

Richard Devlin
Chair
Oregon

Ted Ferrioli
Oregon

Guy Norman
Washington

Patrick Oshie
Washington



Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Bo Downen
Vice Chair
Montana

Doug Grob
Montana

Jim Yost
Idaho

Jeffery C. Allen
Idaho

March 2, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Mark Fritsch

SUBJECT: Briefing on Ocean Observations and Outlooks for Salmon Returns

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Brian Burke (Research Fishery Biologist, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Northwest Fisheries Science Center)

Summary: Brian will present research findings and outlook associated with Chinook and Coho returns to the Columbia River based on local and regional ocean conditions. The 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program and its 2020 addendum support this monitoring through [Project #1998-014-00, Ocean Survival Of Salmonids](#).

Relevance: This information is relevant to our high-level indicators and strategy performance indicators by providing a preview for what is expected for adult returns in the current year. This work also addresses several measures in the Fish and Wildlife Program.

Workplan: Fish and Wildlife Division work plan 2021; Program Implementation (2014 Program and 2020 addendum); Other program implementation.

Background: The Council's research and monitoring efforts related to the marine environment for anadromous fish began in 1998 in response to the 1996 amendment to the Northwest Power Act, which calls on the Council to consider ocean conditions when making project funding recommendations. The Council's Fish and Wildlife Program recognizes

the ocean environment as an integral component of the Columbia River ecosystem. Measures in the Program support monitoring the ocean conditions and in-river restoration actions to determine those actions of greatest benefit, to separate the effects of ocean-related mortality from that caused in the freshwater part of the life cycle, and to assess salmonid survival and evaluate restoration potential given variable ocean conditions.

More Info: [Mainstem and Program Support Project review, *Final Decision Document August 14, 2019, Project-Specific Recommendations \(page 13\)*](#)