



Independent Scientific Review Panel

for the Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, Oregon 97204
isrp@nwcouncil.org

Fiscal Year 2019 Statement of Work

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Project Title: Independent Scientific Review

BPA COTR: Scott Donahue

BPA Contracting Officer: Karen Wolfe

Project Manager

Erik Merrill

(503) 222-5161

emerrill@nwcouncil.org

Members/Subcontractors FY 2018

Stan Gregory

Dave Heller*

Wayne Hubert

Scott Lutz*

Alec Maule

Robert Naiman

Greg Ruggerone

Steve Schroder

Carl Schwarz*

Desiree Tullos

Chris Wood

*These members' terms will end in 2018, and new members will be appointed in 2019.

(July 11, 2018 Version – subject to revision as assignments are added throughout the year)

ISRP Fiscal Year 2019 Statement of Work

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General ISRP Review Responsibilities

The 1996 amendment to the Northwest Power Act directed the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council) to appoint an 11-member panel of independent scientists and additional peer review groups. These scientists provide advice and information regarding scientific aspects of projects that the Council may recommend for funding by the Bonneville Power Administration (Bonneville). The Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) and peer review groups have responsibilities in three areas:

- Review projects proposed for Bonneville funding to implement the Council's Columbia River Fish and Wildlife Program (Program)

The Northwest Power Act directs the ISRP to review projects that are proposed for Bonneville funding to implement the Council's Program. The Act specifies the review standards that the ISRP is to use and the kinds of recommendations to make to the Council. The Council must fully consider the ISRP's report prior to making its funding recommendations to Bonneville and must explain in writing if the Council's recommendations differ from the ISRP's.

- Review program results

The 1996 amendment also directs the ISRP, with assistance from the Scientific Peer Review Groups, to review annually the results of prior-year expenditures based upon the project review criteria and submit its findings to the Council. The retrospective review should focus on the measurable benefits to fish and wildlife made through projects funded by Bonneville. The ISRP's findings should provide biological information for the Council's ongoing accounting and evaluation of Bonneville's expenditures and the level of success in meeting the objectives of the Fish and Wildlife Program. In addition, as part of the ISRP's annual retrospective report, the ISRP should summarize major basinwide programmatic issues identified during project reviews.

- Review projects funded through Bonneville's reimbursable program

In 1998, the U.S. Congress' Senate-House conference report on the FY 1999 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill directed the ISRP to review the fish and wildlife projects, programs, or measures included in federal agency budgets that are reimbursed by Bonneville, using the same standards and making recommendations as in its review of the projects proposed to implement the Council's program.

The four major components of the reimbursable program are:

- 1) Columbia River Fisheries Mitigation Program (Corps of Engineers),
- 2) Fish and Wildlife Operations and Maintenance Budget (Corps of Engineers),
- 3) Lower Snake River Compensation Plan (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), and
- 4) Leavenworth Hatchery (Bureau of Reclamation).

Specific FY 2019 Reviews

For FY 2019, ISRP review assignments comprise seven categories:

- 1) Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation (RM&E) plans
- 2) Category reviews
- 3) Targeted reviews including new proposals or project scope changes submitted through the Council and Bonneville's Budget Oversight Group
- 4) Three-Step reviews for major capital construction projects
- 5) Follow-up reviews
- 6) Reimbursable projects reviews
- 7) Results reviews (Retrospective Reports)

Further details on the reviews are provided below; some of the categories are combined in the descriptions. The ISRP's total FY 2019 budget to complete these and other potential reviews requested by the Council is \$500,000.

1. Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation (RM&E) Reviews

In FY 2019, the ISRP will continue its shared role with the ISAB in reviewing regional plans aimed at monitoring and evaluating the status of fish and wildlife populations in the Basin and the effectiveness of projects at benefiting those populations. The ISRP and ISAB closely coordinate reviews of RM&E plans and products such as the Council's Research Plan, draft Council documents related to Program RM&E activities and guidance, Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP) products, Action Agency RM&E plans, and RM&E proposals. The Council, BPA, and NOAA staff are currently developing an integrated Research, Monitoring and Evaluation strategy that will meet multiple basin needs and include a [tributary habitat monitoring strategy](#). They hope to complete a draft of the habitat restoration RM&E strategy as early as August 2018 with further iterations of integrated RM&E strategy throughout 2019. Consequently, in FY 2019, the ISRP and/or ISAB may be asked to review a draft habitat restoration monitoring strategy and other integrated RM&E implementation strategies.

