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MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Coordinating Group

FROM: Council Staff

SUBJECT: Coordinating work proposed to be accomplished by the Technical Recovery Teams with subbasin planning.

On January 28, 2003, the Council met with representatives of the Governors' Offices of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana, and NOAA Regional Administrator Bob Lohn to discuss subbasin planning/ESA planning coordination issues. One of the issues that was discussed was how to better coordinate the work that is proposed to be accomplished by the NOAA Technical Recovery Teams with subbasin planning. While NOAA, the states and tribes in other places have discussed this issue in the past, the representatives from Washington and Idaho reiterated at this meeting better coordination between the TRTs and subbasin planning continues to be an unmet need. Hearing those concerns, Bob Lohn invited the states to offer ideas or proposals on how they would suggest addressing this matter. Finally, it was stated by the state representatives that the administrative structures supporting subbasin planning in each state is unique, so this TRT coordination issue may need to be tailored individually in different areas.

At this meeting, we are seeking a report from the state representatives on what ideas or proposals they have developed that they would like NOAA fisheries to consider and the RCG to understand for integrating TRT work with subbasin planning.

As additional background on this item, we are attaching documents that we are aware of that outline the positions of two of the states on this matter. The first attachment is a letter from Idaho Governor Kempthorne to NOAA Regional Administrator Bob Lohn, and the second is a letter from Steven Meyer, Washington Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Director to Bob Lohn.