



# Nor'wester newsletter

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## H.R. 3144 passes House

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Today, the U.S. House of Representatives approved [H.R.3144](#) by a vote of 225-189. The legislation was introduced last year by Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, and holds the current FCRPS BiOp in place until the new one is produced and is no longer being litigated. It also ensures that no operational changes may be made at the Snake River dams without Congressional authorization. The bill received bipartisan support early on in the process, with Reps. Schrader, Herrera Beutler, Newhouse, Walden and Labrador co-sponsoring the legislation.

Port of Whitman County Commissioner Tom Kammerzell, who also serves as Chairman of the Inland Ports and Navigation Group (IPNG), lauded the bill's passage. "The Columbia Snake River System is a vital transportation link for the states of Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Oregon. Barging plays a key role on our river system, helping to link U.S. farmers with customers around the world. We know that river commerce and healthy, robust fish runs can co-exist, and this bill helps to keep both navigation and our region's salmon recovery efforts moving forward in a productive way."

IPNG represents the voice of navigation in the BiOp litigation. PNWA and IPNG support the current (2014) BiOp, which was the product of the best available science, as well as significant collaboration between the federal agencies, four states, and sovereign Northwest tribes. The 2014 BiOp had unprecedented support in the region, was deemed scientifically sound by the Obama Administration, and helped produce record fish runs, yet was still remanded back to the agencies by Judge Simon in 2016.

### In This Issue

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PNWA thanks Rep. McMorris Rodgers for her leadership on this issue, as well as all of our Members of Congress who were able to support the bill. The legislation will now head to the Senate for further consideration. For more information, contact [Kristin Meira](#).

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