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May 5, 2010

DECISION MEMORANDUM

TO: Council members

FROM: Patty O'Toole, Fish and Wildlife Division Director, and staff

SUBJECT: Decision to release the revised draft of Part I of the Fish and Wildlife Program amendments for a public review and comment period ending June 22, 2020.

PROPOSED ACTION: Staff will review with the Council the revisions to the draft of Part 1 of the 2020 Addendum to the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program. Following that discussion, staff recommends the Council release the revised draft of Part I for public review and comment, as recommended by the Council's Fish and Wildlife Committee after incorporating any changes made by the Council at today's meeting.

SIGNIFICANCE: The Council began amending its Fish and Wildlife Program in May of 2018. In December of 2019, based on public review comments, the Council decided to extend the time for deciding on Part I of the Addendum to allow staff to work with the fish and wildlife agencies and tribes in a focused process to revise Part I of the addendum. The Council will review the draft revisions in May. The decision to release the draft program amendments for public review will initiate a public review period ending June 22 that includes a public hearing (possibly by webinar), consultations and the acceptance of written and oral comment.

BACKGROUND

During the public comment period on the draft 2020 Addendum, the Council received comments requesting that the Council extend the time for making a decision on Part I of the draft 2020 Addendum and use that time to develop a collaborative process to identify a refined set of goals, objectives, and indicators for the program. The comments also indicated interest in engaging with the Council in policy-level discussions to address broader policy points including how the Council and others will use this program performance information for reporting on program progress and informing and guiding decisions. At the December Council meeting, the Council members decided to extend the time for completing Part 1 of the program addendum and approved a workplan and timeline proposed by staff. This plan included a set of technical workshops with the fish and wildlife agencies and tribes to refine and revise the program goals, objectives and strategy performance indicators. Part II of the draft addendum was adopted by the Council in January 2020.

The first technical workshop was held January 8-9, 2020 and focused on the program goals and objectives. Approximately 80 people attended in person or on the phone/webinar over the 2-day workshop. During that workshop, there was extensive discussion about the definition of program goals, objectives and indicators and the best way to structure those in the document. The attendees suggested edits to the goal statements and provided additional objectives, particularly for sturgeon, lamprey and resident fish. Staff incorporated the changes into a revised draft document, which was emailed to the addendum Part 1 mailing list and posted on the Council's website. Further additions and revisions to the objectives were made during the strategy performance indicator workshops and through phone and email exchanges and have been incorporated into the document.

Six strategy performance indicator workshops followed, two on strategy performance indicators for salmon and steelhead, one on strategy performance indicators for white sturgeon, one on resident fish, one on lamprey and one on wildlife. All workshops had webinar call-in options and were very well attended. The workshop attendees revised many of the draft indicators and offered a significant number of additional ones that reflect current data collection efforts. On an ongoing basis, staff incorporated the additions and edits from those workshops into a revised draft document, which was emailed to the addendum Part 1 mailing list and posted on the Council's website. The most recent version of the document was sent out on April 3, 2020.

The final workshop was held April 13 and focused on a review of the current document to identify and address major outstanding issues, as well as to compile information on

data sources and discuss analysis and reporting approaches. A process for ongoing collaboration was also discussed.

The discussion at the workshops addressed the technical comments received on the draft Part I and some of the policy issues that had been identified during the public comment period. To ensure that there were no outstanding issues staff reached out to various entities to see if there was interest in engaging in policy-level discussions and none were forthcoming at that time.

It should be noted that although the Covid19 emergency began as the workshops were being held, participation (remotely) remained strong throughout all the workshops. Staff and participating Committee members took extensive steps throughout the process to make participation and communication on the calls as easy as possible. Staff also reached out personally to many participants with phone calls and emails in-between the workshops to seek additional input and verify comments received.

With the completion of the workshops, staff developed a revised draft of Part I of the Addendum and presented the revisions to the Fish and Wildlife Committee over two separate work sessions in April. The Fish and Wildlife Committee now recommends the revised Part I of the addendum to the full Council. At the May Council meeting, Council members will review the revisions and consider any final edits to Part I of the Addendum and consider releasing the revised draft Part I of the Addendum for a public review and comment period. The revised draft Part I of the Addendum will be sent separately by email to Council members and staff and will be posted on the Council's webpage.

ANALYSIS

The draft amendment document under consideration contains several sections. First is an introduction to the full addendum (including Part II, adopted in January 2020). This section describes the purpose of the Addendum, how it extends the [2014 Fish and Wildlife Program](#), and how it relates to the program amendment recommendations the Council received. This first part of the introduction was not significantly revised during the extended revision period. The introduction continues with a description of program accomplishments which were significantly revised per the comments on the draft.

