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February 8, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Doug Marker, Director
Fish and Wildlife Division

SUBJECT: Briefing on measures to control sea lion predation at Bonneville Dam

Dave Clugston, of the Portland District of the Army Corps of Engineers and Garth Griffin, of NOAA Fisheries will present measures planned to reduce seal and sea lion predation on adult salmon at Bonneville Dam. This is a briefing in anticipation of the beginning of the spring adult salmon migration.

Last year marine mammal predators congregated at Bonneville Dam and even climbed into the fish ladders to attack migrating salmon. Because seals and sea lions are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, measures to ward off predation are limited. The Corps used various harassment techniques permitted under the Act, and tested metal screens at the entrance of the fish ladders that kept the animals out while allowing salmon to pass in. The Corps is installing more durable structures at the ladders this year. There will also be additional techniques used to chase seals and seal lions away from the dam.

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