

to 6 percent by 2015. Stated another way, these estimates predict that typical Northwest monthly electricity bills will increase by about \$2 a month by 1997 and a total of \$3 a month in 2015, to pay for the additional salmon measures called for in this program.

Additional cost analysis is included in Appendix B. Those costs are reported in leveled dollars.

1.3C Regional Funding and Staffing

Because it is a regional program to rebuild weak fish and wildlife populations, the Council's program calls for participation and funding by state and federal entities and others.

All levels of government must bear responsibility for adequately funding and staffing fish and wildlife rebuilding measures, or run the almost certain risk that the recovery effort will be delayed, with potentially disastrous results.

Until now, most fish and wildlife rebuilding costs have been borne by electric power consumers through the Bonneville Power Administration pursuant to the provisions of the Northwest Power Act. To the extent that measures -- including off-site measures and programs -- respond to the impacts on fish and wildlife caused by the region's hydroelectric system, ratepayer reimbursement is appropriate. But these fish and wildlife populations were diminished, and rebuilding measures are required, because of a variety of other causes. The costs of responding to these other causes should be shared by all responsible parties. The Council will work with the states, Bonneville and other federal agencies to clarify funding responsibilities.

The Council intends to make cost-effectiveness an important part of the program. A successful program is one that provides permanent restoration of fish and wildlife populations at the lowest cost. Such a program cannot be restricted to any one life stage, but must comprehensively include all stages in fish and wildlife life cycles. Short-term, least-cost calculations are not part of this plan, but aiming for long-run success is.

To assess measures that will have the greatest level of biological effectiveness relative to the regional costs incurred, the Council shall review

and acknowledge all cost-effectiveness analyses submitted to the Council and related to the program.

1.4 COUNCIL COMMITMENTS

The Council finds this program to be consistent with the purposes of the Northwest Power Act. The Council has evaluated the measures included in this program on the basis of the recommendations, supporting documents, consultations and public comment contained in its record. It has determined that the measures will protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife affected by the development, operation and management of hydroelectric facilities located on the Columbia River and its tributaries, while assuring the Pacific Northwest an adequate, efficient, economical and reliable power supply. The Council also has determined that these measures meet the list of program requirements contained in Section 4(h)(6) of the Act.

The Council is committed to a stringent program of monitoring and evaluating progress to ensure that the region's investment in fish and wildlife pays off. Rebuilding targets and performance standards are being instituted to provide explicit means of measuring progress. The Council will modify or eliminate activities that do not provide sufficient progress toward stated goals and objectives, and will consider other actions.

In comments on drafts of this plan, several parties have raised concerns about the effects that drafting upriver storage reservoirs for salmon flows could have on resident fish and wildlife in headwater areas. The Council does not intend to address the environmental problems of salmon by indiscriminately shifting environmental problems to upriver areas. It is committed to avoiding such impacts as much as possible, and to monitoring and evaluating them should they occur. Section 903(b)(1) of the 1987 Fish and Wildlife Program has been included in the revised program. See Section 10.3A.

Other comment received in public review of this program made it clear that the region is divided over the scientific merits of some major measures

to rebuild fish populations. Three issues that remain intensely debated are the relationship of increased flows to fish survival, transportation and the proper role of supplementing wild and naturally

spawning fish populations with hatchery-reared fish. These will be examined closely under the Council's program.

The Council also strongly believes that the region must work to improve its understanding of the interdependence among fish, wildlife and human activities, such as power system operations, harvest, water use and land management.

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