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August 2, 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Bruce Suzumoto and John Shurts

SUBJECT: Update on the development of biological objectives and the all-H technical integration process

The purpose of this agenda item is to update the Council on our progress toward developing biological objectives and to discuss issues that we may need to address if the Council decides to move ahead with an amendment process.

At the July Council meeting we presented examples of outputs from the Columbia Cascade province that were produced by the "All-H Analyzer" (AHA) model. The results were derived from the Council sponsored technical exercise that aims to better integrate subbasin plans with hatchery, harvest and mainstem activities. One of the primary purposes of the technical exercise is to provide a starting point for discussion on quantified biological objectives for the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program.

In general, the technical effort is moving ahead rapidly. The new data management system and analytical tools have been developed and are now being tested for use. The completed data system and analytical tools will be available online over the coming weeks. Habitat, hatchery, hydro and harvest information on anadromous stocks has been collected from subbasin plans, regional databases and management plans and incorporated into the system. Data gaps and information needs are being identified and we are discussing ways to address them. To ensure transparency and accuracy, a protocol to document data sources is being developed. We have participated in several CBFWA sponsored workshops to inform their members on our technical effort and model and tools being used. Finally, we are planning more workshops around the basin to assist in the verification of the data that has been collected.

The Council approved funding for five subbasin workshops to train people on the usage or the data system and AHA model and to assist in the verification of collected information. To encourage better understanding on the process and tools we are using, we will also hold a

technical training workshop on the use of the model for individuals not attending the subbasin workshops. In general, these individuals will have technical expertise in the subbasins that we are not being covered in our process.

The tentative dates and locations of the workshops are outlined in the table below:

Workshop	Location	Tentative Dates
Wenatchee Subbasin	Wenatchee	August 10
Technical Training Workshop	Portland	August 18
Deschutes Subbasin	Warm Springs	September 6
Umatilla Subbasin	Walla Walla	September 7
Walla Walla Subbasin	Walla Walla	September 8
Clearwater/Salmon	Boise or Spokane	September 12-15
Imnaha Subbasin	Boise or Spokane	September 12-15

We anticipate the subbasin and provincial results of the technical exercise to be complete by the end of September. After the completion of the technical exercise and prior to a call for recommendations to amend the program, several issues need to be addressed. These issues include:

- How do we verify or estimate AHA data inputs in areas where information is lacking?
- How will we maintain and update the data system?
- How do we educate/inform the region about the tools and results and their relationship to the possible upcoming policy effort to adopt biological objectives into the program?

The staff has given some thought on how to approach these questions and would like to discuss these ideas with the Council.