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July 1, 2010

## DECISION MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council members

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

**SUBJECT:** Council decision on Project #2008-508-00, *Power Analysis Catch Sampling Rates*, Columbia Basin Fish Accord project.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** That the Council support implementing the initial aspects of this project, with further implementation dependent on review by the ISRP and Council of a revised proposal containing information requested by the ISRP.

## BUDGETARY/ECONOMIC IMPACTS

The total budget for this Accord project is \$546,041 (the budget ranges from \$48,315 to \$60,920 per year<sup>1</sup>) in expense funds for Fiscal Years 2008 through 2017. The Contract Request (CR-106603) has a start date of March 1, 2010 and an end date of April 30, 2011.

## BACKGROUND

In 2008-2009, the Bonneville Power Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Action Agencies) signed agreements with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWSRO), the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (YN), and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC). The agreements with these Tribes and CRITFC are referred to as the Three Treaty Tribes MOA. The Action Agencies also signed agreements with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CCT), the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (SBT), and the states of Idaho, Montana, and Washington. These agreements are known as the Columbia Basin Fish Accords.

As set forth in the guidance document outlining the review process for the Accords, the Council recognizes Bonneville's commitment to Accord projects. The Accords do not, however, alter the Council's responsibilities with respect to independent scientific review of project proposals or

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<sup>1</sup> This range includes the anticipated 2.5 percent annual inflation adjustment, beginning in Fiscal Year 2010.

the Council's role following such reviews. As with all projects in the Fish and Wildlife Program, Accord projects are subject to review by the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP), and the Council provides implementation recommendations based on full consideration of the ISRP's report and the Council's Program.

On July 30, 2009, the Council received from Bonneville a Columbia Basin Fish Accord proposal from the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), #2008-508-00, *Power Analysis Catch Sampling Rates*. The proposal was submitted to the ISRP for review. On August 26, 2009, the ISRP requested additional information so the panel could determine if the proposal met scientific criteria (ISRP document 2009-37).

The overarching goal of this project is to develop a monitoring framework for tribal harvest estimates throughout the Columbia Basin. The project also seeks to implement better data collection and distribution technologies to improve harvest estimates. The project has the following long-term objectives.

- Ensuring that the sample design and estimation methods for producing tribal catch estimates are statistically valid;
- Making accurate harvest data readily available for decision making;
- Improving the transparency and dissemination of catch estimates, with associated variances; and
- Accounting for the uncertainty of estimates in management.

On April 26, 2010 the Council received a response from Bonneville, and on May 25, 2010 the Council received the final review from the ISRP (ISRP document 2010-14). The ISRP found that the proposal Meets Scientific Review Criteria (Qualified). No public comment has been received on the ISRP reviews.

## ANALYSIS

The ISRP supports the overarching goal of the project, but found additional detail is needed to address the project's long-term objectives. The ISRP indicated the need for additional information should not hold up implementation of the initial phase of the project, which involves documenting the precision of the current methods and estimates of Zone 6 tribal gillnet harvest. The ISRP recommended that the proponents initiate the project for one year, subject to the submission of a revised proposal for review for other project activities.

Based on the ISRP review the Fish and Wildlife Committee recommended at its June 2010 meeting that the Council recommend that Bonneville implement the initial aspects of the project, consistent with the ISRP's recommendation. The Fish and Wildlife Committee also recommends that implementation in the out years requires receipt and review, by the ISRP and the Council of a revised proposal providing the additional information on the project as requested by the ISRP.