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March 7, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council members

FROM: Lynn Palensky

SUBJECT: Briefing on Columbia River Basin fish run forecasts for 2017

BACKGROUND:

Presenters: Tucker Jones (ODFW), Ron Roler (WDFW), Paul Kline (IDFG) and Brian Burke (NOAA NW Fisheries Science Center)

Summary: The Council will be briefed on the 2016 returns and 2017 run forecasts of eulachon, adult salmon and steelhead, as well as the status of lower river white sturgeon.

Tucker Jones (Ocean Salmon Columbia River Program Manager at Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife) will present the 2016-2017 eulachon returns and provide a status update on lower river white sturgeon;

Ron Roler (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife) will present the latest information on the 2017 adult Chinook, coho, sockeye, and chum salmon and steelhead run forecasts for the Columbia and Snake rivers, with a brief summary of expectations for the 2017 fisheries. His

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presentation will also include a retrospective review of the 2016 adult salmon and steelhead returns and fisheries in the Columbia River excluding the Snake Basin.

Paul Kline (Asst. Chief of Fisheries for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game) will then summarize the recent and historical returns of salmon and steelhead to the Snake River Basin, focusing on the species/run groupings of spring, summer and fall Chinook salmon; summer steelhead; and sockeye salmon. For each species/run grouping, counts of fish crossing Lower Granite Dam will be presented. Numbers of fish passing Lower Granite Dam comprise the aggregate count of adult salmon and steelhead destined for eastern Oregon's Grande Ronde and Imnaha river drainages and Idaho's Clearwater and Salmon River drainages.

Brian Burke (Research Fishery Biologist at NOAA's NW Fisheries Science Center), will present the outlook for Chinook and coho returns to the Columbia River based on local and regional ocean conditions. The presentation will also include a summary of Pacific Basin-scale conditions and associated effects on coast-wide trends in salmon size and abundance.

Relevance: This information is relevant to our high-level indicators. It gives the region a preview for what is expected for adult returns in the current year.

Workplan: This task is captured in the Division's work plan under Adaptive Management - Annual Reports.

More Info: Links:
Columbia River Forecasts: http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/reports_plants.html
Joint State Staff Reports <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/>
Columbia River DART: <http://www.cbr.washington.edu/dart>