



Meeting Minutes

PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee

Thursday, July 17, 2008

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Grant PUD SeaTac Office

PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Members

Kris Petersen, NMFS
Jerry Marco, CCT
Tom Scribner, Keely Murdoch, YN
Kirk Truscott, WDFW

David Carie, USFWS
Russ Langshaw, GCPUD
Carl Merkle, CTUIR

ATTENDEES: (*Denotes PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Member)

Kris Petersen, NMFS*
Tom Scribner, YN*
Bob Rose, YN
Kirk Truscott/Bob Pfeifer, WDFW*
Todd Pearsons, Grant PUD
Chris Carlson, GCPUD
Per Heggelund, Aquaseed

Jerry Marco, CCT*
Russell Langshaw, GCPUD*
Julie Pyper/Joe Miller, Chelan PUD
Greg Ferguson, Sea Springs
Debbie Williams, GCPUD
Dave Duvall, GCPUD
Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Action Items:

- **Scribner will e-mail the Yakama Nation nutrient enhancement assessment proposal to Rohr.**
- **Grant PUD will outline HGMP development by species and highlight key issues that are problematic.**
- **Langshaw will contact George Wilson regarding posting acclimation information on the Lake Wenatchee website.**
- **Langshaw will draft a letter to NMFS describing White River acclimation activities.**
- **Grant PUD will schedule a meeting with WDFW and the Yakama Nation to discuss the hatchery fall Chinook M & E plan.**
- **Langshaw will map out the structure of the three groups: Fall Chinook Work Group, Hanford Reach Working Group, and PRCC Hatchery.**

- Pfeifer will update the PRCC HSC regarding the genetic meeting between WDFW and NOAA.
- Langshaw will distribute a draft program summary on Monday, July 21, 2008 summarizing what the program will look like in the future. A conference call will be held to discuss the PRCC HSC recommendations on Tuesday, July 22, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.
- Grant PUD will draft a SOA to keep maturing fish at Aquaseed, and to transfer sub-yearlings as soon as possible.
- Langshaw will have WDFW stop injections. PRCC Hatchery Sub-Committee approves that WDFW stop all injections of fish at Aquaseed. Langshaw will refer to the Section 10 permit regarding allowable loss.

Decision Summary:

- PRCC Hatchery Sub-committee recommends Grant PUD request time extensions on HGMP's that can't be met by the April 17, 2008 deadline.

Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** - Rohr welcomed attendees.
- II. **Agenda Review** – Additions to the agenda: 2008 Fall Chinook Channel Migration Investigation and the PRCC Hatchery Working Group update.
- III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** –
 - June 19, 2008 meeting – Scribner requested that meeting minutes be sent to WDOE representatives for review prior to approval. Page 3. – Scribner stated the Yakama Nation has 2 million dollars to conduct a nutrient enhancement assessment. **Scribner will e-mail the Yakama Nation nutrient enhancement assessment proposal to Rohr.** Page 3. – WDOE can't determine domestic phosphorus contributions. Page 4. – Specify listing in regards to the Clean Water Act. Summer Chinook – Marco will send comments electronically. Page 12. - Pyper noted that sockeye collected at the bypass and used in survival studies are anesthetized and held for two days after acoustic tagging.
- IV. **Action Items Review** – Action items were reviewed.
- V. **HSRG** –
 - A NOAA recently met with WDFW, and has a scheduled meeting with the Colville's, and Yakamas within the next two weeks. By

the end of August 2008 a document will be drafted by NOAA that will provide guidance and program expectations of HGMPs. Petersen suggests that HGMPs be streamlined; data updated, and that redundant information is not included. Upper Columbia Hatchery programs will be reviewed first for ESA compliance. The JFP needs to address PNI standards, escapement level goals, key benchmarks, and the intended function of particular programs. It is the responsibility of the JFP to address the biological programs, stated Petersen.

VI. FERC

A **Timeline requirements** –HGMPs must be submitted to FERC within one year of license issuance (April 17, 2008). The document must be finalized by the PRCC Hatchery Sub-committee and NMFS. An extension can be requested, but FERC can approve or deny the request. **Grant PUD will outline HGMP development by species and highlight key issues that are problematic.** NMFS review is estimated to take 3 years. **PRCC Hatchery Sub-committee recommends Grant PUD request time extensions on HGMP's that can't be met by the April 17, 2008 deadline.**

VII. **Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board** – Langshaw will attend the UCSRB meeting on July 24, 2008 to update them on White River acclimation plans. **Langshaw will contact George Wilson regarding posting acclimation information on the Lake Wenatchee website.** It is prudent to send a letter to NMFS describing Grant PUD's White River acclimation activities and to verify that they are consistent with current permits. **Langshaw will draft a letter to NMFS describing White River acclimation activities.** Grant PUD hasn't contacted Chelan County regarding acclimation pond permitting but will prior to submitting the applications.

