



Meeting Minutes

PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee

Thursday, April 17, 2008
Grant PUD SeaTac Office
Seattle, WA

PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Members

Kris Petersen, NMFS	David Carie, USFWS
Jerry Marco, CCT	Russ Langshaw, GCPUD
Tom Scribner, Keely Murdoch, YN	Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Kirk Truscott, WDFW	Denny Rohr, Facilitator

ATTENDEES: (*Denotes PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Member)

Kris Petersen, NMFS*	David Carie, USFWS*(by phone)
Jerry Marco, CCT*	Russ Langshaw, GCPUD*
Tom Scribner, YN*	Curt Dotson, GCPUD
Kirk Truscott, WDFW*	Chris Carlson, GCPUD
Julie Pyper, Chelan PUD	Debbie Williams, GCPUD
Denny Rohr, Facilitator	

Action Items:

- **Langshaw will task Skalski with precision surrounding estimates of fall Chinook harvest, spawning ground escapement and stray rates of PRH fall Chinook.**
- **Truscott will contact Bartlett to get spring Chinook genetic modeling data for Scribner.**
- **Langshaw will find out if the development permit has been issued to Grant PUD for the Lake Wenatchee net pens.**
- **Langshaw will talk to Eric Lauver regarding the White River genetics contract.**
- **Scribner will contact Paul Ward regarding spring Chinook short term acclimation communications with the PRCC HSC.**

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Decision Summary:

- PRCC HSC members approved that one HGMP would be needed for all Grant PUD summer Chinook.
- PRCC HSC members approve use of 624 wild by wild progeny for the F1 portion of the White River captive brood program and 58 wild by unknown spring Chinook as reserve incase mortality rates exceed expectations.
- PRCC HSC committee members approved replacement of the White River 5' rotary screw trap with an 8' trap during times of high discharge.

Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** - Rohr welcomed attendees.
- II. **Agenda Review** – 12 year Sockeye Study Plan will be deferred to the next meeting. Rohr invited PRCC HSC members to the dedication of the Wanapum Future Unit Fish Bypass (WFUFB) on April 30, 2008 at Wanapum Dam.
- III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** –
 - Feb 21, 2008 meeting – approved.
 - March 20, 2008 meeting - **Williams will e-mail draft meeting minutes that incorporate PRCC HSC edits to members for a one week review. Approval of January 23, 2008 minutes will be contingent upon final review.**
- IV. **Action Items Review** – Action items were reviewed. Scribner requested more information from Mike Tonseth on the monthly White River Captive Broodstock report. Scribner would like to see the overall cumulative survival for the month incorporated into the report.
- V. **Fall Chinook**
 - A **Marking**
 - **Otolith results** – Otolith results were received from the WDFW otolith lab. One fish was definitively determined to be of natural origin from a smaller tributary because of variability in the banding pattern. Because well water and mainstem Columbia River water have similarly stable water temperatures, natural patterns will not be sufficient to differentiate natural from hatchery production. Therefore, Grant PUD will continue with intentional otolith banding. The remaining 500 otoliths collected in 2007 will not be processed. Grant PUD will continue with the current marking strategy until objectives of the M & E

Plan are determined. After the objectives are defined the marking protocol will be revisited, stated Langshaw. Truscott stated Skalski's assessment was sufficient enough to establish Priest Rapids Hatchery (PRH) brood into the broodstock. Truscott suggested that spawning surveys (25% sample rate) might require additional fish to be tagged in order to monitor and evaluate hatchery fish on the spawning ground. Langshaw noted that 100% of the PRH fall Chinook can be thermally marked and questioned if CWTs should be used as the main focus to evaluate the program. Truscott stated the importance of CWT is in evaluating strays. Truscott stated the objective is to look at the precision with which harvest can be estimated. Langshaw stated the precision of harvest estimates may not be important if the objective is not a clearly defined number. Truscott stated the major objectives of the M & E need to be harvest, hatchery contributions to the spawning grounds, hatchery contributions to the broodstock, and straying. Petersen noted an important component to any hatchery program is to have 100% of the fish marked, and if the program is designed for harvest, then more fish need to be made available for harvest. All of the fish will be thermally marked and harvest is consistently 50% of that population. There is no reason to think ad-present hatchery fish would be differentially harvested from naturally produced fish, stated Langshaw. He agrees the fish need to be marked, but only a subset needs to be marked with CWTs. **Langshaw will task Skalski with precision surrounding estimates of fall Chinook harvest, spawning ground escapement and stray rates of PRH fall Chinook.**

