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January 4, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

FROM: Leslie Bach and Kris Homel

SUBJECT: Fish and Wildlife Program Strategy Performance Indicators: Review of Data Compilation and Launching of SPI Program Tracker

BACKGROUND:

Presenters: Leslie Bach and Kris Homel; Neil Ward and Binh Quan, QW Consulting

Summary: Staff and consultants will provide an update on the implementation of the Strategy Performance Indicator (SPI) work identified in Part 1 of the Fish and Wildlife Program 2020 Addendum. The update will include an overview of the process used to develop the SPIs and to compile and display the SPI data and information. Staff will provide a live demonstration of the Program Tracker tool that will be used for public access to the SPIs, and discuss the process for official launch of the SPI Program Tracker.

Relevance: Under the Northwest Power Act, the Council is to adopt a program “to protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife, including related spawning grounds and habitat, affected by the development, operation, and management of the hydroelectric facilities located on the Columbia River or its tributaries”. The Council’s Fish and Wildlife Program describes a framework for implementation that includes identifying and tracking program goals and objectives, and implementing strategies and measures that will lead to achieving the goals and objectives.

Background: In the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program, the Council, in collaboration with regional fish and wildlife managers, identified a set of program goals and objectives. In the 2020 Addendum, the goals and objectives were refined and reorganized to facilitate tracking changes over time and evaluating program progress, and were formally adopted into the Program. Achieving these goals and objectives occurs through implementing the program strategies described in the 2014/2020 programs, therefore the Council needs an effective way to measure progress in implementing the program strategies. During the Addendum process, the Council and fish and wildlife managers identified a set of strategy performance indicators (SPIs) that can be used to track status and trends of ecological and biological conditions linked to the program strategies. Numerous sources of information were used to inform development of the SPIs; however, a critical requirement was that they be based on currently available data. The SPIs were not formally adopted into the program, which allows for refining and changing the SPIs as additional information becomes available.

The Council convened a standing workgroup to support efforts to compile, track and report on the SPIs. Although a few of the SPIs were accessible through readily available databases, many of them required more time-intensive approaches to data compilation. The workgroup and numerous subgroups helped identify the data sources and review and comment on the data displays. For all of the SPIs, there were numerous decisions regarding the data, including time periods and locations of data, life stages and stocks to include, how to account for incomplete datasets, reporting format, frequency of updates, etc.

The Council is using its Program Tracker tool to track and report on the SPIs. Along with the data, the Program Tracker will include metadata and source references, as well as relevant contextual information. The organization of the Tracker and associated web pages will be updated to align with the reorganization of the program's goals, objectives, and strategy performance indicators.

More Info: [2020 Addendum to the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program](#)

[Strategy Performance Indicator Workgroup](#)

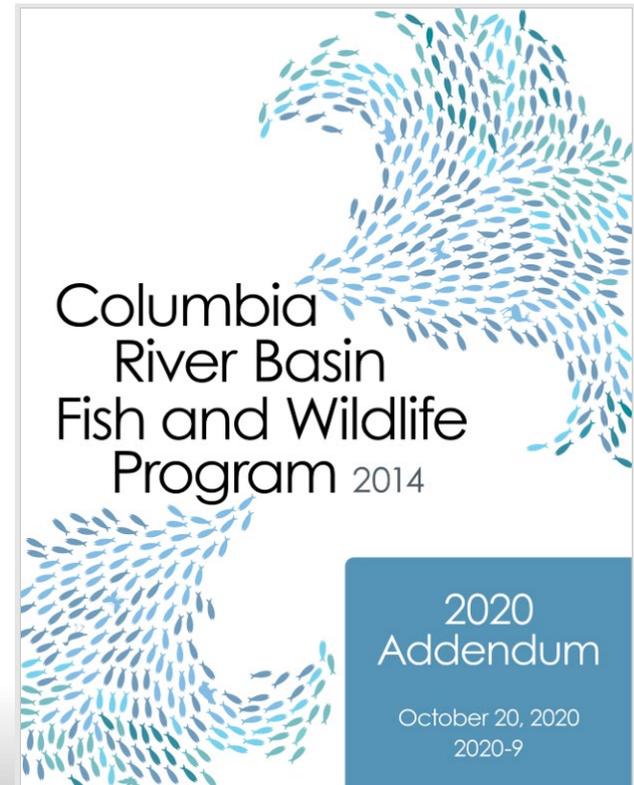
[First Year Progress Report](#)

Fish and Wildlife Program Strategy Performance Indicators: Review of Data Compilation and Launching of SPI Program Tracker

January 10, 2023

Focus on Performance

- Aspects of performance in every program
- In 2014 Program increased focus toward understanding outcomes from 40 years of investment
- 2018 Council discussion directed staff to focus on “program performance”
- 2020 Addendum – tools for assessing performance



2020 Fish and Wildlife Program Addendum

*The program's **goals** and **objectives** are consistent with the Act and with the program's vision, describing the changes in the environment and the biological performance that are needed to achieve the vision.*

All the program's strategies ... contribute to achieving the program's goals and objectives... The Council needs an effective way to measure progress in implementing these strategies.

