Natural Resources Building
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

1111 Washington St. S.E.
Olympia, WA 98501

(360) 902-3000
E-mail: info@rco.wa.gov
Web site: www.rco.wa.gov

**STATE OF WASHINGTON**

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

September 3, 2020

Patty O'Toole
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204-1348
Submitted via Email only.

**RE: Comment on ISRP Final Report: Category Review of Resident Fish and Sturgeon Projects**

Ms. O'Toole,

On behalf of the State of Washington Invasive Species Council, I thank your organization for working to understand and address northern pike at a regional scale. I am also writing to comment on Independent Science Review Panel northern pike management recommendation: *The [Northwest Power and Conservation] Council should explore the creation of a multi-state task force for northern pike in collaboration with the Invasive Species Councils in the Columbia River Basin.*

In the past, our organizations have collaborated to regionally address the problem of northern pike through activities such as the summer 2018 Pacific Northwest Northern Pike Forum and Coordination Meeting, which ultimately resulted in the 2019 Economics of the Northern Pike Invasion in the Columbia River Basin Report, and subsequent Https://pike.nwcouncil.org Invasive Northern Pike Tracker.

While these past collaborative efforts were highly effective, there is a current gap in regionally addressing this shared problem. This gap could be filled by the creation of a multi-state task force to address northern pike in the Columbia River Basin. The State of Washington Invasive Species Council is extremely supportive of this recommendation and stands ready to participate in the task force if convened. We look forward to an exploratory discussion between your organization and the Invasive Species Councils in the Columbia River Basin.

If we may provide further information about this important issue, please do not hesitate to contact Justin Bush, Washington Invasive Species Council executive coordinator at 360-704-0973 or justin.bush@rco.wa.gov.

Ray Willard
Chair, Washington Invasive Species Council