- B Priest Rapids Hatchery HSRG review** – Langshaw explained that after Appleby's comments that RIMIS tag expansions were incorrect, he looked at the expansion rates and found Umatilla fish that are released from the Irrigon Hatchery are 100% marked, and the Bonneville Hatchery fish are 10% marked. The issue surrounding which dataset should be used has not been resolved. PRH expansions vs. CRTFIC wild marking expansions result in PNIs of 0.7 and 0.1 respectively. Langshaw would like to have this resolved before the final HSRG recommendations are given. Ferguson questioned how you manage the whole system for PNI. Petersen stated that Grant PUD assumes any fish in the broodstock that isn't

marked, is wild. Langshaw disagreed, stating that isn't what Grant assumes. WDFW and HSRG have worked through this issue; there isn't any reason to believe that 30% of the fish volunteering are natural origin fish, stated Petersen, noting other hatcheries have natural fish that wonder in, but not 30% of the brood. Langshaw stated, he doesn't think it's unreasonable that natural origin fish are coming into PRH because of the cooler well water. With the current CWT ad-clip marking level, you can't estimate how many natural fish are coming into the hatchery, Peterson stated. Langshaw stated that on average, 72.5% of fish returning to the hatchery are of PRH origin, but questions what the other 20% are. Petersen stated 100% marking is the answer. Langshaw stated that 100% of the 2007 fish were and the 2008 fish will be marked with thermal otolith marking. NOAA and WDFW want the fish to be 100% CWT marked, noted Truscott. Langshaw questions why a dataset that is full of assumptions should be used, he notes he is assuming a few things, but not as many as the HSRG does. Langshaw explained that Appleby assumed a Smolt to Adult Recovery (SAR) for wild fish is 0.5%. The CRITFC wild marking SAR is 0.3% and the PRH SAR is 0.4% but the assumption is that wild fish survive better than hatchery fish, so the SAR should be 0.5%. Smolt production is then derived using that and then the expansion factor is derived from that. It must then be assumed that the CRITFC marked fish volunteer to the hatchery at the same rate as other naturally produced fish. Langshaw noted he will be attending the HSRG hatcheries tour next Monday, and at their final meeting on Friday.

- C Priest Rapids Hatchery design/VE study update** – Grant PUD is designing the facility to meet only their mitigation needs at this time, stated Carlson. Grant PUD will be meeting with WDFW on April 29, 2008 to review the latest drawings. Truscott stated WDFW would like to have a more structured response to identifying agreements that WDFW and Grant had made in regards to the PRH renovation, noting that most of Mike Lewis' concerns from December haven't been addressed by Grant PUD. Langshaw explained that Grant is working on major components that will allow the permitting process to move forward and some of the minor concerns will not be reflected in the current designs. Langshaw stated that Grant PUD is committed to the residences agreed upon in the 2006 Priest Rapids Project Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement. Truscott requested that electrical components that would allow for future marking be included in the new design. Carlson noted that mass marking stub-offs for electrical and plumbing requirements will be incorporated in the design for future use. WDFW provided a memo to Carlson on April 14, 2008 that

provided conceptual models of what had and had not been agreed to on hatchery modules. The drawings provided to WDFW are conceptual drawings only, other system drawings still need to be completed, stated Carlson. Major changes will be made to the water delivery system. Grant PUD is including everyone in the hatchery design in order to produce the best facility they can, stated Carlson. Don Bartlett wasn't available to complete the VE study. Jacobs is currently looking at a group of engineers that could complete the VE study, which will take place in May, noted Carlson.

D **HGMP**

- **Objectives** – Ferguson has provided Langshaw with the PRH HGMP, he is currently reviewing it. Langshaw will e-mail the PRH HGMP to the PRCC HSC in two weeks.
- **M & E** – Langshaw sent objectives that were agreed upon by the PRCC HSC to Murdoch. She agreed to help develop the M & E metrics. The PRCC HSC will then determine which metrics can or can not be measured. The metrics used were pulled from the Chelan and Douglas M & E's plans.

