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September 9, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee

FROM: Tony Grover, Patty O'Toole, Nancy Leonard, and John Shurts

SUBJECT: Update on the Fish and Wildlife Program in preparation for the next program amendment process.

Staff will briefly discuss how the Fish and Wildlife Program has evolved over the years since the first Program in 1982. Most of the discussion will look forward to what can be done to prepare for the next Program amendment, which should commence in 2013 or 2014. In particular, staff will focus on how the Monitoring Evaluation Research and Reporting (MERR) Plan development will be coordinated with multiyear action plans, subbasin management plan updates, categorical reviews and high level indicators. Additional discussion of what, if any, updates to the program's scientific foundation, emphasis on offsite mitigation, and other foundational elements of the Program may be needed. Some discussion of the more mature elements of the program, such as dam passage and wildlife mitigation may also be helpful.

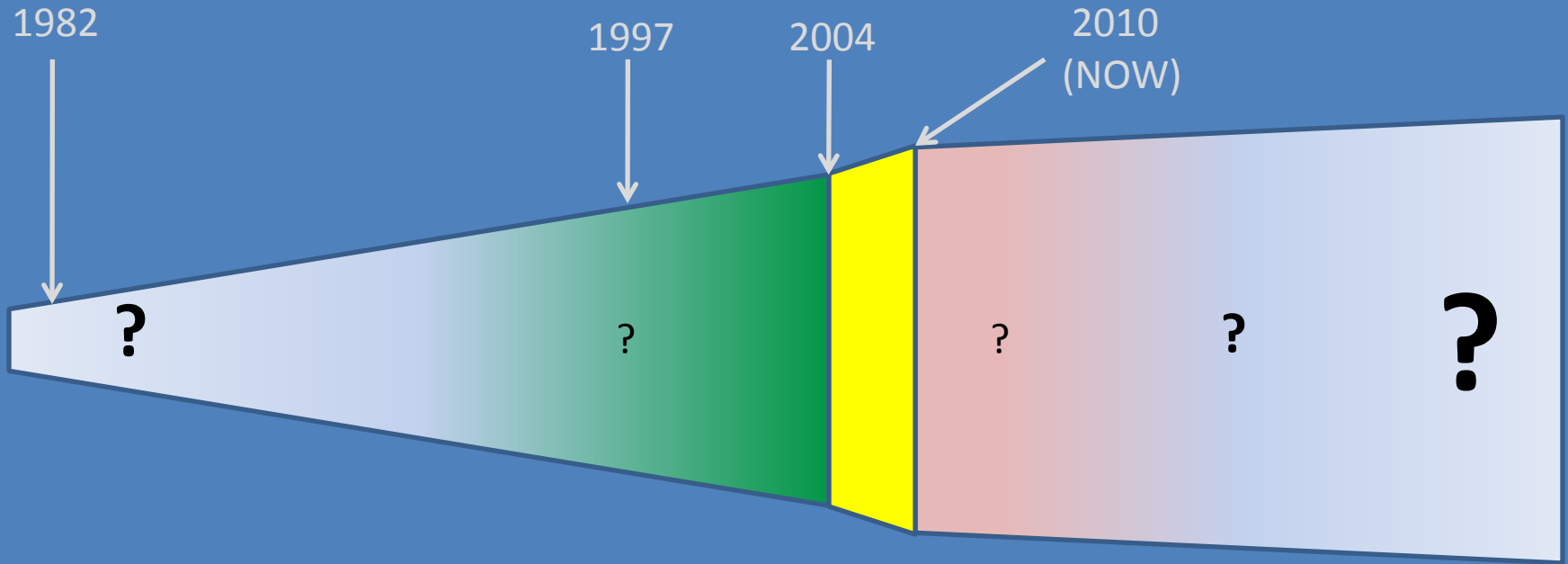
An underwater photograph showing several salmon swimming in clear, blue water. In the background, the legs and fins of divers are visible, suggesting a marine research or conservation activity. The lighting is bright, creating a clear view of the fish and the surrounding environment.

FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Preparing for the next Program Amendment

Fish and Wildlife work under the Council's program

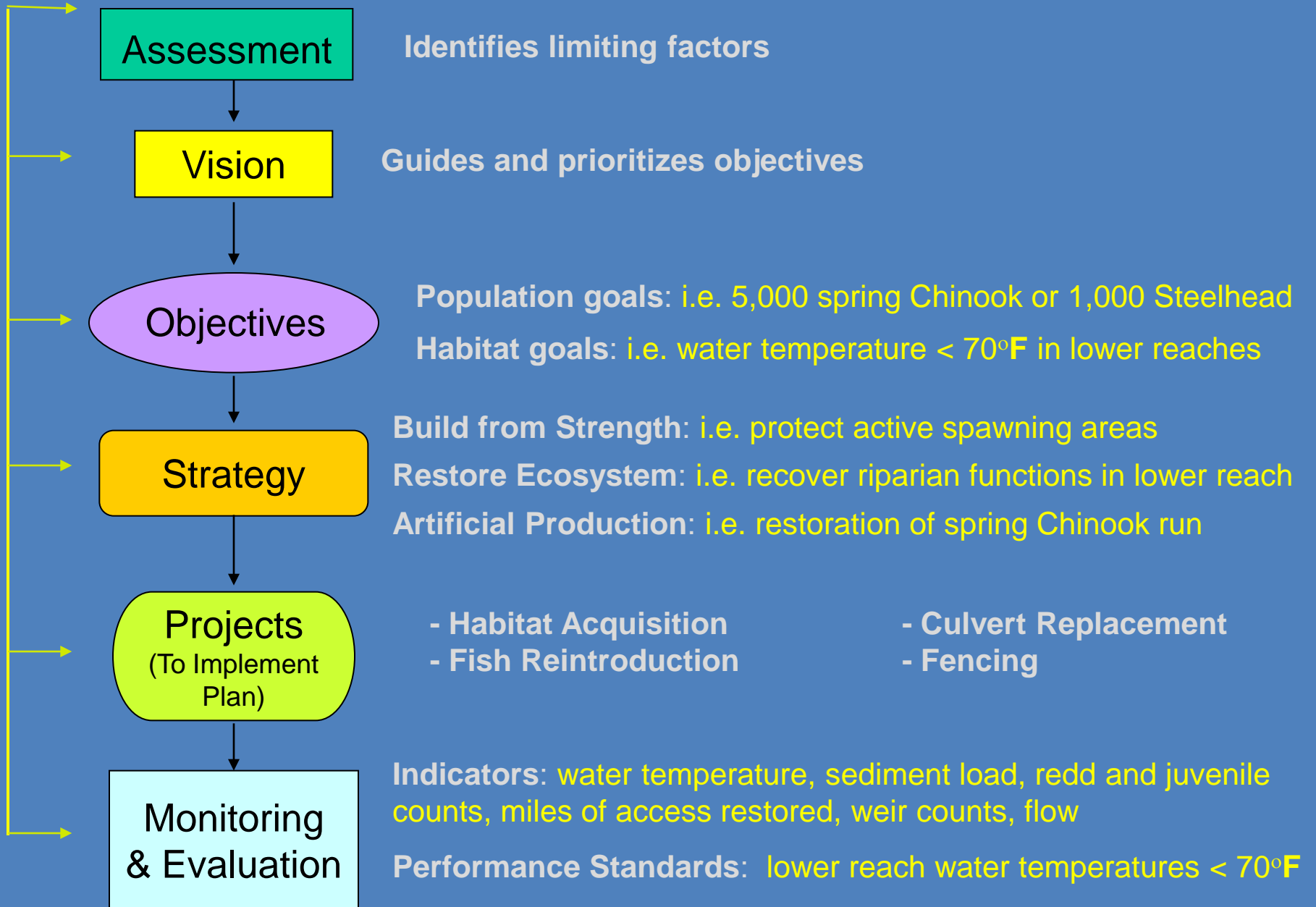
"What we've done and what we need to do next"