*...this addendum identifies a set of **strategy performance indicators** that can be used to assess progress in implementing the program strategies and improve the ecological and population conditions of the focal species.*

Fish and Wildlife Program

Program Performance and Adaptive Management



2020 Addendum Process

- 8 Workshops on Goals, Objectives and Strategy Performance Indicators
- Managers/Experts provided suggested SPIs
- SPIs based on existing/available datasets
- SPI workgroup (+ subgroups) to review SPIs
- Revise SPIs based on data availability/sources

Addendum Part I: Goals and Objectives

- Anadromous salmon and steelhead: returns, SARs, survival standards
- Sturgeon: abundance, distribution, diversity, productivity
- Lamprey: abundance, passage
- Resident salmonids: self-sustaining populations, habitat (miles and acres)
- Wildlife: acres and HUs
- Ecological objectives: flow, habitat, water quality
- Communication, coordination objectives

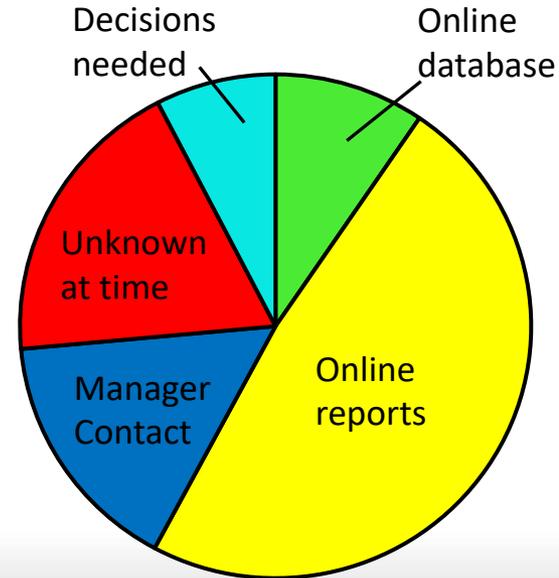
Strategies listed in Part I of the 2020 addendum

- Habitat
- Non-native and Invasive Species
- Predator Management
- Protected Areas and Hydroelectric Development and Licensing
- Water Quality
- Climate Change (*uses indicators from other strategies*)
- Estuary
- Plume and Nearshore Ocean
- Mainstem Hydrosystem Flow and Passage
- Wildlife
- Fish Propagation and Hatchery
- Wild Fish
- Anadromous Fish Mitigation in Blocked Areas
- Resident Fish Mitigation
- White Sturgeon
- Pacific Lamprey
- Eulachon
- Public Engagement

Strategy Performance Indicators

- During Addendum, identified 105 SPIs for 18 strategies in the Program (based on currently available data)
- Some data readily accessible; other data required time investment; some not available
- Information displayed in the Council's Program Tracker
- SPI Workgroup and subgroups provided guidance and data

Initial data availability distribution for all strategies combined



Workgroup Structure and Purpose

- Provide guidance to the Council on compiling, assessing, tracking, and reporting on the program goals, objectives and strategy performance indicators
- Technical representatives from the Tribes and State and Federal fish and wildlife agencies within the Basin
- Chaired by Committee Chair Jeff Allen; staffed by NPCC
- Open to public to attend and observe but not directly participate; non-members invited to present information

Workgroup Meetings and Tasks

Workgroup Meetings:

- Five full Workgroup meetings, 2021 and 2022
- Subgroup meetings for:
 - Resident fish
 - Lower Columbia sturgeon
 - Middle/Upper Snake sturgeon
 - Kootenai sturgeon
 - Lamprey

Tasks:

- Identify data sources and data gaps
- Refine indicators
- Review the Program Tracker
- Guide data summary and reporting
- Provide context information

Types of Decisions: Time period, location, life stages, stocks included, how to display, reporting format, frequency of updates, etc.

Public Engagement

Public Engagement

Status and summary reports on strategy performance indicators and progress toward objectives and goals. (C1-1) (Link)

PDF 20220201_SPI first year progress report.pdf

... Download

<https://nwcouncil.app.box.com/s/vy44fm4obdzyg2mbg2mftw1fczb649rl>

Program Performance: Goals, Objectives, Strategy Performance Indicators
First Year Progress Report
February 1, 2022

Background

Part I of the 2020 addendum focuses on components of program performance and adaptive management, reorganizing and refining the program’s goals and objectives, and identifying a preliminary set of strategy performance indicators (SPIs) to track and report on program progress.

The program’s goals and objectives describe the desired changes in the environment and the biological performance that are needed to protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife affected by the hydropower system (hydrosystem). In the addendum, some objectives are broader than, or derived from a source other than hydrosystem impacts. The Council used these targets as objectives when they met the following criteria: 1) they have been well developed by others in the region; 2) they clearly relate to the program goals; 3) implementing the program’s measures will clearly be necessary to contribute to meeting these targets; and 4) the targets are relatively easy to understand and track.

The preliminary SPIs identified in the addendum are not formally adopted into the program, but rather are intended to be used as tracking tools that can be refined and changed outside of an amendment process as better numbers or better indicators become available. The SPIs were developed through a series of collaborative workshops among Council staff and fish and wildlife managers during the 2020 amendment process. Numerous sources of information were used to inform the development of the SPIs; however a critical requirement was that they be based on currently available data.

The addendum called for the Council to convene a standing workgroup to provide guidance on

Source: NPCC

<https://projects.nwcouncil.org/ProgramTracker>

Tracking Progress

The Council uses the Program Tracker to assess progress towards achieving the programs goals, evaluate performance of program strategies, and understand external factors affecting the basin's fish, wildlife and habitat.

Since 1981 WORKING TO RESTORE
HEALTHY HABITAT FOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE
AFFECTED BY THE
HYDROSYSTEM

Columbia
River Basin
Fish and Wildlife
Program 2014

1 of 3



How does the Program Tracker inform the Program?

The Program Tracker is a central portal to access information from program projects and partners that together provide an understanding of the status of the basin and program progress in mitigating for the impacts of the hydrosystem.

The Program Tracker is also the central tool that supports information used in the Council's Program Performance & Progress and other Resource Tools and Maps.

Program Tracking

1 Program Goals & Objectives

2 Strategy Indicators

3 High-Level Indicator

4 External Concerns