VI. **Summer Chinook**

A **HGMP**

- **Facilities evaluation update** – Dotson stated that when comments are incorporated into the draft HGMP, it will be distributed to the committee. Gloyd Springs would provide summer Chinook rearing, stated Dotson, noting it is a major component of the HGMP. Grant PUD met with the Department of Ecology (DOE) and United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) regarding water permits, and is awaiting an answer. A Gloyd Springs draft program will be submitted to the committee in July, Grant PUD would like to start the permitting process then. USBR previously issued a 20 kcfs irrigation seepage permit for water at Gloyd Springs. One HGMP should be written that includes Gloyd Springs and all summer Chinook acclimation activities, stated Ferguson. Langshaw questioned if Grant PUD needs two separate HGMP's for summer Chinook. Petersen noted that NOAA will not write separate BiOp's for the same species. **PRCC HSC members agreed that one HGMP would be needed for all Grant PUD summer Chinook programs.** Langshaw thought it

was logical to evaluate each individual basin population. Because of complexities regarding how programs are defined, Petersen suggests the JFP meet regarding this issue. When ESA permits have 3 or more co-permit holders, it gets complicated, Petersen stated. The HGMP should continue to be developed while working through these issues, noted Truscott. Scribner noted the PUD's should consider the complications of funding, staffing, and timelines when combining HGMP's with each other. He questioned how HGMP's for plural programs on the same population will work from the PUD's perspective. Langshaw stated the biggest issue is for the PUD's to meet HGMP timeline requirements. Grant PUD will continue moving forward in development of the summer Chinook HGMP, stated Dotson. Scribner questioned if Grant PUD is meeting the objectives outlined in the summer Chinook site selection SOA signed in August 2007. Langshaw stated Grand PUD is progressing with the timeline, but noted that in an ideal world, it would be best to have all of the HGMP objectives of the biological criteria outlined before finding a site for facilities.

- Langshaw advised the PRCC HSC that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued Grant PUD a 44 year license today.

VII. **Spring Chinook**

A **Spring Chinook management in Wenatchee Basin white paper (Yakama Nation-WDFW) - White River** – WDFW is continuing to work on a reasonable draft, and has provided a draft module to the Yakama Nation that covers escapement. WDFW is currently waiting for review and comments. Scribner noted that genetic models are being run, and asked WDFW for more realistic data.

B **White River**

- **Water quality meeting update** – Langshaw stated the Lake Wenatchee water quality meeting was non-eventful; discussion revolved around known facts regarding lake nutrients. He explained activities in the White River would need to go through a mini Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) analysis process for an anti-degradation evaluation. Net pen nutrient data will be collected to determine if the fish increase phosphorus in the lake. Grant PUD will be meeting

with Denise Mills, WDOE on April 23, 2008 regarding anti-degradation requirements. Chelan County will develop a water quality forum that will utilize resident volunteers to collect water samples using WDOE protocols. Grant PUD will participate in that forum. Langshaw was surprised that some residents draw drinking water directly from the lake. Marco questioned if long-term salmon recovery will be utilized, and if residents were concerned with carcass contribution. Langshaw stated residents did not seem to be concerned with carcass contribution, and WDOE consider carcasses to be a natural process, because once the fish are released, it is natural for them to return to the lake. Truscott questioned if nutrient credits can be traded. WDOE will allow local government (e.g. Wenatchee Watershed Planning Unit) to make decisions regarding development of water quality trading credits. Truscott questioned if Grant PUD has received the development permit for the net pens at Lake Wenatchee. **Langshaw will find out if the development permit has been issued to Grant PUD for the Lake Wenatchee net pens.**

- **Genetics** – Pedigree analysis on the 2006 White River spring Chinook brood determined that there are 624 wild by wild fish, 58 wild by unknown, with the remaining 329 being hatchery by hatchery or undetermined. Langshaw explained that Tuesday, April 22, 2008 is the last day to transport the fish to the White River because tanks, staff, and equipment will be involved in survival studies until the first part of July. WDFW is very confident in the F2 survival, stated Truscott. Per Speros Doulos, 2800 fry will be needed for the brood. 150,000 smolts are expected to be generated by this broodyear, stated Truscott. Truscott questioned if ESA White River spring Chinook juveniles, with known parents that are not used as broodstock, could they be destroyed. Petersen stated that if they are high risk, not needed for broodstock, and if they are surplus to recovery, they could be destroyed. Langshaw suggests that in order to maintain genetic purity, the wild by wild fish should be used for the brood, and the wild by unknowns be kept incase the program comes up short. **PRCC HSC members approve use of 624 wild by wild and 58 wild by unknown spring Chinook as reserve for the White River**