2. Category Reviews

To implement the Fish and Wildlife Program, the ISRP and Council regularly review projects intended to benefit fish and wildlife populations affected by the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS). Reviews are designed to meet multiple purposes including project improvement, program accountability, project prioritization and selection, project risk and cost assessment, coordination across projects, and information sharing. Review processes have taken many forms including program-wide solicitations, rolling provincial reviews, targeted solicitations, and most recently, Category and Geographic reviews. Review processes also consider the projects' review histories and the status of the evolving Fish and Wildlife Program. The ISRP helps design the scientific evaluation component of the review process.

Category Reviews FY 2019 to FY 2021 – In 2017, the ISRP and Council began the next iteration of Category Reviews and evaluated the 29 Fish and Wildlife Program projects that mitigate for wildlife losses due to the construction and operation of the hydrosystem. Over the next three years, the ISRP and Council will evaluate the approximately 281 remaining Fish and Wildlife Program projects that are amenable to scientific review.¹ The reviews will focus on project results, progress toward meeting project and program objectives, and the future direction of the projects. The ISRP will have access to project summaries, annual reports, and presentations by project proponents.

A draft timeline is provided below. For the Category Review, these projects will be organized in three primary sets: (1) Mainstem/Program Support – about 63 projects, (2) Resident Fish/Blocked Areas – about 44 projects, and (3) Anadromous Fish Habitat/Artificial Production – about 174 projects. This organization is based largely on the Category and Geographic Reviews (2009 thru 2014), with the following exceptions: regional coordination projects will not undergo science review; data management projects will be considered as part of the first review and not added to the Resident Fish Review, as was done previously; and artificial production projects and associated monitoring for anadromous salmon and steelhead will be moved from the first review set of Mainstem/Program Support projects (2018-2019) to the final set with tributary habitat projects (2020-2021). Thus, the ISRP and Council can review the artificial production projects in the context of the restoration work that supports habitat for both natural and hatchery origin fish.

In the fourth quarter FY 2018, the ISRP will participate in a status review of the results of the Fish and Wildlife Program's 27 projects that are primarily focused on research. The ISRP and Council will evaluate the extent to which the research addresses critical uncertainties as defined in the 2017 Research Plan and how the research can inform implementation strategies of the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This status review will also inform the three Category reviews that follow from FY 2019 to 2021.

The Council and ISRP staff have yet to decide specifically which projects will be reviewed under each category, but the general groupings are shown below.

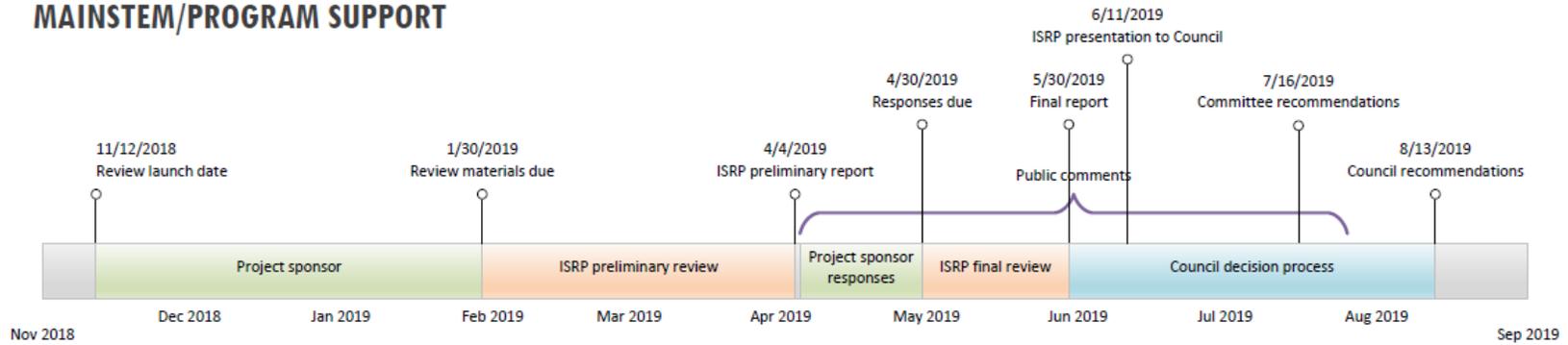
¹ Regional coordination projects (~20) are not included in this list. These projects support fish and wildlife managers' participation in many different Program-related policy forums and are not conducive to science review.

