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June 9, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

FROM: Stacy Horton, Policy Analyst/Biologist, Washington
Mark Fritsch, Manager, Project Implementation
Jim Ruff, Manager, Mainstem Passage and River Operations

SUBJECT: Presentation on Northern Pike in the Upper Columbia

BACKGROUND:

Presenters: Fish and wildlife managers from the Upper Columbia have coordinated a presentation on northern pike. **Joe Maroney**, Director of Fishery and Water Resources for the Kalispel Tribe, **John Whalen**, Eastern Region Fish Program Manager for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, **Chris Donley**, Inland Fish Program Manager for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Dr. **Brent Nichols**, Fisheries Program Manager for the Spokane Tribe, and **Bret Nine**, Resident Fish Program Manager for the Colville Confederated Tribes will bring the Council up to date on efforts to address this non-native invasive species.

Summary: Presenters will describe the status of efforts to reduce and manage the non-native northern pike population in the Pend Oreille River. They will also discuss a recent invasion of northern pike into the Kettle River, and the management implications and actions needed.

Relevance: The northern pike is an introduced, non-native fish species which is known as a voracious fish predator. Preserving Fish and Wildlife Program effectiveness by aggressively addressing non-native and invasive species is the Council's third highest emerging priority.

Workplan: This presentation addresses Council work plan item 2.B, which promotes regional fish and wildlife recovery by prioritizing and implementing 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program actions.

Background: At the Aquatic Invasive Species session at the Lake Roosevelt Forum meeting on April 22, 2015, Joe Maroney presented information about northern pike range expansion in the upper Columbia basin, and in particular into the Kettle River arm of Lake Roosevelt. The management goals for this non-native predator species are to: a) minimize their impact to native species; b) reduce the spread of northern Pike to other waters downstream, particularly the mainstem Columbia River; and c) reduce the northern Pike population in the Pend Oreille River and elsewhere in the upper Columbia.

In 2011, the WDFW Commission approved a reclassification of northern Pike from a game fish to a “prohibited species.”

In 2012, the Spokane Tribe of Indians classified Northern Pike as a non-native invasive species through passage of Spokane Tribal Resolution 2012-153.

More Info: None at this time.