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November 29, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council

FROM: Mark Fritsch, Project Implementation Manager, and Erik Merrill, ISRP/ISAB Coordinator

SUBJECT: Supplementation Panel

ISRP Chairman Eric Loudenslager will lead the briefing by providing a short overview of the ISAB and ISRP's prior reports on supplementation. These include:

- [Retrospective Report 1997-2005](#) (2005-14)
- [Monitoring and Evaluation of Supplementation Projects](#) (2005-15)
- [Review of Salmon and Steelhead Supplementation](#) (2003-3)

He will also describe the regional response to FCRPS Biological Opinion (2000) Action 182:

The Action Agencies and NMFS shall work within regional priorities and congressional appropriations processes to establish and provide the appropriate level of FCRPS funding for studies to determine the reproductive success of hatchery fish relative to wild fish. At a minimum, two to four studies shall be conducted in each ESU. The Action Agencies shall work with the Technical Recovery Teams to identify the most appropriate populations or stocks for these studies not later than 2002. Studies shall begin no later than 2003.

The ISRP and ISAB's Monitoring and Evaluation of Supplementation Projects report (2005-15) described the nature of the uncertainties which exist regarding the benefits and risks of hatchery supplementation as a conservation action, in particular deleterious effects that supplementation may have of long-term population fitness. These uncertainties are paraphrased in the four questions provided by the Council, which are relevant to the preceding briefing by Dr. Michael Blouin:

1. What information does your project collect to indicate if supplementation is preserving the genetic fitness of wild fish?

2. Do you have evidence countering, qualifying, or confirming the OSU article on cumulative fitness decline in the wild?

3. How have hatchery fish helped to increase wild fish populations? Any evidence that supplementation is helping?

4. If genetic fitness information is not being collected, what experimental design could be put in place to answer this question? When would we have an answer to this question?

The ISRP and ISAB report concluded with a recommendation for a group of expert practitioners to develop a study design (as per Question 4) to provide a regional assessment of the effectiveness and impacts of supplementation. A relatively large number of fisheries managers and scientists came together to address these issues in two successive workshops, subsequent to which, a small working group (the Ad Hoc Supplementation Workgroup) was convened to summarize the group's discussions into a report with specific recommendations for needed monitoring actions and analytical designs. The Supplementation Workgroup last gave a progress report to the Council at the June 2007 Bonners Ferry meeting. The group plans to finalize their report this winter after which it will be brought before the full group for review.

In today's presentation, a small panel of persons associated with the Supplementation Workgroup will provide summary responses to the questions posed by the Council. These responses will reflect the thinking of discussions held during the Supplementation Workshops and will complement information presented by Dr. Blouin. Questions 1 and 2 will be addressed by Mike Ford (ISAB *Ex Officio* for NOAA Fisheries) and Barry Berejikian (NOAA Fisheries). Question 3 will be addressed by Rich Carmichael (ODFW; or Barry Berejikian). And, Question 4 will be addressed by Peter Galbreath (CRITFC), who will present an outline of the Supplementation Workgroup report and its draft recommendations.

Other workgroup members who will join the panel in person or by phone include Jay Hesse (Nez Perce Tribe) and David Fast (Yakama Nation).

These brief presentations will be followed with time for open discussions, after which Dr. Loudenslager will provide some concluding remarks and outline next steps.