

Facilitation of the Estuary/Ocean Subgroup for Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation, FY07 Annual Report



October 10, 2007

Prepared for the Bonneville Power Administration
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**Pacific Northwest
National Laboratory**

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Cover Photo (by G. Johnson): View of the Mouth of the Columbia River with Trestle Bay in the foreground and the Pacific Ocean in the background.

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Abstract

This annual report is a deliverable for fiscal year 2007 (FY07) for Project 2002-077-00, Facilitation of the Estuary/Ocean Subgroup (EOS). The EOS is part of the research, monitoring, and evaluation (RME) effort of the Action Agencies (Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation) developed in response to responsibilities arising from the Endangered Species Act as a result of operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS). The goal of the EOS project is to facilitate activities of the estuary/ocean RME subgroup as it coordinates design and implementation of federal RME in the lower Columbia River and estuary. In FY07, EOS project accomplishments included 1) subgroup meetings; 2) participation in the estuary work group of the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership; 3) project management via the project tracking system, PISCES; 4) quarterly project status reports; and 5) a major revision to the Estuary RME Plan (new version September 2007) based on comments by EOS members and invited reviewers.

Preface

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) contracted with the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) to coordinate and facilitate workings of the Estuary/Ocean Subgroup (BPA Project No. 2002-077-00; Contract No. 26934, release 3). Initiated in 2002, the EOS is composed of members from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership (LCREP), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), and PNNL's Marine Sciences Laboratory. It is one of multiple work groups in the federal RME effort developed in response to responsibilities arising from the Endangered Species Act as a result of operation of the FCRPS. The estuary/ocean subgroup is tasked by NOAA Fisheries and the Action Agencies to design and coordinate implementation of the federal RME plan for the lower Columbia River and estuary, including the plume. The purpose of project 2002-077-00 is to coordinate and facilitate activities of the EOS. For more information about the EOS, please contact Gary Johnson (503-417-7567).

Acknowledgments

Important contributions to this project were made by Blaine Ebberts and Doug Putman (Portland District, USACE), Eric Braun (North Pacific Division, USACE), Cathy Tortorici (NOAA Fisheries), Jim Geiselman and Tracey Yerxa (BPA), Scott McEwen and Jill Leary (Estuary Partnership), Charlie Paulsen (Paulsen Environmental Research, Inc.), Al Giorgi and Tracey Hillman (BioAnalysts, Inc.), John Skalski (University of Washington), and Terri Gilbride, Jan Slater, and Ron Thom (PNNL).

Acronyms

AA – Action Agencies

AFEP – Anadromous Fish Evaluation Program

BiOp – Biological Opinion

BOR – Bureau of Reclamation

BPA – Bonneville Power Administration

CREDDP – Columbia River Estuary Data Development Program

CREST – Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce

CSMEP – Collaborative Systemwide Monitoring and Evaluation Project

EORME Proposed Action – Estuary and Ocean Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Proposed Action

EOS – Estuary/Ocean Subgroup

ERME – Estuary research, monitoring, and evaluation

ESA – Endangered Species Act

ESU -- evolutionarily significant unit

FCRPS – Federal Columbia River Power System

FY07 – Fiscal Year 2007

ISRP – Independent Scientific Review Panel

LCFRB – Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

LCREP – Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership

LTER – Long Term Ecosystem Research

MRE – Monitoring, Research, and Evaluation effort led by the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

NED – Northwest Environmental Data network

NOAA – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NOAA Fisheries – NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service

NPCC – Northwest Power and Conservation Council

ODEQ – Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

PA – Proposed Action

PER – Paulsen Environmental Research

PISCES – the name for the BPA project tracking system

PNAMP – Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership

PNNL – Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

PSMFC – Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

RIMS – Regional Information Management Strategy

RME – research, monitoring, and evaluation

UPA – Updated Proposed Action

USACOE – US Army Corps of Engineers

USGS – U.S. Geological Survey

UW – University of Washington

Table of Contents

Abstract.....	iii
Preface	iv
Acknowledgments.....	iv
Acronyms.....	v
Table of Contents.....	vii
1.0 Introduction.....	1
1.1 Project Objectives	1
1.2 Background.....	2
1.3 Study Area	3
1.4 Contents	4
2.0 Project Activities.....	5
2.1 Work Element 118 – Coordination.....	5
2.1.1 EOS Meetings	5
2.1.2 Estuary Data Management	12
2.1.3 Estuary RME Conference.....	13
2.1.4 PNAMP Estuary Workgroup.....	13
2.2 Work Element 119 – Manage and Administer Project	13
2.2.1 PISCES Format.....	13
2.2.2 FY08 Scope of Work and Budget	13
2.3 Work Element 132 – Annual Report.....	13
2.3.1 Annual Report	13
2.3.2 Biennial Estuary RME Report.....	13
2.4 Work Element 141 – Status Reports.....	15
2.5 Work Element 174 – Produce Plan.....	15
3.0 Accomplishments and Recommendations	17
4.0 Literature Cited	19

1.0 Introduction

This document is the annual report for fiscal year 2007 (FY07) for Project 2002-077-00, Facilitation of the Estuary/Ocean Subgroup (EOS). The EOS is part of the research, monitoring, and evaluation (RME) effort developed by the Action Agencies (Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation) in response to obligations arising from the Endangered Species Act as a result of operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS). For the purposes of this report, the Columbia River estuary includes mainstem waters from Bonneville Dam down through the lower river and estuary into the ocean plume (Figure 1).

The goal of this project was to facilitate activities of the estuary/ocean RME subgroup (EOS) as it coordinated implementation of the estuary RME plan in FY07 with the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership's (PNAMP) estuary workgroup, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (NPCC) Fish and Wildlife Program, federal RME parties, and other federal and non-federal entities conducting RME in the estuary.

1.1 Project Objectives

The EOS project had the following objectives for FY07, designated by numbered categories in the PISCES project tracking system:

118 Coordination – Continue facilitation of the estuary/ocean RME subgroup, including coordination with the following entities:

- a) RME Technical/Policy Oversight Group and Federal Caucus – attend meetings and provide updates as required;
- b) RME Data Management Subgroup – coordinate the estuary RME work with the developing data management effort for the basin-wide RME;
- c) NPCC and Updated Proposed Action (UPA) – Convene biennial estuary RME workshops to present new data, evaluate the conduct of the estuary RME program, exchange information, and provide input to the estuary/ocean RME subgroup.
- d) PNAMP estuary workgroup – attend and participate in workgroup meetings and assist in the development of coordinated estuary planning and monitoring approaches within PNAMP.

119 Project Management – Manage and administer the project according to BPA's "Work Element/Milestone" based project management and reporting system (PISCES).

132 Annual Report – Produce an annual report of project activities, including a detailed outline for a biennial estuary RME summary report incorporating adaptive management recommendations at the program level for submittal to the Action Agencies, estuary restoration project leaders, and other related entities (e.g., subbasin plan implementers, PNAMP).

