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PNWA supports new salmon BiOp

The new salmon BiOp to be released Monday, May 5th does more to help recover Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed fish than any set of actions this region has undertaken before. The BiOp, incorporating the recent MOAs between the federal agencies and Tribes, significantly advances the region's commitment to improve conditions and rebuild fish runs to meet recovery goals under the ESA.

"We support this BiOp" said Glenn Vanselow, Executive Director of the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA). "The region has focused on river operations for more than 20 years and the new BiOp and MOAs add much needed attention on habitat and hatcheries as contributors to recovery. This BiOp is a product of collaboration and we expect the region and, ultimately, the court to embrace it. It is time to end the debate and get to work on fish recovery."

The new BiOp meets ESA requirements in three ways:

- 1) The new BiOp provides more funding to rebuild fish runs. Hundreds of millions of dollars in new programs and projects will complement the ongoing investment in existing programs that have already demonstrated significant survival benefits.
- 2) The new BiOp provides more certainty for the needed funding. Congress is an important funding source, but additional funds from regional ratepayers provided through BPA will ensure that the money will be there when it is needed for river operations and on-the-ground projects.
- 3) The new BiOp strengthens collaboration between the federal agencies, states and tribes. That will lead to new partnerships, more cooperation and, ultimately, more success in reaching fish recovery goals.

PNWA is the voice of navigation, trade and economic development interests from Washington, Oregon, Idaho and northern California. Members include public ports, navigation, international trade, tourism, agriculture, forest products, energy and state and local government interests. PNWA also represents the Inland Ports and Navigation Group, comprised of ports from Oregon, Washington and Idaho, towboat companies, and shippers of maritime cargo from agriculture and the forest products industry. IPNG is an intervenor in the BiOp lawsuit. You can learn more about PNWA at www.pnwa.net.

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