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February 2, 2016

DECISION MEMORANDUM

TO: Council members

FROM: Mark Fritsch, project implementation manager

SUBJECT: Quarterly Review of Within-year Project Funding Adjustments for Implementation.

PROPOSED ACTION: Approve the two within-year project funding requests as presented and recommended by staff.

SIGNIFICANCE: The within-year funding adjustment requests are part of the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2016. One request addresses the suppression of northern pike in Lake Roosevelt, and the other addresses additional data and analysis associated with marine survey work.

BUDGETARY/ECONOMIC IMPACTS: The total amount associated with the staff recommended requests is \$45,107 in expense Fiscal Year 2016 funds¹. If approved, the amount would be taken from the Fiscal Year 2016 within-year placeholder.

BACKGROUND:

In 2004, Bonneville and the Council formed a budget oversight group (BOG) to conduct a budget tracking process. A principal role of the BOG is to validate whether a request is a budget and/or scope change, and to place the request into the appropriate category in order to determine next steps.

The BOG meets monthly to review change requests and then uses quarterly reviews to initiate a process to establish which budget adjustment requests can be met with the

¹The balance for the within-year placeholder at the end of the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2016 is \$750,000 (out of \$1,000,000).

available funding in the current fiscal year project budget². This process also includes a public comment period (<https://www.cbfish.org/ChangeRequest.mvc/Index>).

On January 12, 2016, the Council staff presented to the Fish and Wildlife Committee the requests and reviewed the schedule for the within-year budget adjustment requests for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2016.

As outlined in the attached table (see Attachment 1, page 7), the two requests need a decision at the February Council meeting. The comment period associated with this request closed on January 26th. No comments were received.

ANALYSIS:

The following addresses the two project requests and the Council staff's recommendations. On February 2, 2016, the Council received a letter from Bonneville summarizing the two within-year requests being considered during the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2016 (see Attachment 2, page 8).

Quarterly

- **Project #1994-043-00, *Lake Roosevelt Data Collection***

The Spokane Tribe of Indians (STOI) is requesting \$71,211 in expense funds for the removal of Northern Pike from Lake Roosevelt. Northern pike have been found with increasing frequency in Lake Roosevelt since 2009. They are a non-native predator known to be able to quickly establish and alter the native aquatic species assemblage. In early 2015 in association with Annual Fall Walleye Index Sampling (FWIN) and juvenile white sturgeon sampling an alarming increase in pike abundance caused concern among co-managers (Spokane Tribe of Indians, Colville Confederated Tribes and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife). Concurrently, the 2015 spring angler catch rates increased significantly and anglers now routinely capture pike in the shallow bays in the Columbia River near Kettle Falls and on the Kettle River. The co-managers are concerned about the continued expansion of pike in Lake Roosevelt, especially to the Spokane and Sanpoil rivers where native redband trout populations are already hindered by non-native Walleye predation. In addition, pike pose an enormous threat to salmon and steelhead recovery efforts below Chief Joseph Dam on the Columbia River.

At its June 3, 2015 meeting, BOG reviewed a request³ from the Spokane Tribe of Indians to fund a multi-agency action to assist in the removal northern pike from Lake Roosevelt. The request was for \$28,531 (Fiscal Year 2015) to begin work immediately⁴. BOG deemed the request to be urgent and elevated it to the BOG

² The balance for the within-year placeholder at the end of the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2016 is \$750,000 (out of \$1,000,000).

³ Project #1994-043-00, *Lake Roosevelt Data Collection*

⁴ Immediate purchase of equipment and associated increase in operational costs associated with a pilot Pike removal program that was implemented in the summer of 2015 by the three co-managers.

Management Group. On June 6th Council members supported this request, but conditioned further funding in FY2016 be contingent on favorable ISRP Review.

At the December 2nd BOG meeting the STOI presented their findings from the 2015 field season associated with the northern pike removal action approved in June and submitted the lake Roosevelt Northern Pike Suppression Plan for future activities for ISRP review, as per conditioned by the Council's June decision. The suppression plan was submitted to the ISRP for review, and Council staff hopes to have their review prior to the February Council meeting.

