



## Heads Up on Fish and Wildlife

PNUCC - July 2008

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council has endorsed working with "interested parties" in the region to further develop a set of "high-level indicators" to measure the success of its fish and wildlife program.

- ♣ PNUCC's interest in the indicators is so strong that this month we hired BioAnalysts, Inc. to take a closer look at the metrics and uses the Council has proposed for the indicators. We think it's a good idea to have this new measure of accountability, but we want to hear an independent outside perspective on what the indicators should be and how they can increase our understanding of fish and wildlife recovery actions, as well as program spending. We've let the Council know our review is under way and that we look forward to discussing the results with them soon.
- ♣ The Council spent three days this month on a section-by-section markup of its new Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife program, but there is a lot more discussion and work ahead. We are encouraged so far by the Council members' emphasis on clearly linking the program's vision and strategies to hydro system impacts. We pushed for that in our recommendations and will work to bolster that kind of thinking as the program re-write continues.
- ♣ Coming up in August, the Council will discuss the mainstem provisions of the program and continue debating the extent to which the program should involve itself with new issues like climate change, invasive species and toxics. Wildlife mitigation costs, to update or not to update the subbasin plans, and how to reflect the biological opinions and other agreements with tribes and agencies -- all these issues headline a long list of decisions yet to come.
- ♣ The Council wants a draft of the program completed before the first public hearing, scheduled for September 16 in Astoria. If there is unfinished business at the end of the August 12-14 meeting, it's likely another work session on the program will be held in Portland in late August or early September.

We'll keep you posted throughout the long, hot summer of program revision. If you have any questions or thoughts you would like to discuss, please give us a call.

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PNUCC

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