or suggested by staff.