Staff Recommendation: On January 25, 2016 the ISRP found that they needed additional detail and information before their review can be completed. The ISRP requested a response on eight issues and concerns from the STOI (ISRP document 2016-2). The ISRP found that they needed clearly defined hypotheses about several northern pike suppression activities, as well as additional detail and information regarding methods being proposed and time deliverable objectives. In addition, the ISRP needs to understand the benefit the proposed effort would have to the Columbia River Basin. The STOI appreciated the review and suggestions to improve the credibility of their effort to suppress northern pike.

In an effort to proceed with the suppression effort until the science review is complete, the STOI has requested that they be allowed to continue the gill netting effort (March 2016) as supported last summer by the Council. The cost associated this effort is \$8,507. All other elements associated with the northern pike suppression effort would be dependent on a favorable science review. In addition, the STOI state that if they receive a favorable review from the ISRP and they are able to fully implement their suppression effort they will at the end of the 2018 field season request an ISRP review to determine if benefit and objectives have been met and determine at what level suppression efforts need to be moving forward.

Based on the past support and the priority that this suppression effort may address in the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program⁵, the Council staff recommends that the Council support only the March 2016 gill netting effort and condition any other support in 2016 on the STOI receiving favorable ISRP and Council review for all remaining efforts associated with the removal of northern pike. In addition, if the effort is fully implemented, support beyond the 2018 field season would be dependent on ISRP and Council review.

If favorable ISRP and Council review is received, funding beyond the initial FY 2016 support will need to be confirmed by Bonneville in the SOY budgets for 2017 and 2018.

⁵ Emerging priority #3 - Preserve program effectiveness by supporting: (1) expanded management of predators; (2) mapping and determining hotspots for toxic contaminants; and (3) aggressively addressing non-native and invasive species

Bonneville is supportive of the Council staff recommendation (see Attachment 2, page 9).

- Project #1998-014-00, *Ocean Survival Of Salmonids*

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is requesting \$141,309 in expense funds to expand and seek additional data and analysis associated with their marine survey work. The Ocean Survival of Juvenile Salmonids project addresses the role of the ocean in the life cycle survival of Columbia River Basin salmonids. Findings help explain what factors most influence salmon and steelhead survival and inform management actions and habitat strategies by indicating what has greatest potential to improve juvenile survival and productivity. The project supports RPA Actions 58⁶ and 61⁷ of the 2008 FCRPS Biological Opinion (BiOp). In addition, the request addresses some objectives identified in the 2014 Supplemental Biological Opinion and had anticipated collection of information “during 2014 through 2018”.

The details associated with the budget increase requested are outlined as follows.

1. An increase of three days of ship time. This includes: a) one potential “weather contingency day” for May/June (\$12,200); b) two extra days of sampling in May (\$24,400); and c) genetics analysis of additional salmon (up to 300) from those days (\$4,711)
2. Reinstating the analysis of trophically transmitted parasites for interior Columbia River yearling Chinook salmon and steelhead collected in May and June 2016 (\$82,000). The \$82,000 would cover the cost of a contractor to perform the analyses and to assist on one survey and the cost of any genetic analyses of parasites that cannot be identified morphologic.
3. Determining size and time of marine entry and early ocean growth of interior Columbia River yearling Chinook collected during June 2016 for comparison with estuary and May ocean cohorts (\$17,998). This includes salary for otolith preparation, structural analysis and interpretation, and instrument costs for otolith elemental data.

