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April 4, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Leslie Bach and Kris Homel

SUBJECT: Program Performance: Strategy Performance Indicators and Program Tracker

BACKGROUND:

Presenters: Leslie Bach and Kris Homel

Summary: Staff will provide an update on the implementation of the Strategy Performance Indicator (SPI) work identified in Part 1 of the Fish and Wildlife Program 2020 Addendum. The update will include an overview of the process used to develop the SPIs and to compile and display the SPI data and information. Staff will provide a live demonstration of the Program Tracker tool, which is now available for public access to the SPIs. Staff will then briefly preview how SPI data can be used regionally and in assessing program performance.

Relevance: Under the Northwest Power Act, the Council is to adopt a program “to protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife, including related spawning grounds and habitat, affected by the development, operation, and management of the hydroelectric facilities located on the Columbia River or its tributaries”. The Council’s Fish and Wildlife Program describes a framework for implementation that includes identifying and tracking program goals and objectives, implementing strategies and measures, and achieving the goals and objectives.

Background: In the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program, the Council, in collaboration with regional fish and wildlife managers, identified a large set of program goals and objectives. Achieving those goals and objectives occurs through implementing the program strategies described in the 2014/2020 programs. In the 2020 addendum, these goals were refined, revised, and reorganized in a way that permitted tracking changes over time and evaluating program progress. Furthermore, the Council identified the need to develop an effective way to measure progress in implementing these strategies. The Council and fish and wildlife managers identified a set of strategy performance indicators (SPIs) that can be used to track status and trends of ecological and biological conditions linked to the program strategies. Numerous sources of information were used to inform development of the SPIs; however, a critical requirement was that they be based on currently available data.

The Council convened a standing workgroup to support efforts to compile, track and report on the SPIs. This Strategy Performance Indicators Workgroup was comprised of managers throughout the region and met multiple times in 2021 and 2022 to discuss issues pertaining to data acquisition and display. Although a few of the SPIs were accessible through readily available databases, many of them required more time-intensive approaches to data compilation. The workgroup and numerous subgroups helped identify the data sources and review and comment on the data displays. For all of the SPIs, there were numerous decisions regarding the data, including time periods and locations of data, life stages and stocks to include, how to account for incomplete datasets, reporting format, frequency of updates, etc.

The Council is using its Program Tracker tool to track and report on the SPIs. Along with the data, the Program Tracker includes metadata and source references, as well as relevant contextual information. Numerous uses for the SPI data reported in Program Tracker exist. For example, data can be used to visualize implementation of program strategy areas for the 2014/ 2020 program or to contribute to a larger assessment of program performance going back to 1982. These, and other, possible uses will be reviewed.

More Info: [2020 Addendum to the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program](#)

[First Year Progress Report](#)

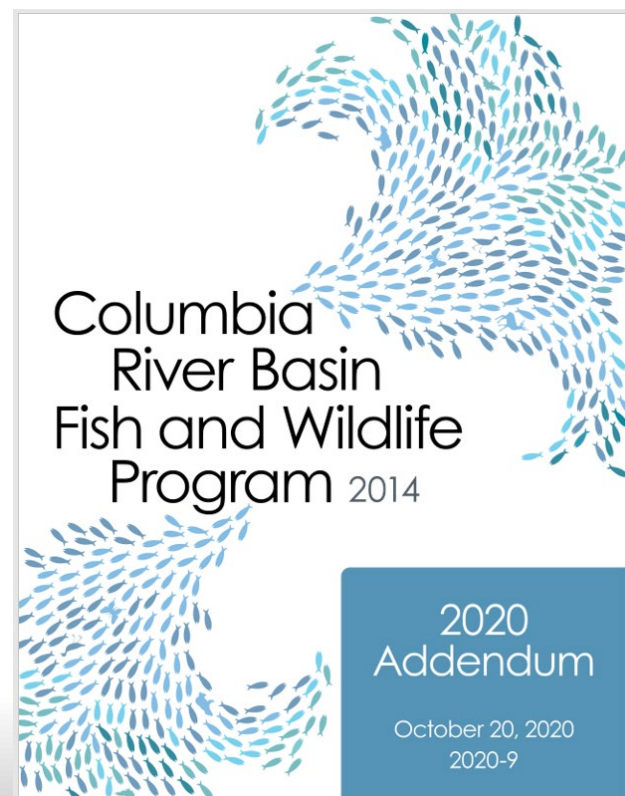
<https://projects.nwcouncil.org/ProgramTracker/>