Mainstem/Program Support	Resident Fish and Blocked Areas	Anadromous Fish* Habitat/Artificial Production
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data Management• Ocean• Hydrosystem (survival/passage)• Coordination• Research• Predation• to be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Habitat• Artificial Production• Monitoring• Research Components• to be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tributary Habitat• Artificial Production• Monitoring• Research Components• Estuary• to be determined
Begin Nov 2018	Begin Nov 2019	Begin Nov 2020

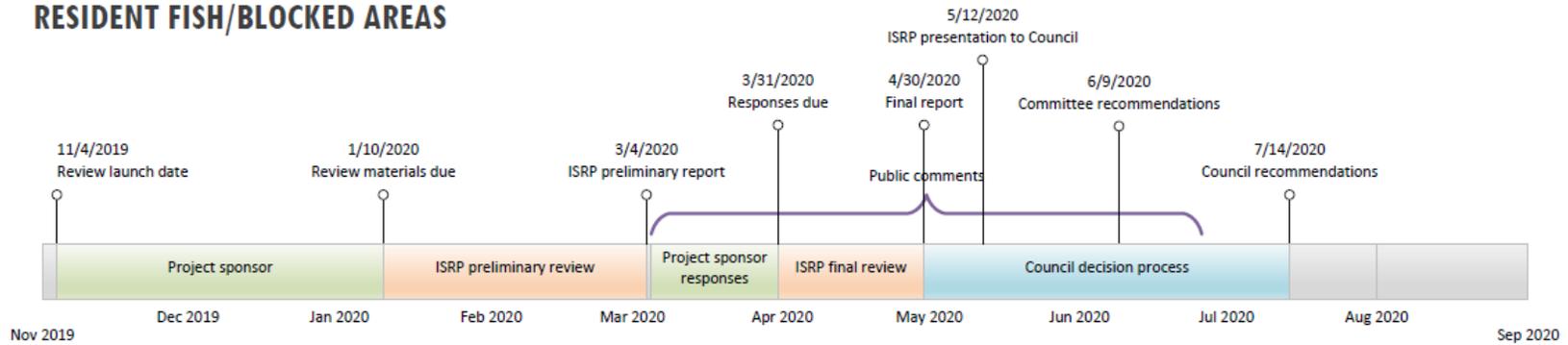
* Includes all steelhead and salmon spp

DRAFT PROJECT REVIEW TIMELINES JULY 7, 2018

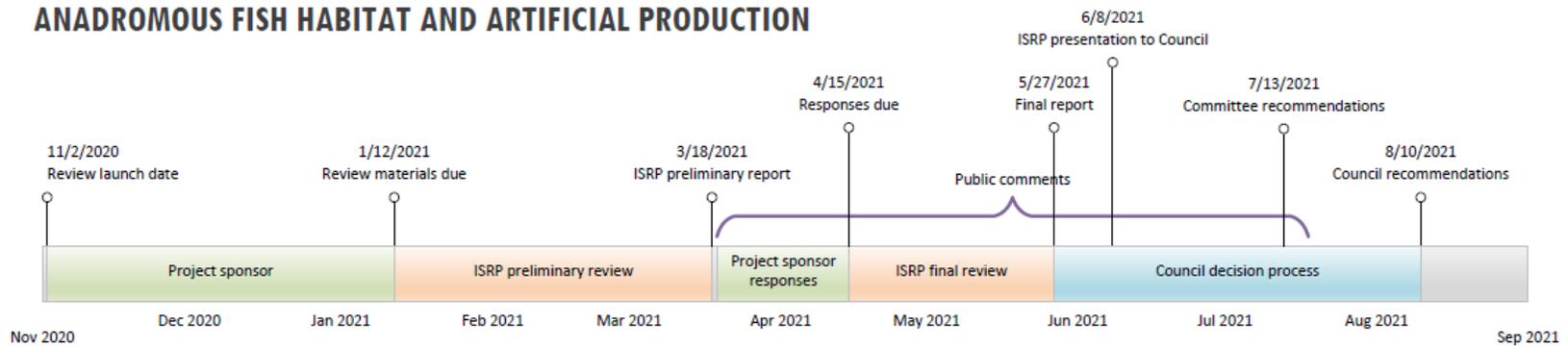
MAINSTEM/PROGRAM SUPPORT



RESIDENT FISH/BLOCKED AREAS



ANADROMOUS FISH HABITAT AND ARTIFICIAL PRODUCTION



3. Targeted Reviews

The Council may develop targeted solicitations to address emerging priorities listed in the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program (see pages [115-116](#)), for example, to solicit proposals to aid sturgeon recovery or predatory management actions and research (e.g., northern pike suppression). New proposals or scope changes may be identified and submitted through the Council and Bonneville's Budget Oversight Group. The ISRP will review all proposals submitted.

4 & 5. Three-Step and Follow-up Reviews of Fish and Wildlife Program Projects

The ISRP regularly participates in reviews of projects² that 1) have unresolved scientific issues identified in previous ISRP reviews that the Council has recommended project proponents formally address or 2) are subject to the Council's Step Review process because they are complex and expensive involving planning, design, construction, and implementation phases. The reviews are iterative and depend on timely submittal of materials by the project proponents. For FY 2019, the Council will likely request the ISRP to review many of the projects listed below. Most of the potential review assignments are Step Reviews, but several originated in Category and Geographic Reviews. The ISRP identified many qualifications in the most recent Geographic Review of habitat projects for anadromous fish restoration and the Category Reviews for RM&E, artificial production, and resident fish projects. Many qualifications entail follow-up reports by the project proponents and subsequent ISRP review. Some follow-up reviews may include site visits or meetings between the project proponents and the ISRP. The list below describes a *sample* of the projects with qualifications requiring significant reviews. Many other projects (not listed here) have qualifications calling for future ISRP reviews.

