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January 6, 2026

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council Members

**FROM:** Patty O'Toole

**SUBJECT:** Fish and Wildlife Program amendment process update

## BACKGROUND:

**Presenter:** Patty O'Toole

**Summary:** Staff will provide a brief update on the current stage of the amendment process, highlighting the public review process and timelines.

**Relevance:** Per the Northwest Power Act, the Council must call for recommendations to amend the Fish and Wildlife Program prior to updating its Power Plan. The recommendation period closed on May 19, and the comment period on the recommendations closed on July 3. The draft Program is under public review through March 2, 2026.

**Workplan:** This work addresses a primary responsibility under the Northwest Power Act and tasks A. 4, 5, and 6 of the 2025 Fish and Wildlife Division Work Plan under the Program Policy and Planning function.

**Background:** The Council voted to release a draft of the 2026 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program at the December Council meeting. The public comment period began on December 17, 2025, and continues through **March 2, 2026**. At the January Council meeting, staff will review the amendment process timeline, and share information regarding the public review process and public hearing schedule.

**More info:** Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program amendment [webpage](#)