broodstock. Langshaw questioned if egg take numbers should be reconsidered. The White River F1 2007 brood could not identify both parents for any of the fish, noted Truscott. **Langshaw will talk to Eric Lauver regarding the White River genetics contract. PRCC HSC agreed on leaving the White River 2007 broodyear at Aquaseed until they can be marked, and then moved.** Truscott questioned whether the water source at Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery (LWSNFH) is pathogen free. Ferguson stated the water supply has stable temperatures and is above anadromy which doesn't allow for pathogens to be introduced. Collection is one mile up river and the source water isn't accessible to anadromous fish.

- **HGMP** – Section 10 - All highlighted areas will need to be reviewed. – Langshaw will e-mail to committee.
- **Rotary screw trap** - Scribner stated that after looking at the White River rotary screw traps efficiency the size of the screw trap should be increased from 5' to 8'. **PRCC HSC committee members approved replacement of the White River 5' rotary screw trap with an 8' trap during times of high discharge.** During higher flows the 8' trap would be used, approximately 3-4 months of the year. Yakamas will develop a template to coordinate when fish will be released.
- **Short term temporary acclimation** – Scribner stated the Yakama Nation is trying to be proactive to get acclimation going next year in the White River. Scribner approached a few land owners to see if they are interested in acclimation ponds RM 9 and RM11 on the White River. He wasn't successful with property owners. Members discussed properties that could have potential acclimation sites. Grant PUD is trying to actively engage the public in all ongoing activities and is in attendance at all local meetings. Langshaw spoke with Julie Morgan, of the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB), to give them information about development of plans for the White River. He questions if the PRCC HSC should give a presentation to the UCSRB as to what the committee plans on doing. Grant PUD is frustrated with the lack of public input on the projects in the White River, noted Langshaw. They make statements about what they don't want but don't engage in meaningful dialog to help us implement the

program, stated Langshaw. Grant PUD wants to continue working closely with neighbors to the projects and move forward, noted Langshaw. Grant PUD intends on completing designs and starting the permitting process on the McComas property in 2008, stated Langshaw. He expects a mid-summer public meeting to show designs to the public, and meet objectives of mid-basin fisheries experts. Other temporary acclimation sites will continue to be looked at. Petersen noted that she met with Julie Morgan, and has offered to meet with them periodically to offer her assistance. Morgan was supposed to contact Petersen regarding meeting dates, but has not yet. Helping communication and coordination is what the UCSRB is for. **Scribner will contact Paul Ward regarding spring Chinook short term acclimation and communications with the PRCC HSC.**

VIII. **Sockeye**

- A **NMFS Letter** – Petersen stated she discontinued writing a letter regarding sockeye after getting input from her supervisor and will continue to work on the issue, but noted it is not a priority for her at this point.
- B **Short term ONA building contract** – Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) requested Grant PUD view the 60 day clause regarding dropping of the contract with ONA because it is affecting their ability to get a hatchery loan. They are still waiting to get information from the bank as to what will be required of them.
- C 12-yr. Sockeye Study Plan Presentation – Scribner questioned if the 12-yr Sockeye Study Plan address contributions to Zone 6 tribal fishing nets. If it's related to fry and production in the lake but doesn't translate to adult harvest and stock recovery, then the Yakama Nation will have concerns stated Scribner. Langshaw explained that Grant PUD's sockeye mitigation is based on conceptual programs outlined in the Biological Action Management Plan (BAMP). Since then several programs in the BAMP have proven to be unfeasible, stated Langshaw. ONA has acknowledged that if the numbers go up, they will look at the potential for harvest, stated Carlson. Scribner wanted the PRCC HSC to be aware of issues relating to monitoring what goes on in the lake vs. SARs and adult contribution.
- D M & E Plan approval – Langshaw proposes a presentation on the M & E at the May meeting, with a vote being asked for at the June meeting.

IX. **Next Meeting:** Thursday, May 22, 2008 – Douglas PUD Auditorium