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October 28, 2014

### **DECISION MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Council members

**FROM:** Mark Fritsch, project implementation manager

**SUBJECT:** Follow-up review action for accord Project #2008-115-00, *Lake Roosevelt Burbot Population*

### **BACKGROUND:**

**Presenter:** Mark Fritsch, project implementation manager and Jason McLellan, project lead, Colville Confederated Tribes

**Summary:** The Fish and Wildlife Committee recommends that the Council support the project for continued implementation. This recommendation is conditioned on the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT) providing a status update on the pilot approach to the Fish and Wildlife Committee prior to 2017. In addition, full implementation of Deliverable 2 - which will correct Fall Walleye Index Netting for size and age selectivity - will be based on ISRP and favorable Council review demonstrating that the benefit of this effort provides confidence to the managers of Lake Roosevelt.

**Relevance:** The proposed action will address a condition placed on the project, as part of the Resident Fish, Data Management and Program Coordination Review of July 2012. The funding associated with this accord project totals \$1,499,375 in expense funds for Fiscal Year 2008<sup>1</sup> through 2017. The Fiscal Year 2014 expense budget for the project is \$229,182 and has a performance period of March 1, 2014 to February 28, 2015.

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<sup>1</sup> The first project budget was established in FY 2013.

Workplan: There are no 2014 division workplan tasks linked directly to this presentation.

Background: The intent of this project is to achieve a healthy and harvestable burbot population in Lake Roosevelt. The project monitors the status and trend of the Lake Roosevelt burbot population to facilitate management alternatives and implement appropriate strategies. Data collected through the project will be used to estimate current population harvest potential, evaluate alternative management scenarios, and assess recruitment variability.

The submittal and review of this Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT) accord project was conducted as part of the Council's 2011 Resident Fish Categorical Review. The ISRP review associated with the categorical review provided an "In Part" recommendation that addressed the evaluation of the burbot commonly observed in the bycatch of annual Lake Roosevelt Fall Walleye Index Netting (FWIN) surveys as a basis for the stock assessment in Lake Roosevelt. Based on the ISRP recommendation the Council provided the following specific recommendation as part of the Resident Fish, Data Management and Program Coordination Review of July 2012

*Implement Objective 1, deliverable 1 only through completion and not beyond FY2017 (Analysis of Fall Walleye Index Netting Bycatch Data). Sponsor to submit revised proposal based on this analysis for ISRP/Council for review and recommendation prior to additional assessment efforts in Lake Roosevelt.*

On June 2, 2014 the CCT and Bonneville submitted a revised proposal based on their analysis of the FWIN data and assessment of its adequacy for Burbot stock assessment.

On July 31, 2014 the ISRP provided their review (ISRP document 2014-8). The ISRP found the revised proposal meeting scientific review criteria in part (qualified).

The ISRP provided an "in part (qualified)" recommendation to ensure that the proposed supplemental sampling (i.e., Deliverable 2<sup>2</sup>) is implemented in a pilot phase that can demonstrate benefit to burbot management in Lake Roosevelt. The CCT has proposed this sampling (e.g., trawls, cod

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<sup>2</sup> Lake Roosevelt FWIN Burbot data that is corrected for size and age selectivity (DELV-2). The Lake Roosevelt FWIN data will be corrected for size and age selectivity due to gear bias. The bias corrected data set will be utilized to provide accurate estimates of stock assessment indices (Deliverable 1), as well as accurate estimates of fishery potential (Deliverables 3 and 4), which are necessary to provide meaningful technical advice to the Lake Roosevelt fishery managers (i.e., Estimate of Lake Roosevelt Burbot harvest potential under current management and population characteristics (DELV-3), and Estimate of Lake Roosevelt Burbot harvest potential under alternate management scenarios (DELV-4)).

traps and trammel nets) concurrent with FWIN using gears that will capture burbot of different sizes and ages, and use the information to correct catch at age data and calculate age-based stock assessment indices.

As expressed by the ISRP in their qualification, the CCT are also concerned about the feasibility and effectiveness of this expanded field monitoring and agree with the ISRP on the need to demonstrate a benefit before implementing beyond a pilot phase.

Based on the extensive ISRP review and comments (16 pages) and the CCT concurrence regarding the pilot approach associated with Deliverable 2, the Fish and Wildlife Committee recommends the Council supports this project for continued implementation. This recommendation is conditioned on the CCT providing a status update on the pilot approach to the Fish and Wildlife Committee prior to 2017. In addition, full implementation of Deliverable 2 - which will correct Fall Walleye Index Netting for size and age selectivity - will be based on ISRP and favorable Council review demonstrating that the benefit of this effort provides confidence to the managers of Lake Roosevelt.

More Info: [INDREV14-2008-115-00](#)