A. Anadromous Salmon and Steelhead: Hatchery Master Plans, Blocked Area Assessment, Habitat Restoration

Master Plan for the Hood River Production Program (HRPP) – This program is jointly managed and evaluated by the Warm Springs Tribes and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Projects 1988-053-03, 1988-053-04, 1988-053-07, 1988-053-08, and 1988-053-15). The physical habitat project (1998-021-00) is managed by the Warm Springs Tribes. The ISRP conducted a Step One review of this master plan in 2008 ([ISRP 2008-10](#)) and recommended Meets Scientific Review Criteria – In Part (qualified). Overall, the ISRP found the master plan to be an impressive step forward in concept, decision-logic, organization, and scientific justification. However, the ISRP qualified the recommendation because of concerns involving acclimation ponds and residualism, potential use of hatchery-origin broodstock, and justification for assessment methods. In response to the ISRP's concerns and the Council's subsequent recommendation, a final Step Review document may be submitted in FY 2019.

² These projects include some that are categorized as [Fish Accord](#) or [BiOp](#) projects.

Klickitat Master Plan: Yakima Fisheries Project Design and Construction, Project 1988-115-25 (1995-068-00 and 1997-013-35) – The ISRP has participated in an iterative Step Review for the Klickitat project. In 2005, the ISRP reviewed a Step One master plan submittal ([ISRP 2005-7](#)) and a response to that review ([ISRP 2005-16](#)). A 2008 ISRP review ([ISRP 2008-6](#)) found the revised master plan to be well-balanced, relatively thorough, and generally responsive to past ISRP comments. The ISRP noted some issues that should be addressed in future step reviews. The ISRP completed an initial Step Two review in 2012 and a response review in 2013 ([ISRP 2013-1](#)). The ISRP review split the master plan into three components. The ISRP found that the McCreedy Creek Steelhead Supplementation and Spring Chinook Integrated Harvest and Colonization components met criteria with qualifications that could be addressed in Step Three. However, the ISRP requested further response to issues regarding the Segregated Steelhead Harvest component. In May 2018, the ISRP completed a review of a follow-up Step submittal for the spring Chinook component of the master plan, which differed from earlier master plans drafts (2004, 2008, 2012) that proposed multispecies hatchery reform initiatives for fall Chinook, coho, and steelhead, as well as spring Chinook ([ISRP 2018-4](#)). The ISRP requested a response regarding five scientific issues. The Council concurred with the need for the project proponent to address the ISRP’s concerns, and the ISRP anticipates receiving and reviewing a response in late FY 2018 or FY 2019.