Staff Recommendation:

As you may recall this project was one of the three ocean research projects⁸ reviewed in the *RME and AP Category* review. As part of that review the Council, on June 11, 2011 (with July 2011 addition of completed Part 4), provided a conditional recommendation for these projects⁹ with Programmatic Issue #5 (*Research projects*

⁶ RPA Action 58 – Monitor and Evaluate Fish Performance in the Estuary and Plume

⁷ RPA Action 61 – Investigate Estuary/Ocean Critical Uncertainties

⁸ Project #1998-014-00, *Ocean Survival Of Salmonids* (NOAA); Project #2003-009-00, *Salmon Shelf Survival Study* (Canada Department Of Fisheries and Oceans), and Project #2003-114-00, *Coastal Ocean Acoustic Salmon Tracking* (COAST)(Kintama Research)

⁹ Implement through FY 2012 to complete coordinated synthesis report. Implementation beyond FY 2012 based on ISRP and Council review of the report. NOTE: In resolving this programmatic issue at its June 2011 meeting, the Council deferred to its July meeting consideration of the precise level of funding and

relating to the ocean). The programmatic issue recommended that the project sponsors involved in ocean research should jointly complete a comprehensive synthesis report¹⁰. This report was submitted in January 2012 and the ISRP provided their review in February (ISRP document 2012-3). Based on this report and ISRP review the Council's decision in April 2012 recommended that the sponsors of the two key ocean research projects (i.e., Project #1998-014-00, Ocean Survival of Salmonids; and Project #2003-009-00, Salmon Shelf Survival Study), Bonneville, the state and tribal fisheries managers, and others collaborate to use new information produced through the development of the ocean synthesis report and subsequent ISRP review to re-focus the program's ocean research. Shortly after this decision Bonneville initiated the close-out of the shelf study in 2013 and reduced NOAA survival study funding, moving its focus from the estuary and into the plume to assist with the BiOp and AMIP (Adaptive Management Implementation Plan) needs. On August 7, 2013 the Council recommended that the identification of research priorities for future work in the Columbia River plume and near-ocean environment will occur through the Ocean and Plume Research and Management Forum. Through this forum, management questions and objectives and some initial uncertainties were identified, with further identification and prioritization of uncertainties to address the management questions and intended to be completed by the end of 2014. To date, the Forum members have struggled to develop a timely report that would be effective in moving beyond the ocean actions currently being implemented in the biological opinion, but the discussion continues.

On January 29, 2016 the ISAB and ISRP provided their report on critical uncertainties associated with the implementation of the Fish and Wildlife Program (ISAB/ISRP document 2016-1). In their review they continued to confirm the importance of this research project in addressing several critical uncertainties and their importance in understanding the growth and survival of anadromous salmonids from the Columbia River.

This is an important and interesting project that has provided the program a better understanding of the role the ocean plays in the survival of salmonids. The request received has both near-term (i.e., ship time) and multiple-year-dependent elements (i.e., additional sampling and analysis). As currently configured, the project implements elements of the biological opinion RPAs. It is important that the current research being conducted¹¹ is maintained to ensure Bonneville meets its RPA requirements. The additional ship time seems reasonable at \$36,600 for data-gathering purposes, but expansion of current contracted scope (i.e., analysis) is probably not warranted at this time for priority fish and wildlife program needs.

activities to recommend for the ocean projects through FY2012 for activities beyond the completion of the synthesis report

¹⁰ July 2011 addition of completed Part 4 of Council Recommendation - Project #2003-114-00, *Coastal Ocean Acoustic Salmon Tracking (COAST)* (Kintama Research) was recommended for implement only to participate in the completion of the coordinated synthesis report per programmatic issue #5. ISRP and Council review of synthesis report to determine if there is a critical need for new work beyond FY 2012

¹¹ The 2014 Supplemental BiOp suggests a rescoping of the RME Program with respect to plume and ocean research, for RPA Actions 58 and 61 during 2014 through 2018.

Absent guidance on research priorities from the Ocean Forum to date, if the requested actions are not vital to implementing the FCRPS BiOp's RPA's, the Council staff recommends that this request be approved just for the additional three days of ship time at \$36,600 and the remaining elements of the request not be approved at this time.

Additional ship time funding beyond the initial FY 2016 support, of \$36,600, will need to be confirmed by Bonneville in the SOY budgets for 2017 and 2018.

Bonneville is supportive of the Council staff recommendation (see Attachment 2, page 10).