Program Performance: Strategy Performance Indicators and Program Tracker

April 12, 2023

Focus on Performance

- Aspects of performance in every program
- In 2014 Program increased focus toward understanding outcomes from 40 years of investment
- 2018 Council discussion directed staff to focus on “program performance”
- 2020 Addendum – tools for assessing performance



2020 Fish and Wildlife Program Addendum

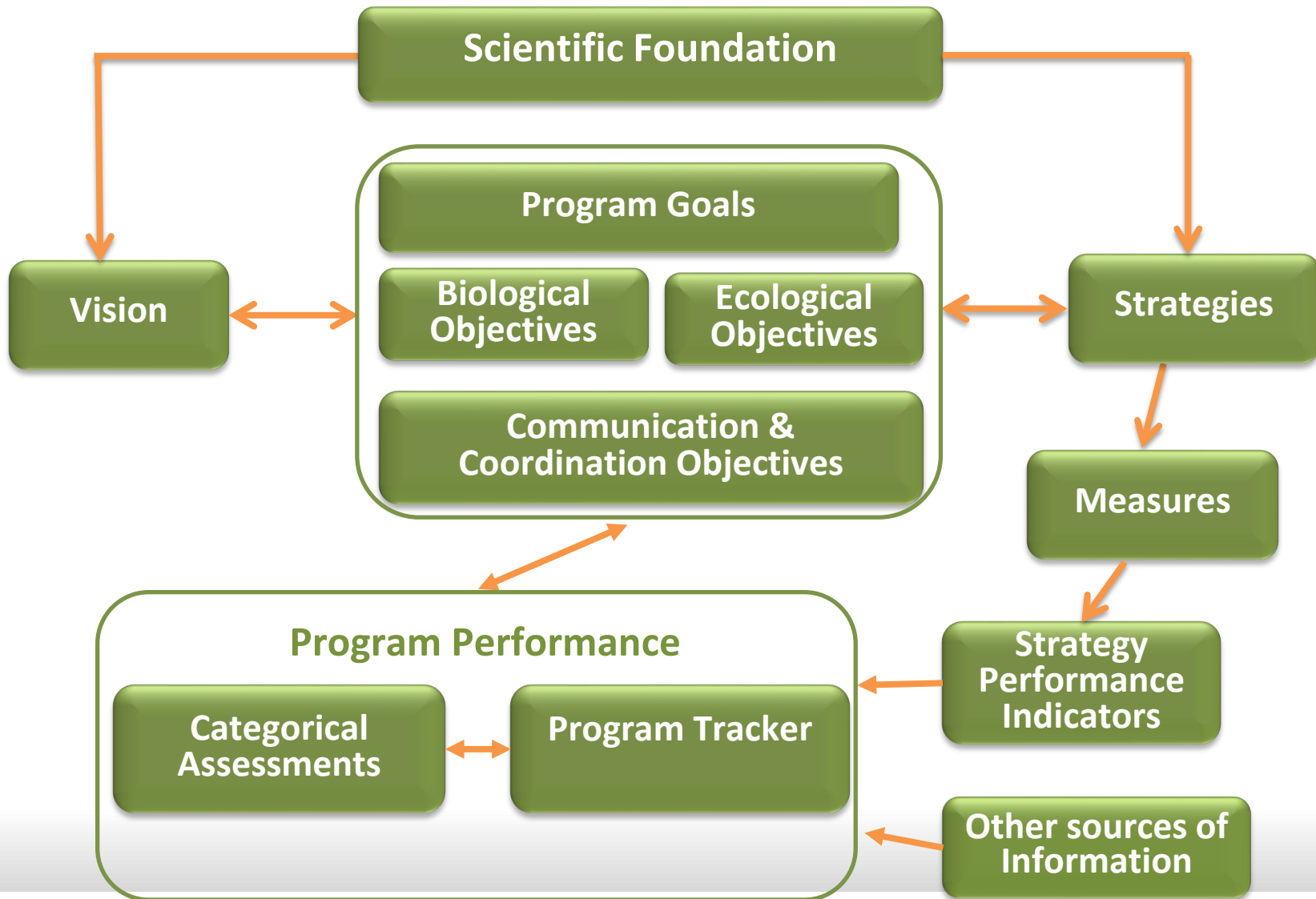
*The program's **goals** and **objectives** are consistent with the Act and with the program's vision, describing the changes in the environment and the biological performance that are needed to achieve the vision.*

