

Estuary and Ocean Mitigation and Adaptive Management Strategies for the FCRPS BiOp and Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program

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Several recent reviews by the ISAB and/or ISRP have identified the critical importance of the Columbia River estuary habitats for juvenile and adult salmonids and our need for supporting scientific data. Improvements in estuary habitat conditions to increase juvenile and adult survival are key strategies of the Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion (FCRPS BiOp), ESA Recovery Planning, and the integrated Columbia Fish and Wildlife Program funded by BPA rate payers. In addition, extensive Research, Monitoring and Evaluation (RM&E) in the Estuary and Ocean is identified as a key strategy to support ongoing planning and adaptive management of these actions. The habitat improvement and RM&E strategies for the FCRPS BiOp will be briefly discussed with an emphasis on key policy issues. A recognition of the multiple regional efforts taking place in the estuary that will need collaborative and coordinated planning and implementation processes will be highlighted.