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October 6, 2020

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council Members

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

**SUBJECT:** Presentation on the Columbia Basin Partnership and its Phase II Report

### BACKGROUND:

**Presenter:** Michael Tehan-NOAA Fisheries, Mike Edmondson-Idaho Office of Species Conservation, Zach Penney-Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission, and Rob Masonis-Trout Unlimited

**Summary:** Members of the Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force (Partnership) will present their Phase 2 report and provide remarks to the Council on the process and outcomes.

**Relevance:** The Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force (Partnership), a special task force organized under NOAA Fisheries' Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC), met for the final time September 23 and approved its Phase 2 report, *A Vision For Salmon and Steelhead, Goals and Pathways for Restoring Thriving Salmon and Steelhead to the Columbia River Basin*. At the October Council meeting representatives from the Partnership will present an overview of the various Partnership products and outcomes, including the vision, qualitative and quantitative goals, and other components of the Phase 2 process. The presentation will include a summary of the quantitative goals across the 27 salmon and steelhead stocks.

**Background:** The Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force was convened in 2017 by NOAA Fisheries' [Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee](#) (MAFAC) to develop shared goals and a comprehensive vision for the future of Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead. The Partnership is a collaboration of different interests from across the Basin including environmental, fishing, agricultural, utility, and river-user groups; local recovery groups; the states of Idaho, Montana, Washington, and Oregon; and federally recognized tribes. Several Council members represented their respective states in the collaborative process and Council staff provided technical input early in the development of numeric goals, as well as information and coordination about the Council and its Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

The Phase 1 report finalized in May of 2019 includes a vision and shared qualitative and quantitative goals for the basin. The Phase 2 report also includes proposed scenarios for achieving the quantitative goals, a biological analysis to help the Partnership understand factors that limit natural-origin Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead abundance and define potential pathways to increase abundance and achieve the goals. The report also includes social, cultural, economic and ecosystem considerations and some path forward considerations for next steps.

**More Info:** Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force [website](#)