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August 3, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Council staff

SUBJECT: Update on Anadromous Fish Habitat and Hatchery Project Review

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Mark Fritsch and Maureen Hess

Summary: Council staff will provide a brief update on the *Anadromous Fish Habitat and Hatchery* (AFHH) Project Review. This review category is the last category of projects to be reviewed in this cycle and was initiated in early February 2021. Staff will provide a brief status report on the AFHH review schedule and provide a summary for the project presentations that were recently completed in July. The Council decision associated with this category of projects is anticipated to be made in April 2022.

Relevance: Section 4h(10)(D) of the Northwest Power Act directs the Council to review projects proposed for funding by Bonneville to implement the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. The Council engages in this review process with the assistance of the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP). The Council and Bonneville work together to develop the information necessary to make the review process successful.

Workplan: Fish and Wildlife Division: Program Implementation (2014 Program and 2020 addendum); Project review.

Background: In response to section 4(h)(10)(D) of the Northwest Power Act as amended in 1996 the Council initiated review of Fish and Wildlife Program

(Program) projects with independent scientific review (i.e., ISRP) of projects funded by the Bonneville Power Administration. The Council uses the ISRP review as a basis for making recommendations regarding project implementation.

Based on experience gained from previous project review processes (e.g., all projects reviewed at once and rolling provincial review) implemented since the late 1990's, the Council and Bonneville, with input from the ISRP, developed a structure to more effectively review projects for Program implementation beginning in Fiscal Year 2010 and beyond. This review structure is called a category review for existing projects that are similar in nature and intent (i.e., strategy and topic). The initial category review cycle of Program projects was conducted between 2009 and 2013.

In 2017, the Council initiated the second cycle of category-based reviews. The review schedule for four different project categories (*Wildlife, Mainstem/Program, Resident Fish and Sturgeon Support*) reflected the order and timing of the previous reviews and accounted for field season, public comment period, and time necessary based on the number of projects within each category.

The [Anadromous Fish Habitat and Hatchery Project Review](#) (AFHH) is the last and largest category of this current review cycle. The 124 projects in this review include hatchery operation and maintenance (O&M), fish screen O&M, habitat restoration and the monitoring and evaluation activities associated with these project types.