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August 4, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Stacy Horton, Washington Policy Analyst and Biologist

SUBJECT: Update from the Washington State Climate Office

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Guillaume Mauger, State Climatologist

Summary: The Northwest Power and Conservation Council is interested in how the effects of climate change might impact fish and wildlife populations and the mitigation and restoration actions carried out under the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. Our Program continues to encourage, monitor and promote public awareness of pertinent climate change research and information and assess how it might influence program mitigation efforts. The Council's 2020 Addendum acknowledged the overarching challenge involved in implementing a program to improve environmental conditions for fish and wildlife while climate change is redefining those very same environmental characteristics.

The Council has invited the Washington State Climatology Office to provide a brief update on anticipated precipitation and hydrology under climate change, the 'super' El Nino and what that might mean for the Pacific Northwest and related marine ecosystems, and how the climate relates to the wildfire season we're seeing this year.

More info: Washington State Climate Office
<https://climate.uw.edu/>