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November 7, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Committee members

FROM: Lynn Palensky

SUBJECT: 2017 White Sturgeon Workshop - Overview

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Lynn Palensky

Summary: Staff will summarize the purpose and [agenda](#) (also attached) for the November 2017 Columbia River White Sturgeon Workshop to be held in Coeur d'Alene, ID following the Council meeting.

Relevance: White sturgeon inhabit a limited geographic area and only exist in North America. The largest populations reside in the Columbia River system. They are highly migratory and have quite unique life histories. For many reasons -- including their long lifespans, size, migratory patterns, morphology, and age to sexual maturity -- working with sturgeon is fairly specialized. There is so much that we don't yet understand about sturgeon. It is important to foster and maintain a network of sturgeon biologists and researchers to conserve and increase white sturgeon populations and help address the many critical uncertainties.

The Council is hosting the Columbia River White Sturgeon Workshop along with the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho and Ziji Creative Resources. The invitee list includes people in the Columbia Basin who currently work with White Sturgeon in some capacity. We anticipate there will be around 60

participants, including neighbors to the north in BC (Fraser and Nechako Rivers) and to the south in California (SanJoaquin/Sacramento Rivers) who also work on smaller populations of White Sturgeon.

Workplan: The work is being tracked in the Division's annual work plan as a high priority task, and sturgeon are listed as an [emerging priority](#) in the Council's 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program. See Program language for White Sturgeon [here](#).

Background: A handful of Columbia Basin sturgeon meetings were held with basin partners since 2009. They included:

- 2009 in Boardman (title: White Sturgeon Strategic Planning Workshop for Lower Columbia and Lower Snake River Impoundments);
- 2011 in Boardman (same title as above);
- 2012 in Troutdale (title: Columbia River Basin White Sturgeon Planning & Passage Workshop); and 2013 in Troutdale (title: Columbia River Basin White Sturgeon Workshop IV)

Those meetings helped pave the way for the collaborative development of the White Sturgeon Planning Framework, which was requested by the Council as a follow-up requirement from the 2011 Research, Monitoring, Evaluation and Artificial Production Project Review. The Planning Framework was completed in December 2014 and identifies many of the critical uncertainties that will be discussed at this November workshop. The White Sturgeon Meeting next week will continue the collaborative work and information sharing on White Sturgeon in the basin.

More Info:

- The Council's White Sturgeon web [page](#)
- Columbia Basin White Sturgeon [Planning Framework](#)
- [Upper Columbia White Sturgeon Recovery Plan](#)
- [Workshop web page](#)

Columbia Basin White Sturgeon Workshop: Our Shared Legacy and Opportunity(s)

November 15-16, 2017 – Coeur d'Alene Resort



November 15, 2017 – 1:30 PM to 5:30 PM

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|---------|---|
| 1:00 PM | Check-in |
| 1:30 PM | |
| 1:50 PM | Columbia Basin & Beyond: Igniting White Sturgeon Programs |
| 3:15 PM | Break |
| 3:30 PM | Failure is Always (Not?) an Option: Early Life Survival & Recruitment Failure |
| 5:30 PM | Adjourn & Optional 6:30 PM Get Together |

November 16, 2017 – 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM

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|----------|---|
| 8:00 AM | Day 2 Workshop Overview |
| 8:15 AM | Taking Stock 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ Comparing Approaches to Stock Assessments and Survival Estimates ↓ Maturation Rates |
| 9:30 AM | Break |
| 9:45 AM | Taking Stock 2: Panel Discussion – Question, Implications & Opportunities |
| 10:40 AM | Conservation Aquaculture 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ Genetics ↓ Spontaneous Autopolyploidy ↓ Larvae Collection and Rearing |
| 12:00 PM | Lunch (provided) |
| 1:15 PM | Conservation Aquaculture 2: A Big Fish Story |
| 2:15 PM | Research Highlights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ Effects of Mercury in White Sturgeon ↓ 2 |
| 2:45 PM | Emerging Issues and Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ What Are the Most Pressing Emerging Issues? ↓ Future Basin-wide Sturgeon Workshops? ↓ White Sturgeon & the Council's Fish & Wildlife Program |
| 3:30 PM | Adjourn |