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February 8, 2006

To: Fish and Wildlife Committee

From: Doug Marker, Director
Fish and Wildlife Division

Subject: Proposed 2006 Fish and Wildlife Division Work Plan

Attached is the proposed 2006 Fish and Wildlife Division work plan for discussion at the February 21 Committee meeting. It is structured with specific milestones in each major objective area to use to track our progress through the year and discuss revisions as necessary.

Our major work will include the 2007-2009 project selection process and initiation of a provincial objectives amendment process. Much of the individual staff work links to these two major processes. For example, our work to define an integrated regional monitoring and evaluation framework supports the project selection process and the definitions of provincial objectives.

A few points to note:

- The project selection schedule is well-defined and we are progressing through provincial prioritization. The staff are working with Bonneville and CBFWA to organize the mainstem/systemwide review. We will also be working with the Committee and Council on significant programmatic and project-specific issues to resolve in the course of the selection process.

The ongoing collaborative discussions for the Biological Opinion remand could result in definitions of new needs as we proceed through the selection process. We think that our definition of a clear schedule and participation by the ISRP and local review groups adds to the strength of the implementation plan that the Council will develop.

- We are adding a new staff member to focus on mainstem amendment implementation. While the Biological Opinion remand is addressing operational alternatives for the Proposed Action, we expect to support Council analysis of those alternatives with attention to non-listed and resident fish. We have been engaged in the Regional Forum to promote long range planning for implementation of Mainstem Amendment measures.

The milestones in the proposed workplan reflect that planning, but we will want to revisit the schedule and priorities when our new staff member is on board.

- Congress has appropriated funds to NOAA Fisheries to pursue hatchery reform in a matter consistent with the Puget Sound and Coastal Washington Hatchery Reform Project. Congress directed NOAA to work with the Council and others. This course of action is consistent with our recommendations to Congress following the Artificial Production and Evaluation (APRE) project. We believe that our current work to complete data verification for the All-H Analyzer tool is consistent with this approach. However, NOAA is just beginning to lay out their work plan. We have begun coordination with their team and we think our work is compatible. However, we need to have more conversations to help our work fit with theirs. The immediate product of our work with the All-H Analyzer is to develop “derived objectives” for our call for amendments for provincial objectives.

Fish & Wildlife Division Workplan Tracking and Assessment - 2006

Complete recommendations for Fiscal Year 2007-2009 Project Recommendations and Funding

COUNCIL STAFF	OTHERS
Patty O'Toole; Mark Fritsch; Erik Merrill	BPA; CBFWA; ISRP; Provincial Groups

TIMELINE	1 st Quarter 2006	2 nd Quarter 2006	3 rd Quarter 2006	4 th Quarter 2006
MILESTONES	1. Outline and develop recommendations for existing and new programmatic and project issues (discuss relevant issues w/ committee) 2. Draft and distribute guidance doc. 3. Sort and distribute proposals 4. Outline and schedule for mainstem/systemwide 5. Support local review processes as requested	1. Develop recommendations for existing and new programmatic and project issues (discuss relevant issues w/ committee) 2. Mainstem draft recommendations to Committee 3. Support local review processes as requested	1. Complete recommendations for existing and new programmatic and project issues (discuss relevant issues w/ committee) 2. Develop FY 07-09 funding decision document 3. Support local review processes as requested 4. ISRP final recommendation	Complete FY 07-09 funding decision document and submit recommendations to BPA
	1. In process 2. Complete 3. Complete 4. In process 5. Ongoing			
COMMENTS				

Open Program for provincial objective amendments

COUNCIL STAFF		OTHERS		
Lynn Palensky; Peter Paquet		Contractors; NOAA; BPA; F&W Managers		
TIMELINE	1 st Quarter 2006	2 nd Quarter 2006	3 rd Quarter 2006	4 th Quarter 2006
MILESTONES	Begin work for AHA data management and data verification (contracts)	1. Complete Data Verification 2. Generate results and aggregate to province 3. Complete “derived objectives”	1. Finalize issue paper 2. Call for recommendations	1. Review public comments and recommendations 2. Draft Amendment Document
STATUS	In process			
COMMENTS				