All the program's strategies ... contribute to achieving the program's goals and objectives... The Council needs an effective way to measure progress in implementing these strategies.

*...this addendum identifies a set of **strategy performance indicators** that can be used to assess progress in implementing the program strategies and improve the ecological and population conditions of the focal species.*

Fish and Wildlife Program

Program Performance and Adaptive Management



2020 Addendum Process

- 8 Workshops on Goals, Objectives and Strategy Performance Indicators
- Managers/Experts provided suggested SPIs
- SPIs based on existing/available datasets
- SPI workgroup (+ subgroups) to review SPIs
- Revise SPIs based on data availability/sources

Addendum Part I: Goals and Objectives

- Anadromous salmon and steelhead: returns, SARs, survival standards
- Sturgeon: abundance, distribution, diversity, productivity
- Lamprey: abundance, passage
- Resident salmonids: self-sustaining populations, habitat (miles and acres)
- Wildlife: acres and HUs
- Ecological objectives: flow, habitat, water quality
- Communication, coordination objectives

Strategies listed in Part I of the 2020 addendum

- Habitat
- Non-native and Invasive Species
- Predator Management
- Protected Areas and Hydroelectric Development and Licensing
- Water Quality
- Climate Change (*uses indicators from other strategies*)
- Estuary
- Plume and Nearshore Ocean
- Mainstem Hydrosystem Flow and Passage
- Wildlife
- Fish Propagation and Hatchery
- Wild Fish
- Anadromous Fish Mitigation in Blocked Areas
- Resident Fish Mitigation
- White Sturgeon
- Pacific Lamprey
- Eulachon
- Public Engagement

Workgroup Structure and Purpose

- Provide guidance to the Council on compiling, assessing, tracking, and reporting on the program goals, objectives and strategy performance indicators
- Technical representatives from the Tribes and State and Federal fish and wildlife agencies within the Basin
- Chaired by Committee Chair Jeff Allen; staffed by NPCC
- Open to public to attend and observe but not directly participate; non-members invited to present information

Workgroup Meetings and Tasks

Workgroup Meetings:

- Five full Workgroup meetings, 2021 and 2022
- Subgroup meetings for:
 - Resident fish
 - Lower Columbia sturgeon
 - Middle/Upper Snake sturgeon
 - Kootenai sturgeon
 - Lamprey

Tasks:

- Identify data sources and data gaps
- Refine indicators
- Review the Program Tracker
- Guide data summary and reporting
- Provide context information

Types of Decisions: Time period, location, life stages, stocks included, how to display, reporting format, frequency of updates, etc.

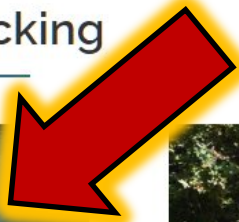
Tracking Progress

The Council uses the Program Tracker to assess progress towards achieving the programs goals, evaluate performance of program strategies, and understand external factors affecting the basin's fish, wildlife and habitat.