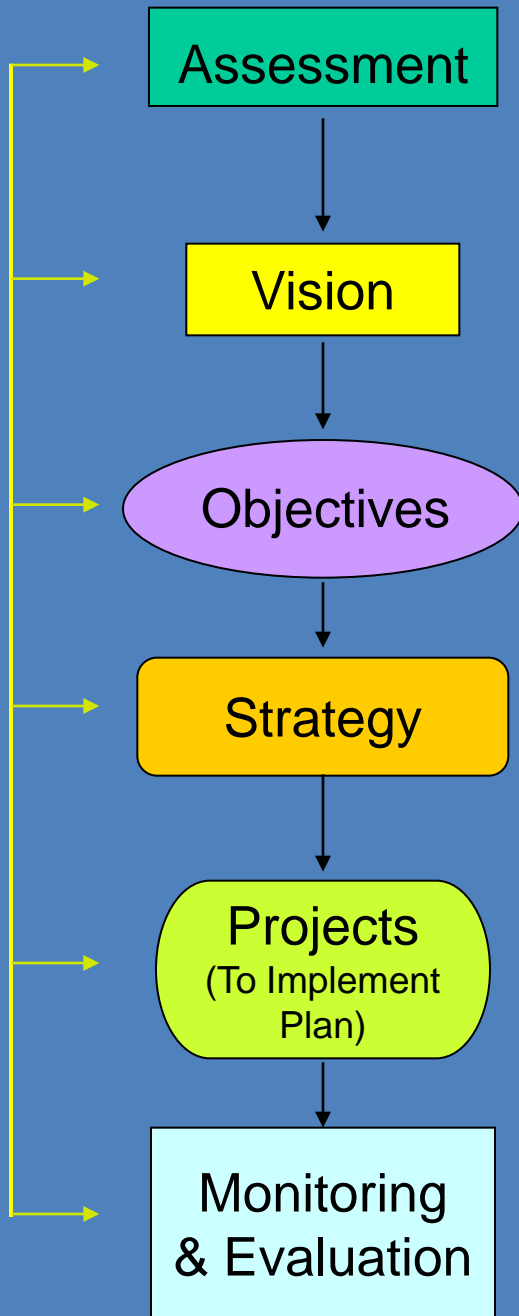
What Happened between 1996 & 2009?

- **Multi-Species Framework** and **Scientific Foundation** developed in response to several scientific critiques which resulted in a significant change in the Program in 2000.
- **Subbasin and Mainstem Plans** were adopted which highlighted:
 - Subbasin focused ecosystem assessments
 - Collaborative planning
- **Pisces** became the BPA project tracking tool
 - Is now the workhorse for all project activity (**Taurus**)
 - www.cbfish.org is the publicly accessible search tool
- After many ESA listings, the Columbia Basin **TRTs** (technical recovery teams) established **VSP criteria** for populations of ESA listed fish, including hatchery influence and ocean importance.
- 2009 program focused on **performance** and **metrics**, which are also the foundations of the 2008 BiOp along with survival improvements.

