

**Guy Norman**  
Chair  
Washington

**Patrick Oshie**  
Washington

**Jim Yost**  
Idaho

**Jeffery C. Allen**  
Idaho



## Northwest **Power** and **Conservation** Council

**Doug Grob**  
Vice Chair  
Montana

**Mike Milburn**  
Montana

**Ginny Burdick**  
Oregon

January 5, 2022

### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members**

**FROM: Council staff**

**SUBJECT: Update on Anadromous Fish Habitat and Hatchery Project Review**

#### **BACKGROUND:**

**Presenter:** Mark Fritsch and Maureen Hess

**Summary:** Council staff will provide a brief update on the *Anadromous Fish Habitat and Hatchery* (AFHH) Project Review. This review category is the last category of projects to be reviewed in this cycle and was initiated in early February 2021. Staff will provide an overview of the AFHH review schedule and preview policy issues currently being drafted for Council consideration as part of the decision document in April 2022.

**Relevance:** Section 4h(10)(D) of the Northwest Power Act directs the Council to review projects proposed for funding by Bonneville to implement the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. The Council engages in this review process with the assistance of the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP). The Council and Bonneville work together to develop the information necessary to make the review process successful.

**Workplan:** Fish and Wildlife Division: Program Implementation (2014 Program and 2020 addendum); Project review.

**Background:** In 2017, the Council initiated the second cycle of category-based reviews. The review schedule for four different project categories (*Wildlife, Mainstem/Program, Resident Fish and Sturgeon Support*) reflected the

order and timing of the previous reviews and accounted for field season, public comment period, and time necessary based on the number of projects within each category.

The [Anadromous Fish Habitat and Hatchery Project Review](#) (AFHH) is the last and largest category of this current review cycle and was initiated on February 2, 2021. The 124 projects in this review include hatchery operation and maintenance (O&M), fish screen O&M, habitat restoration and the monitoring and evaluation activities associated with these projects.

On September 24, 2021 the Council received the ISRP's preliminary report ([ISRP document 2021-8](#)) for the review of 122 projects (note that review materials for two projects from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs have not been submitted). Through this report, the ISRP provides preliminary information regarding each project and requests "responses" from select projects to complete the science review that is anticipated in the ISRP's final report in February 2022.

The ISRP found that, of the 122 projects in the review, 73 "meet science review criteria," of which 41 projects received conditional review comments. There are 37 projects that need to provide additional information (i.e., "response requested") to determine if they fully meet scientific review criteria. In addition, the ISRP found that 12 projects are not amenable to science review and received a "not applicable" comment.

Public comment of the projects and ISRP preliminary review was initiated on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Comments received will be addressed as part of the decision document associated with the AFHH review.

The additional information from the 37 projects (i.e., response requested) was due on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Responses were received from 35 out of the 37 project managers (awaiting responses for one project implemented by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and one project implemented by the Shoshone Bannock Tribe).

Currently, Council staff is working on draft project recommendations for projects that currently meet science review criteria. In addition, we are formulating draft policy issues associated with this review that we anticipate bringing to the Fish and Wildlife Committee and the full Council in March and April 2022, respectively.

Following are the remaining steps associated with the AFHH review.

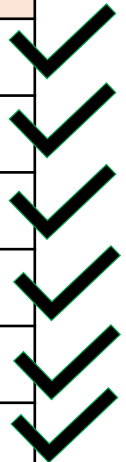
<b>Anadromous Fish Habitat and Hatchery Review Steps</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Review Process Start Date</b>	February 2, 2021 ✓
<b>Review Materials Due</b>	May 3, 2021 ✓
<b>Project Sponsor Presentations</b>	June and July 2021 ✓
<b>ISRP Preliminary Report</b>	September 23, 2021 ✓
<b>Public Comment begins</b>	September 24, 2021 ✓
<b>Responses Due</b>	November 22, 2021 ✓
Final Report	February 10, 2022
ISRP Presentation to Council	February 2022
Public Comment ends	March 10, 2022
Committee Recommendations	March 2022
Council Recommendations	April 2022

# Anadromous Fish Habitat and Hatchery Project Review (AFHH)

January 2022

# Review Schedule

<b>Anadromous Fish Habitat and Hatchery Review Steps</b>	<b>Date</b>
Review Process Start Date	February 2, 2021
Review Materials Due	May 3, 2021
Project Sponsor Presentations	June and July 2021
ISRP Preliminary Report	September 23, 2021
Public Comment begins	September 24, 2021
Responses Due	November 22, 2021
<b>ISRP Final Report</b>	<b>February 10, 2022</b>
ISRP Presentation to Council	February 2022
Public Comment ends	March 10, 2022
Committee Recommendations	March 2022
Council Recommendations	April 2022



# Elements of the AFHH decision Document

- Recommendations in four parts
  - Background, Review Summary, and Council Considerations and Expectations (Part 1)
  - Policy Issues and Recommendations (Part 2)
    - identifies a subset of cross-cutting policy and administrative issues associated with this group of projects and the Program.
  - Project-Specific Recommendations (Part 3)
    - provides additional details regarding the Council's recommendations for particular projects that need further discussion
  - Project Recommendation Summary Spreadsheet (Part 4)
    - provides the Council's recommendation for each project addressed in this review, including any conditions, comments or guidance associated with the recommendation.

# Draft Policy Issues (Part 2)

- I. Program Related Process
  - Habitat Strategy
  - Hatchery and related activities
  
- II. Considerations to the integrity of the F&W Program
  - Asset Management
  - Flatline funding
  - Climate Change
  
- III. Administrative
  - Projects that are not applicable (N/A) for scientific review
  - Umbrella Projects
  
- IV. Future Review Process for the Fish and Wildlife Program