Since
1981

WORKING TO RESTORE
HEALTHY HABITAT FOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE
AFFECTED BY THE
HYDROSYSTEM

Program Tracking





[Report data errors](#)

Strategy Performance Indicators


Strategy

Habitat

Show Splash Screen

Show All

- Acres of habitat protected by purchase or lease. E1-1 (In Development)

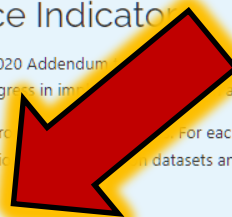



Strategy Performance Indicators

This tool provides information on the strategy performance indicators (SPIs) identified in the Council's 2020 Addendum to the Fish and Wildlife Program. The Council, working closely with representatives of fish and wildlife agencies and tribes, identified SPIs that can be used to track progress in implementing Fish and Wildlife Program strategies.

The data for the SPIs were provided by the entities that acquire and manage the data, and/or obtained from other sources. For each graph, select from available options and click the 'Display Graph' button. Click on the 'Context, Metadata, and Sources' button below each graph for additional information on the datasets and sources. If you need assistance, [email the Council](#) and our F&W staff will get back to you shortly.

[Close](#)





Report data errors

Strategy Performance Indicators

Strategy

Habitat

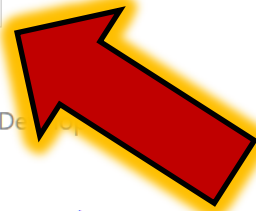
Habitat

- Acres of habitat protected by purchase or lease. E1-1 (In Development)
- Acres of habitat improved. E1-5 ([Show Data](#))
- Miles of stream protected by purchasing or leasing land. E1-2 ([Show Data](#))
- Instream flow added (acre-feet of protected water). E2-1 ([Show Data](#))
- Instream flow added (cubic feet per second of protected water) E2-6 ([Show Data](#))
- Miles of stream habitat accessed. E1-3 ([Show Data](#))
- Miles of stream with improved complexity or improved channel form. E1-4 ([Show Data](#))
- Number of new fish screens installed, or number of screens improved. E1-6 ([Show Data](#))

Show Splash Screen Show All

Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Site developed by QW Consulting



Tracker is live! How can SPIs be used?

1. Resource for region
 - Supports next program amendment
 - Can be used as a reporting tool
 - Supports research needs
2. Track progress toward goals and objectives in *2014/2020* program
 - Code links SPIs to goals and objectives
 - Next step in Tracker is developing query tool to sort SPIs by goals and objectives
3. Look at Program performance *over last 40 years*
 - Prior programs organized by different topics or strategies
 - New terminology developed to crosswalk those topics to 2014/2020 strategies
 - Crosswalk allows SPIs to be used to describe accomplishments from all programs

Program Performance Approach

1. Describe what has been called for in each program
2. Summarize the work that has been done to implement programs
3. Assess ecological changes resulting from/occurring in parallel with implementation (SPIs, etc.)
4. Do so in relation to established benchmarks (goals and objectives or other program priorities)

Key point:

- Assessment focused on ecological changes associated with F&W program

Performance assessment completed in parts

Part 1: Retrospective

- Basin and hydrosystem description
- Historical context
- Program development over time
- Investments and implementation

Parts 2 – 5: Category assessment

- Hydrosystem
- Habitat
- Artificial production
- Program adaptive management

Questions?

- Special thanks to QW consulting (Neil Ward, Binh Quan, and staff) for work on data acquisition and development of Program Tracker

Extra slides

Hydrosystem

- Water management
- Passage
- Water quality

Habitat

- Restoration
- Protection
- Wildlife
- Non-native and invasive species
- Predator management

Artificial production

- Facility construction
- Artificial production

Program adaptive management

- Regional planning
- Harvest recommendations
- Regional coordination
- RM&E and reporting
- Data management
- Science review
- Public engagement



Linking SPIs to Categories and Themes - Hydrosystem Example

Categories

Themes

2014/2020 Program
Strategies (SPIs associated
with these)

Hydrosystem

Water
Management

Passage

Water
Quality

- Mainstem hydrosystem flow and passage operations
- Water quality
- Resident fish mitigation
- White Sturgeon
- Lamprey
- Blocked areas

Hydrosystem

