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September 9, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

FROM: Lynn Palensky, Program Development Manager

SUBJECT: Eulachon Workshop Summary

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Lynn Palensky

Summary: *The Columbia River Eulachon (smelt) State of the Science and Science to Policy Forum* was held on Friday, August 21, 2015 at the Council offices in Portland ([agenda](#) attached). The forum was well-attended, with more than 60 people participating from as far north as Alaska and from as far south as Long Beach, California. Attendees represented federal, state, and tribal governments; First Nations; the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada; consultants; representatives of the Oregon shrimp industry; scientists; members of the Independent Scientific Review Panel; and fish restoration and recovery groups. The forum was structured for presentations on the state of the science for eulachon, followed by a group discussion at the end focused on effects from the hydrosystem and possible recovery actions and research needs. A summary report will be completed by the end of September. A more in-depth discussion of eulachon and the forum themes will be presented to the Fish and Wildlife Committee at the October Council meeting in Vancouver, WA.

Relevance: The science to policy forum was intended to help the Council (and NOAA Fisheries) understand what we know, and what critical uncertainties exist

regarding eulachon in the Columbia Basin (and beyond), for example their life history, ocean effects, and how their populations might be affected or influenced by the hydrosystem.

Workplan: The work is being tracked in the Division's annual work plan as a high-priority task, and in the Council's Annual Work Plan for 2015.

Background: The 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program calls on the Council, the Corps, Bonneville, NOAA Fisheries, state fish and wildlife agencies, and tribes, to *"help organize and facilitate a science/policy forum in 2015 to address the biological requirements of **eulachon**, combined with related inquiries into the relationship between flow, current hydropower dam operations, and the biological requirements of lamprey and sturgeon"*. The goal is to report on the state of the science, the reasonable next steps in the assessment process, and a recommendation for how to incorporate those steps into the Eulachon Recovery Plan and the Council's program.

More Info: Presentations from the eulachon forum can be found here:
http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/2015_08-eulachon/

Eulachon: State of the Science and Science to Policy Forum

Thaleichthys pacificus

August 21, 2015, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Lg conf, room)

851 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1100 Portland, OR

Call in to the meeting: 1-800-356-8278, code 186685

To view live presentations, click GoTo Mtg link:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/855223757>

AGENDA

9:00 am	Purpose and Introductions <i>Relationship to Eulachon Recovery Plan and Columbia River Fish and Wildlife Program</i>	John Ferguson, ANCHOR QEA
9:20 am	Why we are here: Eulachon and Recovery	Robert Anderson, NOAA
9:40 am	Eulachon Spawning Stock Biomass Estimations, Genetics, and Fishery Management in Washington and Oregon	Olaf Langness, Washington Dept. Fish and Wildlife
10:00 am	Eulachon Spawning Stock Biomass Estimations, Genetics, and Fishery Management in Canada	Sean MacConnachie, Dept. Fisheries and Oceans, Canada
10:20 am	Eulachon Distribution, Timing, and Spawning Stock Biomass Estimations	Nathan Reynolds, Cowlitz Indian Tribe
10:40-10:50	Break	
10:50 am	Eulachon in the Klamath River	Robert Anderson, NOAA
11:00 am	Eulachon in the Columbia River Estuary and Plume	Jen Zamon, NW Fisheries Science Center
11:20 am	Progress in Reducing Eulachon Bycatch in the Ocean Shrimp Fishery	Bob Hannah, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
11:40 am	Eulachon and eDNA	Taal Levi, Oregon State University
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch	
1:00 pm	Evaluation of Transmitter Application Techniques for use in Research of adult Eulachon	Kyle Hanson, US Fish and Wildlife Service
1:20 pm	Summary of the morning sessions and transition to FCRPS and Ocean influences	John Ferguson, ANCHOR QEA
1:40 pm	Federal Columbia River Power System Operations (FCRPS)	Paul Wagner, NOAA
2:00 pm	Estuary/Plume and Ocean Conditions	Antonio Baptista, Oregon Health Sciences University
2:30-2:50 pm	Break	
2:50 pm	FCRPS, Dams, and Water Management in the Columbia Basin and Effects on Eulachon	Robert Anderson, NOAA
3:10 pm	Identify Knowns and Key Unknowns and Next Steps: Group Discussion	John Ferguson, ANCHOR QEA
4:10-4:20pm	Closing Remarks	L. Palensky (NW Council) /R. Anderson (NOAA)