Walla Walla Spring Chinook Master Plan, Project 2000-038-00 – In September 2013, the ISRP completed a review of a revised master plan and found the plan met scientific review criteria for Step One. ([ISRP 2013-10](#); see also [ISRP 2010-17](#)). To address Step Two concerns, the project proponent submitted a monitoring and evaluation plan. In August 2015, the ISRP requested a response including a revised monitoring and evaluation plan and additional discussion of lingering issues raised in the Step One review. A response review is anticipated in late FY 2018 or FY 2019.

Yakima Subbasin Summer and Fall Run Chinook and Coho Salmon Hatchery Master Plan, Project 1988-115-25 – In July 2013, the ISRP completed a response review concerning the master plan. The ISRP recommended that the master plan met scientific review criteria but raised several qualifications that could be addressed in Step Two ([ISRP 2013-8](#)). In June 2018, the ISRP received a Step Two and Three submittal for the coho component of the master plan. As of the date of this FY 2019 ISRP Statement of Work, the ISRP has not completed its review, but the ISRP anticipates that it will request a response that may result in further review in FY 2019.

Crystal Springs Fish Hatchery and Programs for Snake River Chinook Salmon and Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout, Project 2008-906-00 – For Step One, the ISRP conducted two reviews of this project’s master plan ([ISRP 2011-17](#) and [ISRP 2012-8](#)). In the reviews, the ISRP found the master plan and responses to be well organized, detailed, and thorough. The ISRP recommended that the project met scientific review criteria with some qualifications pertaining to both the Chinook salmon and Yellowstone cutthroat trout elements of the project. Further Step review related to these qualifications is anticipated in late FY 2018 or FY 2019.

Snake River Basin Steelhead Kelt Reconditioning Facility Master Plan, Project 2007-401-00 – In 2016, the ISRP completed a review of a revised master plan and found it met scientific review criteria with a qualification to address four issues during the next phase in project development ([ISRP 2016-12](#)). The Council recommended the proponents address these issues in the next Step review. A submittal and review is anticipated in late FY 2018 or in FY 2019.

Spokane Tribe Habitat Assessment in Blocked Areas, Project 2016-003-00 – For ISRP and Council review, the project proponents will develop a summary of their assessment of habitat suitability for reintroduction of anadromous salmonids above Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph dams. The summary will include findings from their Intrinsic Potential modeling, evaluation of existing habitat data, and EDT modeling. The ISRP will review the results of the assessment as part of the FY 2018 Research Project Status Review. In addition, in FY 2019, the ISRP and/or ISAB may be requested to review the set of reintroduction assessments conducted by the Tribe and other partners. The results of these studies and the reviews will be considered by the Council and relevant entities to determine whether to proceed to the Program's Phase II for reintroduction, which moves from studying to designing and testing reintroduction strategies.

Grande Ronde Model Watershed, Project 1992-026-01 – In response to the Council and ISRP recommendation for the Umbrella Project Review ([ISRP 2017-2](#)), the project proponents are developing a synthesis report including a landscape-level evaluation of over 25 years of habitat restoration work. The project proponents are scheduled to submit a synthesis report for ISRP and Council review in late FY 2018 or FY 2019.

B. White Sturgeon

White Sturgeon Hatchery Master Plan: Lower Columbia and Snake River Impoundments, Project 2008-455-00 – In March 2016, the ISRP completed a review of the Step-One master plan submittal ([ISRP 2016-5](#)). A Step-Two submittal is anticipated in FY 2019.

Lake Roosevelt White Sturgeon Conservation Hatchery Project, 2007-372-00 – A Three-Step Review is not imminent but is possible in late FY 2019 or FY 2020.

C. Resident Fish

Kootenai River Project Synthesis Report (1988-065-00, 1994-049-00, 2002-002-00, 2002-008-00, 2002-011-00) – This report will address a Council condition and ISRP qualification from the Resident Fish, Data Management, and Regional Coordination Category Review ([ISRP 2012-6](#)). The ISRP recommended that a synthesis report be produced that summarizes the results that have been obtained from the RM&E efforts associated with these projects. The ISRP specified that the synthesis should be a concise and comprehensive interpretation of aquatic community and system-scale responses that can be used to guide current and future restoration efforts on this system. A submittal and review is anticipated in FY 2019.