Attachment 1: Within-year project funding adjustments received as part of the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2016.

| Type ¹² | Project # | Project Title | Sponsor | FY 2016 Budget (BPA) | Request | Status |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|---|----------------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Quarterly | | | | | | |
| | 1994-043-00 | Lake Roosevelt Data Collection | Spokane Tribe of Indians | \$1,314,199 | \$71,211 | Partial approval @ \$8,507 |
| | 1998-014-00 | Ocean Survival Of Salmonids | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | \$1,062,925 | \$141,309 | Approval @ \$36,600 |

¹² There are three categories that a budget change request can follow: emergency, threshold and quarterly.

Attachment 2: Letter received on February 2, 2016 from Bonneville regarding within-year budget adjustments associated with the quarterly review.



Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

February 1, 2016

In reply refer to: EW-4

Mr. Tony Grover
Fish and Wildlife Division Director
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204-1348

Dear Mr. Grover:

In accordance with the Budget Oversight Group (BOG) process, a review of within-year budget and/or scope modification requests for the first quarter of Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 was conducted. Those requests were presented to the Fish and Wildlife Committee at their January 12, 2016 meeting, and a 14-day public comment period was opened. After considering both discussions and public comments, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has arrived at the following tentative conclusions subject to further consideration following receipt of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (Council) recommendations.

Project Funding Requests and Recommendations

Project Number: 1994-043-00

Project Name: Lake Roosevelt Data Collection

Contractor: Spokane Tribe of Indians

BPA-COTR: Carlos Matthew

Amount Requested and Budget Year: \$71,211 in FY16, as well as incorporating this value into future SOYs

Funding Type: Within-Year Expense

BOG Change Request #541: <https://www.cbfish.org/ChangeRequest.mvc/Display/541>

Overview: The objective of this project is to continue spring suppression efforts on Northern Pike in Lake Roosevelt and the Upper Columbia River. An earlier BOG request of \$28,531 (FY15) was supported and approved by the Council and BPA, with the caveat that a favorable Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) review of the associated "Lake Roosevelt Northern Pike Suppression Plan" would be required for continued funding. The ISRP provided their review of the plan to the Council on January 25, 2016, wherein they requested the sponsor

address eight elements of the proposal in order to improve its scientific credibility. The Spokane Tribe will be addressing the issues raised in the ISRP in the near future.

Does this project support a Biological Opinion? This project does not support a BiOp.

BPA Recommendation: Fund \$8,507 in FY2016 to support costs associated with the gill netting effort beginning in March. Full implementation in FY16-18 will be dependent upon favorable ISRP and Council review of the Lake Roosevelt Northern Pike Suppression Plan as well as confirmation by BPA in the Start of Year (SOY) budget process. Support beyond 2018 will depend on favorable ISRP and Council review.

BPA supports efforts to reduce the threat of Northern Pike invasion into Lake Roosevelt and the Upper Columbia River. Northern Pike can outcompete and depredate salmonids and their prey, as well as other native fishes, thus their presence represents an impediment to fish restoration efforts basin-wide. Furthermore, BPA funds four projects that support resident fish hatchery production and research, monitoring, and evaluation (RM&E) for Lake Roosevelt and an increased Northern Pike population would be counterproductive toward those hatchery efforts. Due to the recent spike in Northern Pike population, it would be beneficial to continue suppression efforts and to build on the 2015 pilot removal study. We support the approach taken by the Spokane Tribe with the goal of suppressing the population of northern pike before they become more abundant and geographically distributed. BPA looks forward to working with the Council, Spokane Tribe, and ISRP to improve the “Lake Roosevelt Northern Pike Suppression Plan”.

Project Number: 1998-014-00

Project Name: Ocean Survival of Salmonids

Contractor: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

BPA-COTR: Anne Creason

BPA Manager: John Skidmore

Amount Requested and Budget Year: \$141,309 in FY16 – as well as incorporating the value into future SOYs through 2018.

