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October 8, 2019

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

**FROM:** Nancy Leonard

**SUBJECT:** Overview of Northwest Fisheries Science Center Research Programs

### BACKGROUND:

**Presenter:** Mike Ford, Director of the Conservation Biology Division, NWFSC. Dr. Ford also serves as ex-officio member on the Independent Science Advisory Board.

**Summary:** Dr. Ford will provide an overview of the Northwest Fisheries Science Center's (NWFSC) research programs, including highlights of recent and on-going activities of relevance to the Council's Program. The NWFSC provides science to support a wide variety of activities, including maintaining sustainable fisheries, recovery protected species, and understanding coastal ecosystems and communities. In addition to providing an overview of the NWFSC's programs, Dr. Ford will focus on several topics of current interest such as Columbia River salmon as a source of Orca prey, hatchery reform science, use of eDNA in population monitoring, and ocean ecosystem assessment.

**Relevance:** The NWFSC conducts research that contribute to better understanding critical uncertainties of importance to the Council's Program, effectiveness of mitigation actions, and approaches available for assessing the most cost-effective biological alternative to achieve the same objective.

**Background:** <https://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/index.cfm>