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November 3, 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Doug Marker
Peter Paquet

SUBJECT: Completing the All-H Analyzer technical work

At the October meeting in Eugene the Council learned about the work the contractor did for the Council in developing the AHA tool, loading data for every stock, and conducting workshops to begin verifying the data. The purpose of this memorandum is to outline the next steps.

What we describe here is based on the following three assumptions:

- The Council continues to see the need for technical work that "rolls up" the subbasin plans and other information and activities in the basin. The purpose is to get a rough but useful sense of what might be the collective result of all this activity on populations and their habitat conditions at a province or ESU scale.
- The AHA method is suitable for this purpose, and so we need to complete the AHA work. This means verifying the rest of the data inputs, running the results by stock, and then rolling up or aggregating the inputs and producing the results for the select species in each province.
- This information will or may be of use to the Council and others for a number of reasons, ranging from hatchery reform, to project selection, to recovery planning, to harvest discussions, and so forth. But the primary benefits to the Council is the insights it will provide in preparation for an effort to develop quantitative biological objectives for the program. Completing the technical work is a prerequisite to beginning such a policy effort, and the schedule for completing the AHA work will drive the timing of the initiation of the objective setting effort.

The Council should let us know if these assumptions are not correct. All else follows from them.

Completing the AHA work has three components: (1) Maintaining AHA; that is, the tool and data on the web and software support services. (2) Completing the verification of the input data. (3) Running and displaying the results, which include population abundance and productivity changes and other results for each stock and as aggregated for each anadromous species in a province and ESU. For further explanation of these first two components:

Maintaining AHA: the tool and data on the web and software support services. We need to do this not just to complete the technical roll-up work, but also to have the tool and data in place for people to use in the subsequent policy processes, for developing scenarios with different sets of actions and objectives and getting a rough sense in return as to what the population results might be for these different scenarios. We have confirmed with Bonneville that there are FY05 funds contracted for this data management purpose but unspent. These can be applied to the task of maintaining AHA for the next 5 months. Then, we propose to use part of the FY06 data management placeholder to cover the expenses for the rest of FY06. We will return to the Council later in the year with a proposed Statement of Work to that end for Council review and approval.

Completing the verification of the input data. This means reviewing the stocks and data currently loaded in AHA to understand the quality of the inputs; preparing a master list of which stocks need what level of verification; prepare an action plan to finish those stocks; make use of and expand the existing registered user/helper teams to help finish the data verification; and then contact and work with the appropriate people in the subbasins to finish this effort. This may not mean formal workshops -- it may mean a number of informal gatherings.

We propose to finish the work not by another contract for consulting services with the AHA contractor, but instead through a staff-led effort that also makes use of those in the basin willing to help. Existing Fish and Wildlife Division staff who will be assigned to this effort will include Peter Paquet and Lynn Palensky. To replace Bruce Suzumoto, who was the staff lead, we will need to hire a person on a short-term/temporary staff contract, using funds made available with Bruce's departure. That person will become the staff lead on the project in terms of technical support, facilitation and day-to-day administration of the work. And finally, we plan to involve people from other entities as active participants in helping us through this effort, potentially include CBFWA staff and staff from other agencies such as WDFW and USFWS.

Our estimate is that the work can be finished in the spring, even early spring if all the pieces fit together. From our discussions with many of the people who will be necessary participants in this effort, one obstacle to finishing sooner than that is the very same people will be diverted over the next month or more to developing project proposals for the FY07 review.

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