

James Yost
Chair
Idaho

W. Bill Booth
Idaho

Guy Norman
Washington

Tom Karier
Washington



Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Jennifer Anders
Vice Chair
Montana

Tim Baker
Montana

Ted Ferrioli
Oregon

Richard Devlin
Oregon

October 2, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee members

FROM: Lynn Palensky

SUBJECT: Update on project review processes: Research Project Progress Review and upcoming Category Review

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Lynn Palensky

Summary: Staff will provide a status update on the Research Project Progress Review and the upcoming Basinwide/Mainstem/Program Support Category Review process.

Relevance: The ISRP was created by the 1996 amendment to the Northwest Power Act. The ISRP reviews projects in the context of the Council's program and regarding whether they (1) are based on sound science principles; (2) benefit fish and wildlife; (3) have clearly defined objectives and outcomes; and (4) have provisions for monitoring and evaluation of results. The Council uses the ISRP review as a basis for making project recommendations to Bonneville. In doing so, the Council explains in writing its reasons for not accepting ISRP recommendations, considers the impact of ocean conditions on fish and wildlife populations, and determines whether the projects employ cost-effective measures to achieve program objectives.

The Independent Scientific Review Panel's (ISRP) [2018 Research Project Status Review](#) report is complete and available on the Council's website. The ISRP's final comments on 25 research-focused projects advances the Council to the next phase in the project review process, which is developing recommendation on projects and programmatic issues.

The ISRP's research review assessed results from each project and identified which critical uncertainties in the Council's 2017 Research Plan were being addressed. Ten projects met the ISRP's scientific review criteria. The ISRP believes these ten projects do not need further ISRP review in the upcoming Category Reviews of Fish and Wildlife Projects unless the projects change in scope or propose new methods. Eleven projects met scientific criteria with some qualifications either for clarification or improvement of research approaches. The ISRP expects that these qualifications will be addressed during the upcoming Category Reviews. Four other projects are completed or nearing completion. These were evaluated solely for contributions to advancing the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program (Program) and understanding of critical uncertainties in the 2017 Research Plan.

Next Steps

From now until the November Council meeting, staff will develop recommendations for Committee consideration on the research projects and programmatic issues. Recommendations from this review will inform the larger Basinwide/Mainstem/Program Support [Category Review](#) scheduled to begin in mid-November 2018. Details of how research project sponsors should address ISRP qualifications from this review will be forthcoming in November.

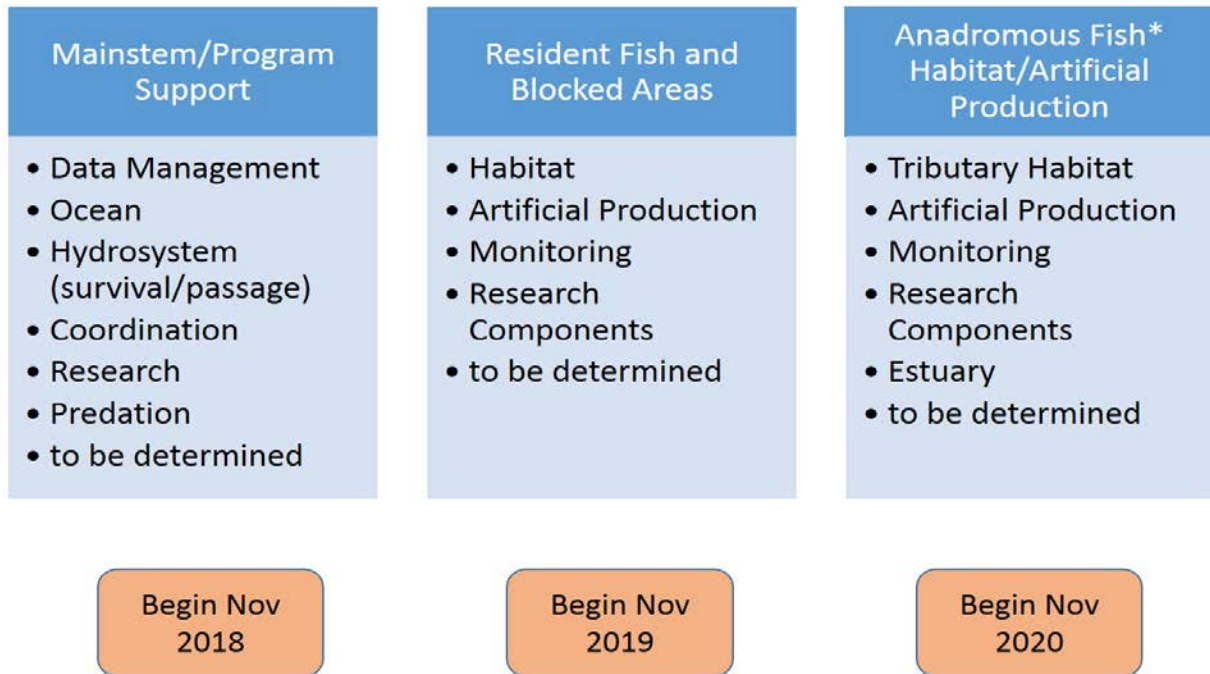
- September 28 – October 24: [public comments](#) accepted on the ISRP report
- October 9 (AM): Staff update to Fish and Wildlife Committee in Wenatchee, WA
- October 9 (PM): ISRP presentation to Council in Wenatchee, WA
- November 13-14: Council meeting, Portland, OR– Committee Recommendations
- December 15-16: Council meeting, Portland, OR – Council Recommendations