Funding Type: Within-Year Expense

BOG change request #539: <https://www.cbfish.org/ChangeRequest.mvc/Display/539>

Overview: This project addresses the role of the ocean in the life cycle survival of Columbia River basin salmonids, funded under the “Ocean” Fish and Wildlife Program strategy. This BOG request includes funding for additional days-at-sea (ship time) for sampling, genetic analysis of salmon and their parasites, research salaries, and otolith processing and interpretation related to the project.

Does this project support a Biological Opinion? Current funding of Project #1998-014-00 addresses RPA Actions 58 and 61 of the 2008 FCRPS Biological Opinion, and specifically the two primary objectives identified in the 2014 Supplemental Biological Opinion (2014 BiOp; pg. 344). BPA and NOAA are continuing to discuss the priority of additional sampling.

BPA Recommendation: Fund \$36,600 for the purchase of three days-at-sea (ship time) in FY16 only (tasks 1a & b in the memo from Mr. Mark Fritsch to Council F&W Committee members dated January 5, 2016).

Currently, sampling cruises in May and June total 15 ship days. An addition of two days-at-sea increases sampling by approximately 25% in May, and an additional day provides flexibility for sampling in the event that adverse weather diminishes the ability to sample; BPA will not be invoiced for the \$12, 200 'weather' day if it is not used in 2016. Results from the proposed work provides opportunity to gain critical information on the timing and mechanisms of salmonid mortality during early ocean life. By collecting juveniles within the estuary, plume, and ocean, NOAA could determine the size, timing at entry, and growth of salmonids within each of those habitats. Then by describing those key attributes across space and time, NOAA could provide stock-specific information on how fish use the estuary and plume. Efforts are underway to describe ocean survival in the life cycle model under development by the Northwest Fish Science Center (NWFSC) and the fisheries co-managers, and this additional research could improve the model's predictive power compared to basin scale indicators like the Pacific Decadal Oscillation.

Since this BOG request was initiated, BPA and NOAA have discussed the relative importance of the proposed (additional) research and have concluded there may be other funding options outside the BOG environment. We are currently working together to discover those options, but in the short term, a one-time funding of an additional three days-at-sea in 2016 addresses the immediate logistics for cruises this spring and summer. We are not anticipating any SOY adjustments to this project during FY17 and/or FY18.

Funding Summary

The total expense funding requested by project sponsors in Q1 FY16 is **\$45,107**; no capital funding was requested.

Please feel free to contact Scott Donahue at 503-230-3594 or me at 503-230-5549 for additional information.

Sincerely,

William C. Maslen
Director, Fish and Wildlife Program

Enclosure: Within-Year-Pool-Summary for FY16, 1st Quarter

cc: (Electronic)

Mr. Mark Fritsch, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Mr. Karl Weist, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Ms. Stacy Horton, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Ms. Kendall Farley, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Mr. Jeff Allen, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Mr. Kerry Berg, Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Within-Year-Pool Summary for FY16, 1st Quarter

| Approved Actions | Project Number | Project Name | Contractor | Decision Quarter | 2016 Placeholder TOTAL |
|---|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| | Within-Year Pool Amount: | | | | <i>\$1,000,000</i> |
| | 2016-002-00 | Hatchery Condition Assessment | BPA | | <i>\$250,000</i> |
| | Total Approved Actions: | | | | <i>\$250,000</i> |
| | Current Expense Within-Year Pool Balance: | | | | <i>\$750,000</i> |
| Draft Actions Per BPA Recommendation | EXPENSE | | | | |
| | 1998-014-00 | Ocean Survival of Salmonids | NOAA Fisheries | FY16-Q1 | <i>\$36,600</i> |
| | 1994-043-00 | Lake Roosevelt Data Collection | Spokane Tribe Of Indians | FY16-Q1 | <i>\$8,507</i> |
| | Total Pending Actions: | | | | <i>\$45,107</i> |
| | Expense Within-Year Pool balance (including pending actions): | | | | <i>\$704,893</i> |
| | CAPITAL | | | | |
| | | | | | <i>\$0</i> |
| Total Pending Actions (CAPITAL): | | | | | <i>\$0</i> |