

Richard Devlin
Chair
Oregon

Chuck Sams
Oregon

Guy Norman
Washington

Patrick Oshie
Washington



Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Bo Downen
Vice Chair
Montana

Doug Grob
Montana

Jim Yost
Idaho

Jeffery C. Allen
Idaho

April 27, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

FROM: Mark Fritsch

SUBJECT: The Importance of Fish Screens to the Fish and Wildlife Program

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Patrick Murphy, Chair of the Fish Screening Oversight Committee, Idaho Department of Fish and Wildlife (IDFG), *Program Coordinator Anadromous Fish Screens, Passage, and Habitat Program* and Danny Didricksen, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) *Fish Screening Section Manager*

Summary: Presenting on behalf of the Fish Screening Oversight Committee (FSOC), Patrick and Danny will provide a brief overview of the variety and magnitude of screens that they oversee and manage, as well as others in the Columbia River Basin, with emphasis placed on the importance of screen programs in the protection and conservation of the region's anadromous and resident fish.

The FSOC provides a forum for federal, state, tribal, and private entities to exchange information on fish screening concerns in the basin. The FSOC facilitates discussion and technical exchange regarding design criteria and guidelines, biological study results, testing and assessment of experimental technology, and improvements in manufacturing and construction techniques.

Relevance: Fish Screens are a critical part of the Programs implementation history and past investment. An inventory of the Program's 1,041 screens (involving 18 projects with 13 sponsors) is posted on the Council's [fish screens resource map web-site](#). As part of the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program implementation, an investment strategy is outlined ([Part Six: Section II, and Appendix P](#)) and within this strategy long-term maintenance of past investments is given the highest of the emerging Program priorities. On October 10, 2018 the Council approved an [Asset Management Strategic Plan](#) to address non-recurring maintenance needs for hatcheries, screens and lands to ensure longevity and integrity of the Program's past investments made for the benefit of fish and wildlife.

Workplan: Fish and Wildlife Division work plan 2021; Program Implementation (2014 Program and 2020 Addendum); and other program implementation

Background: Fish screens are critical to prevent fish from being stranded in irrigation ditches, channels or canals when water is diverted or pumped from rivers and streams. Fish screens are built according to criteria approved by National Marine Fisheries Service to help maintain water velocities evenly across the screen surface, preventing higher velocity points from impinging fish to the screen. Fish screens installed by the fish and wildlife managers in the Columbia River Basin help ensure safe passage of juvenile and adult fish which contributes to salmon recovery and works in conjunction with habitat restoration activities.