Workplan: This work implements the 2017 Research Plan, and the Program's Research Principles in the Adaptive Management Section and strategies in Part Six: How the Program is Implemented.

Background: In 2018, the Council initiated a research project inventory to identify all the research funded under the Program. Twenty-five of the inventoried projects focus primarily on research with broad applicability and address critical research uncertainties as defined in the 2017 Research Plan. This status review evaluates progress toward addressing the critical uncertainties and summarizes what has been learned to date from these research projects. The status review will inform the Basinwide/Mainstem/Program Support category review scheduled to begin in November 2018.

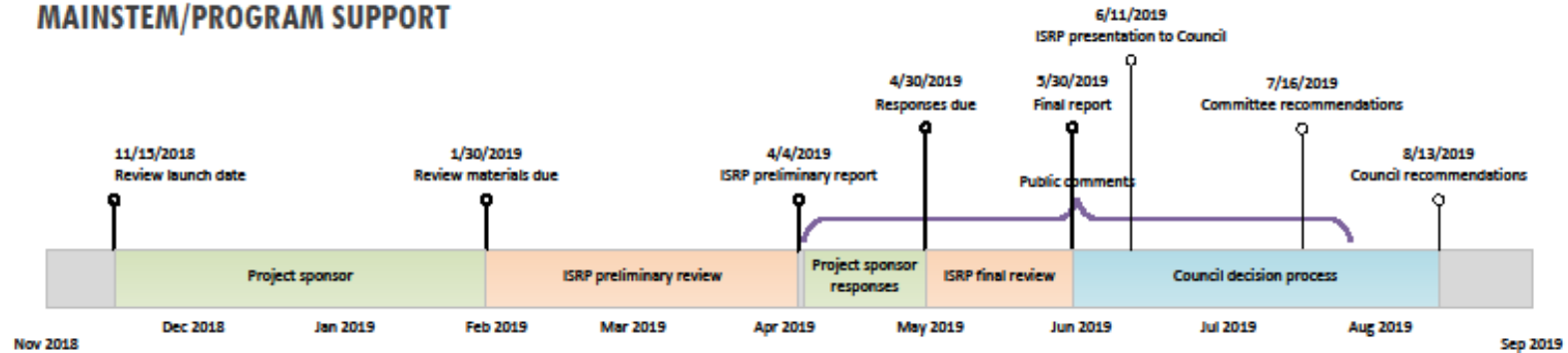
Category Review Process

At the July Council meeting, the Fish and Wildlife Committee agreed to move forward with a three-year science review schedule for all projects and discussed the overall approach (see detailed schedule below). The schedule reflects the general order for the three category review sets, accounting for field season, public comment period, and time necessary based on the number of projects within each category.