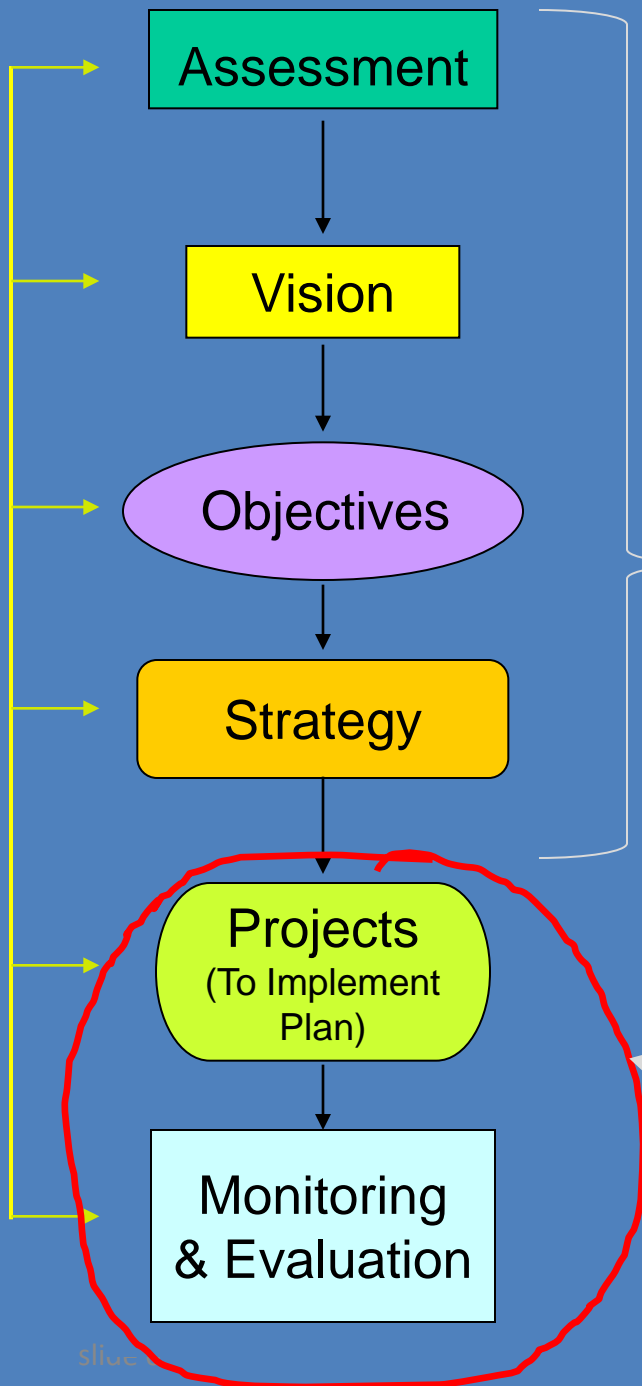
Fish & Wildlife Program Scientific Foundation



Scientific Foundation



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Since the mid 1990's until about 2005 we made good progress on the first 4 steps at all scales from basin-wide to subbasin or smaller scale.

We are now focused on these last 2.

Recap: What we've done

- 1982 to 1995 - *Fish & Wildlife Programs* were based on **Fish Passage**.
- 1995 – 2000 *Fish & Wildlife Programs* expanded to include **off site mitigation , Supplementation/Production, and Harvest**.
- 2000 Program established a **scientifically based and habitat based integrated framework**.
- 2004-05 Subbasin Plans added three more fish elements: **Focal Species, Limiting Factors, Priority Stream Reaches**.
- 2009 Program – focus is on **implementation and performance**, incorporates BiOps & Accords.
 - Developing MERR, Categorical Reviews, MYAPs, HLIs.

What we need to do next

The MERR Plan, emerging science, policy developments and changes in project types all suggest it is time to enhance the Program's adaptive management, hone Program's objectives, and improve Program progress, assessment and reporting.

1. Program Cost effectiveness - integrating across all 4Hs, coordinate among projects, and collaborate on M&E
 - **Guidance in MERR Plan**
2. 10-year Work Plan - focus implementation where it counts the most and be ready to implement when the opportunity is ripe
 - **MYAP and 10-year accords/MOAs**
3. Keep Abreast of Improvements – apply best available technology and most efficient approach for Program implementation such as relying on genetic information versus tags for tracking fish
 - **ISRP Project Review (categorical review), ISAB Reports**
4. Assess status of Program elements and identify what may be completed, such as improving dam passage and wildlife mitigation, and where our focus needs to shift
 - **Guidance in MERR Plan, ISRP Project Reviews, ISAB Reports**