Duck Valley Reservation Reservoir Fish Stocking O&M and M&E, Three-Reservoir Management Plan, Project 1995-015-00 – This management plan will address a Council condition and ISRP qualification from the Resident Fish, Data Management, and Regional Coordination Category Review ([ISRP 2012-6](#)). A submittal and review is possible in FY 2019.

Kalispel Tribe Resident Fish Program, Project 199500100 – Changes in the project could trigger a Three Step Review, but the Council will need to see a proposal to determine the appropriate review process. A review is not imminent but is possible in FY 2019. If not reviewed in a Step process, the project will be reviewed in FY 2020 as part of the Resident Fish/Blocked Area Category Review.

6. Reimbursable Projects Reviews

The Council and the ISRP have approached “reimbursable program” reviews sequentially over the past decade. The ISRP has reviewed the portions of the reimbursable program that are the most scientifically uncertain, complex or expensive, and amenable to scientific review. These reviews have included evaluations of Lower Snake River Compensation Plan (LSRCP) projects (see [ISRP 2014-6](#)) and multiple evaluations of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Columbia River Fish Mitigation Program projects, specifically those under the Anadromous Fish Evaluation Program (AFEP, see below). However, the ISRP has not reviewed many of the projects funded through the Corps’ Fish and Wildlife Operations and Maintenance Budget, primarily because these O&M projects include relatively few scientific elements. Although the Hatchery Science Review Group (HSRG) has reviewed the Bureau of Reclamation’s Leavenworth Hatchery, the ISRP has not. During the ISAB’s Upper Columbia spring Chinook review ([ISAB 2018-1](#)), the ISAB considered the role of Leavenworth Hatchery in mitigation and recovery efforts but did not conduct a specific review of the hatchery. The ISRP and Council staff will discuss whether a review of Leavenworth Hatchery would be timely and useful in FY 2019. In addition, the ISRP, Council, and LSRCP staff will discuss a schedule and approach for reviewing the LSRCP projects. One logical, complementary approach would be to review the projects in 2020-2021 to coincide with the Category Review of the Fish and Wildlife Program’s anadromous fish habitat restoration and artificial production projects.

Anadromous Fish Evaluation Program

In 2009, the Council, Corps, and ISRP agreed to sequence reviews of AFEP projects by topic. In 2010, the ISRP reviewed the AFEP projects for the estuary ([ISRP 2010-6](#)) and raised scientific concerns that, as agreed by the Council and the Corps, would be addressed in the FY 2011 versions of the proposals. The ISRP reviews of those revised proposals were mostly favorable, and the ISRP offered some general comments on how to improve the review of other AFEP projects in the future (see [ISRP 2010-34](#)). In 2011, the ISRP reviewed the Corps’ comprehensive RM&E Plan for the Willamette Basin projects and proposals for specific actions under the plan ([ISRP 2011-26](#)). The Willamette work is occurring as specified in the NMFS and USFWS Willamette Basin biological opinions. In December 2012, the ISRP completed a review of the

Corps-funded lamprey passage projects ([ISRP 2012-19](#)). For FY 2019, the ISRP will continue its role reviewing synthesis reports, draft plans, and proposals for the Willamette Basin program. In addition, the ISRP might be asked to review AFEP adult fish passage, avian predation, and/or other studies for which decisions on design, selection, and implementation would benefit from ISRP review. The ISRP intends to discuss potential reviews with Council and Corps staff.

7. Results Reviews

The ISRP fulfills its “results review” charge in three basic ways:

A. Proposal Reviews

A major element of the ISRP’s reviews of ongoing projects is an examination of each project’s reporting of past results consistent with the retrospective review charge. The project proposal form includes questions that ask for a concise summary of biological results and progress toward meeting project objectives, and a discussion of the adaptive management implications of those results. The form also gives notice that the ISRP will use the information submitted for its retrospective review. Since the Resident Fish, Data Management, and Regional Coordination Category Review in 2012, the ISRP has included a specific section in each project comment field for a retrospective analysis. In addition to review comments on each project, the ISRP provides programmatic comments on the general sufficiency of results reporting and incorporation of project accomplishments into future planning.