Define regional monitoring framework

COUNCIL STAFF	OTHERS
Steve Waste; Peter Paquet	PNAMP; NED;

TIMELINE	1 st Quarter 2006	2 nd Quarter 2006	3 rd Quarter 2006	4 th Quarter 2006
MILESTONES	1. Confirm substance of Regional Framework 2. Continue development of Regional Data Portal	1) Confirm Council Support for Regional Framework 2) Define High Level Indicators 3) Develop Organizational & Administrative Arrangements for Regional Data Network 4) Identify Sources & Mechanisms for Funding Data Management	Report on Consistency of Proposals with the Framework 2) Draft Regional Data Sharing Agreements 3) Complete subbasin data retrieval and archiving	1) Guidance for future RM&E Implementation 2) Complete draft plan for regional data networking center
STATUS	1. In Process 2. In Process			
COMMENTS				

Implement research plan

COUNCIL STAFF	OTHERS
Steve Waste	Regional research partners

TIMELINE	1 st Quarter 2006	2 nd Quarter 2006	3 rd Quarter 2006	4 th Quarter 2006
MILESTONES	Approval of Research Plan	Application of Research Plan in 07-09 Project Selection	1. Convene regional research partnership 2. Application in AFEP review	
STATUS	Complete (@ February mtg)			
COMMENTS				

Incorporate Bi-Op requirements and ESA recovery planning through Council process

COUNCIL STAFF	OTHERS
Palensky, O'Toole	NOAA Fisheries, FWS, Bonneville; local project reviewers

TIMELINE	1 st Quarter 2006	2 nd Quarter 2006	3 rd Quarter 2006	4 th Quarter 2006
MILESTONES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support BiOp requirements through clear communication of schedules, process products from provincial review 2. Continue to encourage PWG to look at other programs for filling gaps 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Possibility in March for NOAA/BPA to present to Council their BiOp workplan and schedule '07-09 schedule 2. Support BiOp requirements through clear communication of schedules, process products from provincial review 	Identify potential gaps in implementation and BiOp requirements	Incorporate strategy to address implementation gaps in '07-09 decision document
STATUS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In process (briefing material) 2. In process (last mtg - 2/1/06) 			
COMMENTS	Recovery planning will be coordinated with RM&E and AHA			

Major project reviews

COUNCIL STAFF	OTHERS
Mark Fritsch	

TIMELINE	1 st Quarter 2006	2 nd Quarter 2006	3 rd Quarter 2006	4 th Quarter 2006
MILESTONES	Klickitat master plan review	NEOH	Revisions to major project review process	
STATUS	Being proposed	(expected)		
COMMENTS	Revisions to review process are a topic for the FY 07-09 project selection process			

Mainstem amendment implementation

COUNCIL STAFF	OTHERS
New staff member	Regional Forum participants

TIMELINE	1 st Quarter 2006	2 nd Quarter 2006	3 rd Quarter 2006	4 th Quarter 2006
MILESTONES		1. Establish issue priorities for Regional Forum agenda 2. Council support for System Flood Control Study feasibility stage 3. Support 07-09 project selection coordination with AFEP program 4. Support new fish passage model development 5. Ongoing analytical support for system operation alternatives	1. Support Libby/Hungry Horse operations consistent with Mainstem Amendments 2. Initiate fall Chinook transport evaluation	TBD
STATUS				
COMMENTS	Need to reconcile priorities in the context of BiOp litigation -- Long term issue planning occurs in Regional Forum			

Implement recommendations of Artificial Production Review and Evaluation (APRE)

COUNCIL STAFF	OTHERS			
Palensky (for coordination)	NOAA Fisheries; Fisheries managers			
TIMELINE	1 st Quarter 2006	2 nd Quarter 2006	3 rd Quarter 2006	4 th Quarter 2006
MILESTONES		Complete AHA data verification and determine fit with congressional guidance to NOAA for hatchery integration	TBD	
STATUS				
COMMENTS	Work would follow Council recommendations to Congress. NOAA Fisheries currently outlining proposed approach			