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**ISAB Report Presentation:  
Review of the Columbia Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Program**

ISAB members Rich Alldredge, Chair, and Colin Levings, review lead, will present findings from the ISAB's report which contains evaluations of three documents that summarize past research and guide future work of the Columbia Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Program: a synthesis memorandum, a 2012 strategy report, and a 2012 action plan. The ISAB's report is scheduled for release and posting to the ISAB's web page ([www.nwcouncil.org/fw/isab](http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/isab)) by September 10, 2012.



# Review of the Columbia Estuary System Restoration Program

September 11, 2012  
Astoria, OR



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# Acknowledgments

- ISAB colleagues
- Council staff
- CEERP Authors
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  - Pacific Northwest National Laboratory



# Assignment

- Evaluation of three draft documents: 2012 Synthesis Memorandum, 2013 Strategy Report, and 2013 Action Plan
- Created in response to a July 2011 Council recommendation as part of the RME/AP review.
- Documents submitted in July 2012 and presentation made to the ISAB in August.
- The Council staff asked the ISAB six questions to consider in the review.

# General Comments

- Documents provide an effective overview of the current status of the CEERP.
- Excellent effort to identify relationships between the Synthesis memorandum, the Strategy Report, and the Action Plan
- Adaptive management is the key to updating Synthesis, Strategy, and Action Plan.

## General Comments (continued)

- Synthesis is a well-written summary of the research history of the estuary.
- Regular communication among estuarine researchers and programs contributes to rapidly improved understanding of estuarine structure and processes.
- The estuarine research community is actively developing methods that are proving useful in dynamic ecosystems, such as the estuary.

# ISAB Recommendations and Findings

1. Need more justification that the restoration approaches are sufficient to achieve the overall goal and objectives of the CEERP. A focused symposium involving scientists from outside the Basin or a weight of evidence approach might be useful.
2. Need to clarify how the CEERP key concepts relate to ecological concepts typically used in salmon population dynamic studies.

# ISAB Recommendations and Findings (continued)

3. More details are needed before the scientific merit of using survival benefit units (SBUs) for prioritization can be evaluated.
4. The ISAB concurs that there is a very serious shortfall in action effectiveness monitoring. CEERP has developed useful monitoring protocols but evidence that technology transfer is taking place and the methods are being used is needed.

# ISAB Recommendations and Findings (continued)

5. More discussion of hydro system-estuary and estuary-ocean interactions is needed to better understand limiting factors and the effects of habitat restoration in the estuary.
6. A discussion involving the public and other stakeholders about creating a more structured process for prioritization within a landscape context would be useful.

# ISAB Recommendations and Findings (continued)

7. CEERP acknowledges the critical role of coordination and diverse participation. An objective focused on continued development of the broader governance/coordination process would be useful to make this point explicit and formalize the existing commitment.



Thank you!