B. ISRP Retrospective Reports

The ISRP has released four distinct “retrospective” reports. In 2005, the ISRP completed its first retrospective report, *Independent Scientific Review Panel’s Retrospective Report 1997-2005* ([ISRP 2005-14](#), August 2005). The report focused on programmatic issues and observations identified in ISRP reviews dating back to the ISRP’s first report in 1997. In 2006, the ISRP’s review of Fiscal Year 2007-09 proposals included an examination of the results reported by ongoing projects. The ISRP reported the results of that analysis in its *ISRP 2006 Retrospective Report* ([ISRP 2007-1](#), March 2007). The ISRP’s *Retrospective Report 2007: Adaptive Management in the Columbia River Basin* ([ISRP 2008-4](#), April 2008) focused on how projects are changing their objectives, strategies, and methods based on learning from the results of their actions. The ISRP accomplished this by looking at themes that emerged in previous ISRP retrospectives, examining a subset of projects that were reviewed in Fiscal Year 2007, and investigating how proponents applied the results of their past projects to proposed future actions and monitoring. The ISRP’s *Retrospective Report 2011* ([ISRP 2011-25](#)) expanded on the results review of projects evaluated in the RM&E and Artificial Production Category Review. The review focused on sets of projects in three major topical areas: 1) artificial production; 2) passage through mainstem dams, the river, and reservoirs; and 3) habitat restoration monitoring. The ISRP found that monitoring and evaluation has improved in all three major areas covered by this report. Nonetheless, the

ISRP stated that lack of a comprehensive analysis of biological objective achievements for hatchery and habitat efforts impedes the understanding of program effectiveness.

C. ISRP Review of “Retrospective” or “Synthesis” Reports drafted by Project Proponents

The ISRP has reviewed many “retrospective” reports that were produced by proponents of long-term, ongoing projects. Some of these reports were requested by the ISRP in a specific project review; see the *ISAB and ISRP Review of the CSS Ten-Year Retrospective Summary Report* ([ISAB/ISRP 2007-6](#), November 2007). The review of the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan programs for spring Chinook, steelhead, and fall Chinook was a comprehensive and effective look at program results ([ISRP 2014-6](#)). Other examples include the reviews of ocean, estuary, sturgeon, Idaho Supplementation Studies, and lamprey synthesis reports and ISRP follow-up reviews of the Select Area Fisheries Enhancement Program, the ODFW John Day fencing program, and the Grande Ronde model watershed habitat restoration effectiveness report.

The ISRP reviews project results in the context of other concurrent efforts that track results of the Fish and Wildlife Program. Specifically, the Council develops its own annual report to Congress and the four Basin state governors on the Program’s progress toward fish and wildlife mitigation and recovery based on high level indicators (see draft [2017 Cost Report](#)). The Council also maintains a Fish Information Site,³ which is accessible through the Program’s webpage under [Resource Tools and Maps](#). The Action Agencies for the Federal Columbia River Power System produce comprehensive evaluation reports describing progress on meeting Biological Opinion requirements. The Bonneville Power Administration developed and used Pisces and Taurus databases to track the progress of its funded projects. In 2018, Bonneville merged these databases under the name Gemini; see www.cbfish.org. These efforts and the ISRP’s retrospective review share a target of both reviewing the results that are currently reported and establishing a systematic and meaningful reporting of project results as a central feature of the Fish and Wildlife Program.

A major ISRP results review for 2015 and 2016 was the evaluation of RM&E projects’ annual reports for the Critical Uncertainties Review ([ISAB/ISRP 2016-1](#)), and in FY 2017 the ISRP evaluated the results of umbrella habitat restoration projects ([ISRP 2017-2](#)) and wildlife projects ([ISRP 2017-7](#)). As noted above, in the fourth quarter FY 2018 the ISRP will participate in a status review of research-focused projects and in FY 2019 a full review of program support and mainstem projects. Those reviews will focus on project results and progress toward meeting objectives. In addition, the ISRP intends to discuss with the Council topics for future ISRP retrospective reports, for example, the extent to which actions funded and guided by the Program have addressed Program goals and biologically based objectives.

³ The Fish Information Site continues the compilation of fish and wildlife status data that the now-disbanded Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority collected and maintained. The transition to the Council occurred from 2012 to 2014.