

W. Bill Booth
Chair
Idaho

James A. Yost
Idaho

Tom Karier
Washington

Dick Wallace
Washington



Bruce A. Measure
Vice-Chair
Montana

Rhonda Whiting
Montana

Melinda S. Eden
Oregon

Joan M. Dukes
Oregon

January 21, 2009

Mr. William C. Maslen
Manager, Fish and Wildlife Division
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208

Dear Mr. Maslen:

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the Council's decision on a Columbia River Fish Accord proposal. This recommendation was made by the Council at its meeting on January 15, 2009.

In addition, a purpose of this letter is to inform the project sponsor and other interested parties of the status of this Council action. The following is a summary of the action taken by the Council at the meeting in January.

Genetic Assessment of Columbia River Stocks, Project #2008-907-00

In May 2008, Bonneville, US Army Corps of Engineers, and US Bureau of Reclamation signed agreements with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation (CTWSRO), the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (YN), the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, and the states of Idaho and Montana to implement a set of projects and actions that will deliver specific, scientifically sound results for the region's fish and wildlife.

As with all projects in the Fish and Wildlife Program, the accord projects were subject to scientific review by the ISRP. As outlined in the guidance document associated with the review process for the Accords, the Council recognizes Bonneville commitments to the projects under the Accords. However, the Accords do not alter the Council's responsibilities with respect to ISRP review or the Council's role following ISRP review. Consequently, the Council will provide its recommendation on each project based on full consideration of the ISRP report and the Council's program.

On November 4, 2008, the Council received from Bonneville a set of 11 Columbia River Fish Accord proposals. The submittal received reflects proposals from CTWSRO, YN and CRITFC.

On December, 12, 2008 the ISRP provided a review (ISRP document 2008-15) of the 11 proposals and found that only one of the proposals meets the ISRP's scientific review criteria (i.e., "provides adequate scientific justification for the proposed activity"). The remaining ten proposals needed additional information before the ISRP could determine if they meet scientific criteria (please see Attachment 1).

The review received from the ISRP provides a preliminary review for all but one of the proposals. The one proposal found to meet scientific review criteria is a final review recommendation for the *Genetic Assessment of Columbia River Stocks*, Project #2008-907-00. The remaining ten proposals are being requested to provide additional information before the ISRP can provide a final determination on whether they meet scientific criteria¹.

The *Genetic Assessment of Columbia River Stocks*, Project #2008-907-00 submitted by the CRITFC is a compellation of the following four accord proposal from the May 2008 agreement. These proposals are new and are categories as not benefitting an ESA action in support of the FCRSP BiOp implementation².

- Proposal #2008-501-00, *GSI (Genetic Stock Identification) to Evaluate catch*, Attachment B, New, Category 2c
- Proposal #2008-510-00, *SNP (Single Nucleotide Polymorphism) Discovery*, Attachment B, New, Category 3
- Proposal #2008-511-00, *Bonneville GSI*, Attachment B, New, Category 3
- Proposal #2008-520-00, *Genetic baseline expansion*, Attachment B, New, Category 3

The proposals were inter-dependant upon each other³, and were therefore combined by agreement by the sponsor and Bonneville for the review submittal. The objectives of this project is to address needs for distinguishing specific stocks, determining genetic diversity, stock specific run timing, and estimating stock composition for improved fisheries management and harvest. Through the analysis and evaluation of the single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) markers the sponsor hopes to expand existing baselines for genetic stock identification (GSI) of salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River Basin.

The ISRP found that the project meets review criteria and stated that it was well written and justified. The ISRP did provide some recommendations to the sponsor regarding design details and communication of the data collected. The ISRP felt that the project addresses needs of the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program because many management, mitigation, and conservation decisions regarding Columbia River Basin salmon are driven by the spatial, temporal, and life-history structure of salmon diversity.

Based on the review and information received the Council recommends the proposal for implementation. The proposal met the expectation of science review and the recommendations provided by the ISRP for the project can be addressed through contracting. The Council

¹ On December 15, 2008 the ISRP sent requests to the sponsors for additional information.

² Category 2c and Category 3 - Actions benefitting other fish and wildlife species addressed under the Northwest Power Act and additional RME actions.

³ SNP markers are needed to complete species specific baselines, and these baselines are requisite to complete GSI.

conditioned this recommendation with the understanding that the project proponent will participate in development of a regional approach to monitoring, evaluation, research and reporting strategies and that some changes to scope and intent of this project may be required when the regional strategy is in place.

Sincerely,

Tony Grover
Director, Fish and Wildlife Division

cc: Jamae Hilliard Creecy, BPA
Peter Lofy, BPA
Christine Read, BPA
Paul Krueger, BPA
Greg Dondlinger, BPA
David Byrnes, BPA
Tracy Hauser, BPA
Molly Moreland, BPA
Shawn Narum, CRITFC
Doug Hatch, CRITFC
Brian Lipscomb, CBFWA
Binh Quan, CBFWA