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June 3, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee members

FROM: Tony Grover, Fish and Wildlife Division Director

SUBJECT: Update on the Fish Tagging Forum consensus recommendations

Council staff will provide an update to the Fish and Wildlife committee on the current understanding of the status of the Council's decision and recommendation to ([20 August 2013 Decision Letter](#)) related to the Fish Tagging Forum's (Forum) 17 consensus issues.

The attached table provides the consensus recommendations from the Forum, which the Council endorsed during the Council's [July 30, 2013 meeting](#). The table reflects the status of implementation of actions to implement the Forum's consensus recommendations (Table 1) and suggests some minor clarifications and changes (in red).

Table 1: Status of follow up activities for the Fish Tagging Forum's consensus recommendations as adopted by the Council in August 2013. *Schedule revisions suggested in red.*

Issue #	Council Recommendation	Status Update	Contact	Action	Action Needed
1	Any reduction in funding associated with the recommendations would be available for redirection to other F&W projects.	TBD by Council Members	BPA	BPA provide update on cost savings/ redirection of funds from FTF	X <u>July 2014</u>
2	NOAA to provide guidance in coordination with state, tribal, and other researchers/experts regarding best practices for tagging ESA-listed salmonids.	September 2014	NOAA Fisheries	NOAA provide guidance (both written and by presentation) to F&W Committee in mid 2014.	X
3	Implement annual PIT tag coordination and review forum including federal, state, tribal, utility representatives, etc. for fish and wildlife projects with the purpose of reviewing short-term and long-term study plans for the use of PIT tags to; i - Evaluate opportunities to increase efficiency of tag use in a way that minimizes costs and reduces the number of fish tagged; and ii - Provide input and review of the PIT tag forecasting system for the purchase of PIT tags in the Columbia Basin	September 2014. (Develop a charter prior by to-Sept December, 2014 if this forum is prioritized by the Council)	NPCC convenes Federal, state, tribal, utility representatives and other entities.	PIT tag coordination report to Council annually. (Likely to be a program amendment issue.)	X
4	Council sponsor periodic subject matter expert evaluations of rates of PIT tag loss and effects of tagging on fish behavior and survival throughout the life cycle to understand how it affects confidence in critical parameters derived from PIT tag studies. Long term Council convenes first meeting in FY 2015. Work through forum created in 3, above. Triennial report from the forum created in 3, above.	January 2015	Research Plan	Add this issue to the Research Plan. Report research results back to the Council and the Pit Tag Coordinating group.	X

5	Council utilize the IEAB and ISAB to work together with interested regional partners to develop an analytical tool to evaluate trade-offs between PIT tagging levels, detector arrangements and the accuracy and precision of parameters used in making priority management decisions.	July December 2014	IEAB, ISAB, BPA and NPCC to draft RFP <u>scope</u> .	IEAB, ISAB work with BPA and NPCC to draft RFP-scope for analytical model. Contractor to develop and present on tool by July 2014. <u>Report on scoping effort to Council on December 2014.</u>	X
6	At the completion of the current PIT tag harvest monitoring project (2010-036-00), the Council and ISRP should follow a deliberate and measured approach to evaluate the project.	October 2016	Project sponsor and ISRP	Project sponsor submits report to ISRP. ISRP and sponsor recommend next steps to Council.	X
7	Eliminate routine coded wire tagging of steelhead and sockeye because they are not sampled in the ocean at levels significant enough to influence decision making. However, some coded wire tagging of these species will be necessary for specific research projects and hatchery operations and evaluations. <u>(When this recommendation was developed it was uncertain what, if any, BPA funds were involved.)</u>	TBD by Council Members	BPA	BPA to report to the Council on budget implications of phase out of CWT on steelhead and sockeye.	X
8	Funding of on-going FWP projects developing and evaluating genetic methods (GSI and PBT) should continue consistent with the projects' goals and objectives. After 5-10 years of monitoring have been completed the effectiveness and efficiency of the genetic methods should be evaluated for broader application. The funding of new projects within the FWP should follow a deliberate and measured approach to consider how those new projects would complement existing projects.	January 2018	Genetic project sponsors	Report to the Council and ISRP in 2018.	X

9	Twenty or more year interval between JSATS studies at USACE operated dam(s) unless major modifications to the structures or operations at the dams require updated information about fish survival at the dam(s). Before future JSATS studies are implemented the USACE, in collaboration with NOAA Fisheries and the Council, should evaluate whether existing, less expensive, tag technologies could be used and if acoustic tags are the appropriate technology for the research objectives, then what is the appropriate data collection required (i.e., presence/absence, two-dimensional or 2D, or three-dimensional or 3D, which provides depth information), to provide adequate information to assess juvenile survival at the dam(s) at a lower cost.	October 2014	ACOE and NOAA Fisheries	Report to the Council. Combine items 9-11 into one presentation by the ACOE and NOAA in October 2014(?). Council 60 day public comment period as soon as USACOE and NOAA release the details of the 2014 to 2018 JSATS testing schedule. Council takes and compiles comments during FY2014 and recommend to USACOE and NOAA Fisheries how to use the comments.	X
10	Within one year, USACE, in consultation with NOAA, should develop a long term 20 year plan for acoustic tag studies within the Columbia and Willamette River basins. This plan should include the purpose of studies, coordination planning to be done with other entities that may be using acoustic tags, locations of the studies, study dates and estimated costs for acoustic tag studies that are envisioned over the next 20 years. This plan should be shared with the Council and the region for comment.	October 2014	ACOE and NOAA Fisheries		X
11	Council should sponsor a public review of the USACE 2014 to 2018 forecast for JSATs performance testing cost and schedule for potential additional efficiencies and associated cost savings.	October 2014	ACOE and NOAA Fisheries		X

13	Extend PERC process to evaluate potential improvements in the PIT tag and CWT regional databases (PTAGIS and RMIS) that provide important data sharing and analysis, leading to good decision making for our shared salmon resource on the Pacific Coast.	November 2014, <u>if prioritized by the Council.</u>	Council convenes PIT / CWT data users / managers, PNAMP and BPA in FY2015	Combine items 13-17 into a one day PERC workshop to discuss regional tagging databases, tagging protocols, and incorporation of tag cost components into upgrades to PISCES and cbfish.org. <u>Possibly hold the workshop in as early as November 2014.</u> Workshop to initiate discussion of database improvement needs to be brought to the Council in <u>as early as early</u> 2015.	X
14	Implement a regional SNPs genetics database at PSMFC that can be shared in the same manner as the current PTAGIS and RMIS databases.	Underway - November 2014	PSMFC		X
15	Link the PTAGIS, RMIS, and SNPs databases to bring more power to these databases, leading to easier and more complete regional mark/tag data analysis (i.e., linking fish with multiple marks or tags in these databases).	Underway - November 2014	PSMFC		X
16	Through BPA contracting procedures, provide better documentation of tagging protocols through MonitoringMethods.org.	November 2014	BPA and project sponsors		X
17	Evaluate the costs and benefits of incorporating tag-related cost-tracking components into future upgrades to PISCES, and CBfish.Org	November 2014	Council, BPA, project sponsors, & IEAB form a work group Q1 of 2015.		X