The remainder of the document is the draft Part I of the addendum and most of this section has been significantly revised through the workshops. The purpose of Part I is to describe how the Council and others will assess the program's performance and improve program implementation using an adaptive management approach and includes a reorganization and elaboration of the program's goals, objectives and performance indicators. Included in this section are refined program goals and objectives, organized by major program components. Following the goals and

objectives are a set of revised strategy performance indicators designed to inform progress on program strategies, which lead to achieving program objectives. The document also contains a section on assessing, monitoring and reporting program performance, followed by a comprehensive set of references that describe the source material for the objectives and indicators.

Once the Council decides to release these revised draft program amendments, a brief public review and comment period will follow. Following the public comment period, the Council and staff will consider the comments received and prepare a final amended program. The Council is on target for adopting an amended program in August of 2020. This schedule is consistent with the timeframes set by the Council when it decided to extend the amendment process to seek additional input.

During public review, the Council will hold at least one additional public hearing and additional consultations if needed, through June 22, 2020. It is possible that more consultation may be needed during this time to address any remaining policy concerns such as how the Council and others will use this program performance information for reporting on program progress and informing and guiding decisions. More information about the public review period and process will be shared with the full Council at future meetings and by email and website.

The legal staff developed a draft “findings” document earlier in the amendment process that explains how the Council used the program amendment recommendations in developing the proposed program Addendum. These have been posted on the Council’s website. This is a draft version of the “findings” document the Council typically approves at the end of the program amendment process. The final “findings” document must be approved by the Council as part of the program, and it will contain the required written findings on the program amendment recommendations as well as responses to comments the Council received on the recommendations and on the draft program amendments, as well as comments received during the additional workshops on Part I and comments on the revised draft of Part I.

2020 Addendum to the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program



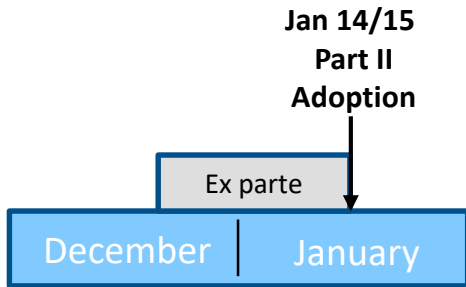
Part I



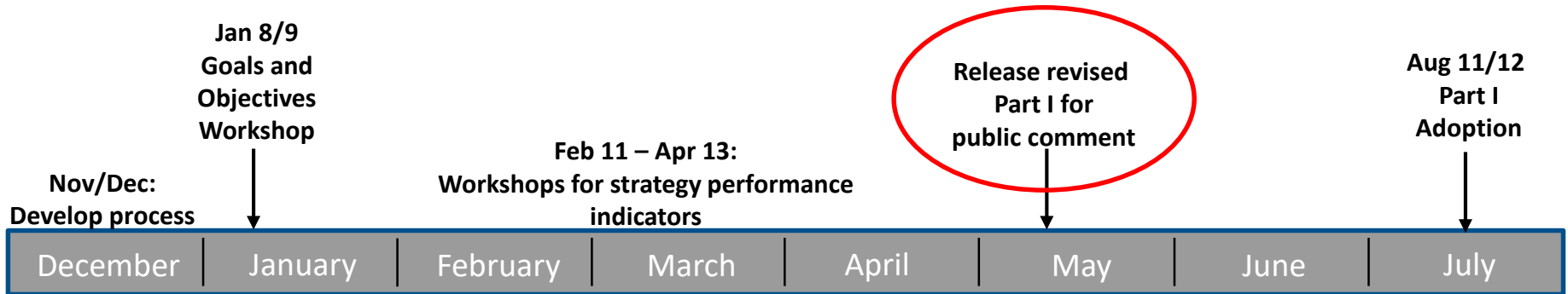
How did we get here?

- Comments requested an extension for additional input
- Council decided to extend in December, 2019
- Eight workshops held to discuss goals, objectives and strategy performance indicators

Adoption Process for Part I of 2020 Addendum - timeline



Adoption Process for Part II of 2020 Addendum



Today's task:

- Review revisions to Part I
- Consider approval the release of the revised draft Part I for public review and comment



Next Steps



May: Council meeting: Review revision of Part I, consider release

May 15: Initiate public review and comment period

June 15: Date for Public hearing (webinar)

June 22: Close of public comment

August: Adoption by Council