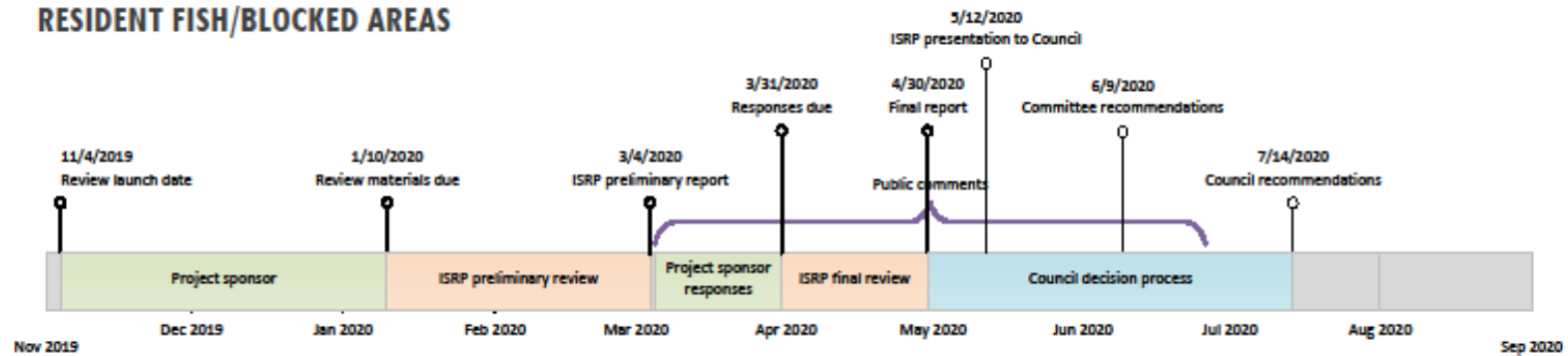


* Includes all steelhead and salmon spp

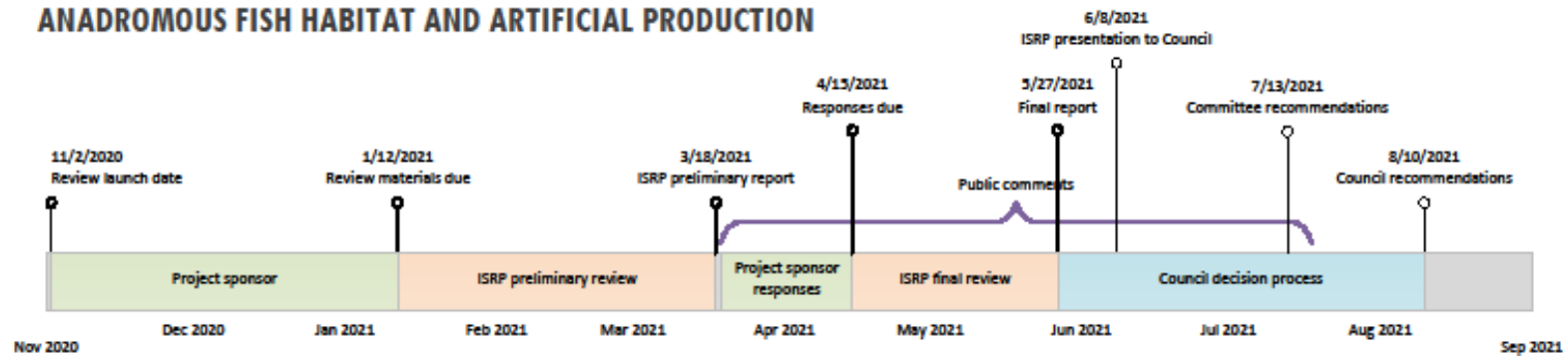
MAINSTEM/PROGRAM SUPPORT



RESIDENT FISH/BLOCKED AREAS



ANADROMOUS FISH HABITAT AND ARTIFICIAL PRODUCTION

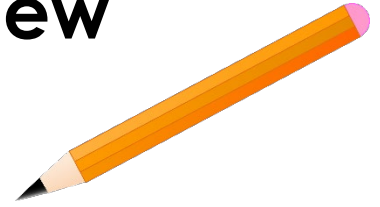


Guidance for research progress review

- 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program
 - Called for updating the 2006 Research Plan
- 2016 ISAB/RP Critical Uncertainties Report
- 2017 Research Plan
 - Applies to:
 - 1) projects that are exclusively research,
 - 2) effectiveness monitoring projects, and
 - 3) projects that contain research elements
- 2018 Research Project Inventory - results

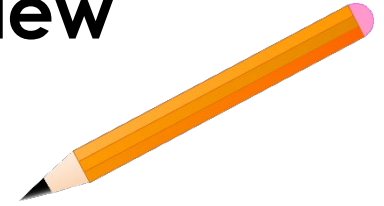
Research Project Progress Review

ISRP Final Report



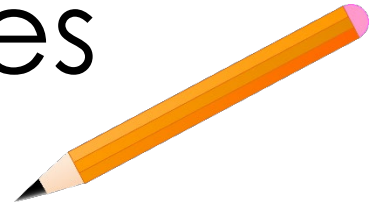
- 25 projects reviewed primarily research
 - Fish and wildlife populations
 - Habitat and the effectiveness of restoration actions
 - Fish propagation and effectiveness of supplementation
- Projects meeting ISRP scientific review criteria
 - 10 Meets
 - 11 qualified
 - 4 completed or phasing out
- 11 Programmatic Issues

Research Project Progress Review Outcomes



- Help improve individual projects
- Inform the upcoming larger category reviews
- Update critical uncertainties database
- Track ongoing research in the program
- Support and facilitate sharing of results
- Programmatic issues--program improvements / improved understanding

11 Programmatic Issues



1. Information sharing
2. Need for long-term monitoring complex ecosystems
3. Predation: avian and ecosystem wide
4. Value of Molecular Genetics labs
5. Expanding PBT and GSI tagging
6. Climate change
7. Reintroduction of anadromous fish – blocked areas
8. Design of future habitat effectiveness monitoring
9. Supplementation
10. Precocious maturation in hatchery-reared Chinook
11. RRS studies – Synthesizing results to date

Timeline

- Public comments accepted on the ISRP's Final Report now through COB Oct 24th
- Fish and Wildlife Committee recommendations in November
- Mainstem/Basinwide/Program Support review begins mid November
- Council Recommendations in December

ISRP recommendation categories

Meets

Update proposal form
No further review unless
significant changes

Qualified

Update proposal form,
including addressing ISRP
qualifications

Closed or phasing out

Final results reporting for Program