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January 5, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Committee members

FROM: Patty O'Toole, Program Implementation Manager

SUBJECT: ISAB/RP evaluation of research, upcoming development of research plan

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Patty O'Toole

Summary: Staff will provide a brief update on tasks associated with updating the Council's research plan.

Relevance: Updating the Council's Research Plan is relevant to the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program priority #2: Implement adaptive management (including prioritized research or critical uncertainties)

Work plan: (2015) Work plan Objective #2.B. update research plan

Background: The Independent Scientific Advisory Board and the Independent Scientific Review Panel have been working together to prepare a report that considers research implemented under the Fish and Wildlife Program. It is anticipated that this report will look forward at important research questions or uncertainties to address, and also look back at how well past questions have been addressed by Program research projects. This report is expected in January. As regularly occurs, following the release of the report, staff will provide a public comment opportunity for interested

parties to provide comment on this report. Staff anticipates that the report will be presented to the Council at its February meeting.

At the January Committee meeting, staff will review the basic steps for conducting an update to the Council's research plan.

Task: Revise Research Plan

2014 Fish and Wildlife Program

- **Addresses Priority 2:** Implement Adaptive Management (including prioritized research on critical uncertainties)

Task: Revise Research Plan

- **Adaptive management (research) program measure:**
 - The Council will, with federal and state fish and wildlife agencies and tribes review and update its research plan every three years beginning in 2014.
 - The review will begin with an update of how previous research funds were allocated to particular categories and critical uncertainties. The Independent Scientific Review Panel and the Independent Scientific Advisory Board will assist with updating the critical uncertainties, taking into account evolving topics and reporting on the results of past research.
 - Each step of this update will include opportunities for public input. This process will give consideration to critical uncertainties submitted during the program amendment process.

Task: Revise Research Plan

Basic steps:

- Release of ISAB/RP Critical Uncertainties Report
- Seek public comment on report
- Meet with agencies and tribes, other partners to seek input
- Use the report, comments & input to revise research plan
- Review the draft with Committee and Council, seek Council Ok to release plan
- Release draft plan for review, collect comments
- Revise draft plan
- Review revisions with Committee
- Review revisions with Council, seek approval by Council
- Begin research project review