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February 4, 2014

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

**FROM:** Council staff

**SUBJECT:** Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment discussion

- Toxics and RME subgroups
- Program outline
- Schedule

At the February Committee meeting, Council staff will be prepared to discuss progress on developing an amended Fish and Wildlife program.

Two Committee-appointed subgroups have been meeting periodically to review recommendations and draft program language on the topics of toxic contaminants and research, monitoring, and biological objectives. Staff will provide the Committee with updates on the progress being made by these subgroups.

Also, the staff is taking the direction received from the Committee to date and is drafting program language for many sections of the program. As one piece of this effort the staff is working on revising the draft program outline with several goals in mind: to streamline and clarify the language, minimize duplication, address the needs of various audiences, and improve how the guidance in the program is presented. The staff will discuss progress and issues associated with this task.

An updated schedule for the program amendment process is attached. The Committee is targeting the end of March 2014 for a draft program to send to the full Council for consideration. Please note that this will require extra Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting days in March. Staff will work with members and their staff to arrange these dates. Staff anticipates that the full Council will work with the draft program throughout the month of April, with decision to release the draft program in early May.

## 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment Timeline *Revised February 4th, 2014*