VIII. **PRCC Hatchery Working Group** – A meeting was held on July 10, 2008 in Wenatchee. Paul Gray remains to be the only non-committee participant. He expressed his appreciation for the forum and is thankful for the opportunity to learn more about the supplementation projects and provide input into the process. Gray is also thankful because he feels the group truly is listening to his opinions. Petersen suggests the UCSRB might be helpful in notifying local entities of Working Group meetings.

IX. Fall Chinook

A **Priest Rapids Hatchery design** – The new design will locate the majority of the facilities in one location, with the incubation building and raceways being centered around the adult collection site. Aerial views have not been completed. Priest Rapids Hatchery (PRH) design meeting minutes have been

approved by WDFW and Grant PUD. The new facility will be designed to raise the additional 1.7 million smolts for the Corps mitigation. Grant PUD has requested an official letter regarding funding. HSRG and WDFW recommend that about 4 million eggs normally taken at Bonneville for the Corps' Ringold Hatchery rearing program be taken at PRH; a formal request has not been received by Grant PUD. The present PRH program can support this but once the PRH remodeling is completed and because of a water shortage at PRH, Grant PUD would not be able to raise the 4 million eggs to the eyed egg stage unless second pass water is considered; adult holding remains the largest issue, not incubation. Present designs do not include the incubation of an additional 4 million eggs, a new expanded building would need to be built. Grant PUD will not sacrifice their program for other programs. Grant PUD is investigating having a backup well.

- B **HGMP** – Comments have been received for the PR Hatchery HGMP. The HGMP will take into consideration the 1.7 million Corp fish. Grant PUD will meet with WDFW and the Yakama Nation to move forward with identifying which M & E objectives can or can not be reached. PRCC Hatchery Sub-Committee members will eventually be asked to review the draft monitoring and evaluation plan. Committee members will need to provide guidance to the District as to effects of Grant PUD and Corps hatchery production on the Hanford Reach PNI. 2008 will be the first year of significant returns from the two years that the 1.7 million Corp fish were adipose-clipped (20% of total hatchery release). Intent of PR Hatchery Sub-Committee is to coordinate with WDFW to ensure that hatchery fish information is collected on the spawning grounds, starting fall 2008. **Grant PUD will schedule a meeting with WDFW and the Yakama Nation to discuss the hatchery fall Chinook M & E plan.** Feasibility assessments will be completed this fall to start movement toward implementation of the M & E, stated Pearsons.
- C **Fall Chinook Work Group** – This Fall Chinook Work Group is formed under the 401 Water Quality Certification. The objective of the group is to develop a study plan to evaluate the impact of the Priest Rapids Project operations, under the Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Protection Program, on Hanford Reach fall Chinook. It was convened on July 01, 2008 for the first time. **Langshaw will map out the structure of the three groups: Fall Chinook Work Group, Hanford Reach Working Group, and PRCC Hatchery.**
- D **2008 Fall Chinook Channel Migration Investigation** – Up to 50 surplus male and 50 female PRH fall Chinook salmon would

be tagged throughout the hatchery adult return season with highly visible external tags. Marked fish release would occur early each week at the downstream end of the spawning channel and the fish would be allowed to migrate freely upstream to the upper end of the spawning channel to a temporary adult weir. Fish movement would be monitored daily by recording tag information and fish location within the channel. Following the experiment, male fish would be surplused and female fish would be available as broodstock. **PRCC Hatchery Sub-Committee members will review the 2008 Fall Chinook Channel Migration Investigation and email comments to Chris Carlson, Grant PUD by August 01, 2008.** Grant PUD is requesting PRCC HSC support.

X. **Summer Chinook**

- A **HGMP** – Comments received by Grant PUD will be incorporated into the summer Chinook HGMP.

XI. **Spring Chinook**

- A **Spring Chinook management in Wenatchee Basin white paper (Yakama Nation-WDFW)** – Members discussed ongoing issues regarding broodstock collection that continue to hold up the completion of a white paper being drafted between WDFW and the Yakama Nation. On July 24, 2008 a meeting will be held with WDFW and NOAA geneticists to determine if it is possible to assign fish sampled and tagged at Priest Rapids Dam to their stream of origin when the fish arrive at Tumwater three or more weeks later. **Pfeifer will update the PRCC HSC regarding the genetic meeting between WDFW and NOAA.** Grant PUD requested management direction for HGMP development. The JFP must reach consensus regarding biological objectives for each program before direction can be given. An option could be that Grant PUD draft an HGMP using the best available science and submit it to the PRCC HSC and then NMFS for review. It would then put the onus on the JFP to determine the biological objectives for the HGMP.

B **White River**

- **HGMP** –Work is ongoing.
- **Rotary screw trap** – High flows have continued all month. 8' diameter trap has been in use. No efficiency trials were completed in June. The trap will be operated until late fall. Grant PUD supports using an 8' diameter trap, and in preparation for construction of their own will to take measurements of the YN trap. Refer to the attached rotary screw trap summary for details.

- **Short-term acclimation** – A seine enclosure and a sand bag impoundment will be evaluated as short-term, temporary alternatives for acclimation in the White River. Permitting will start in the next month. If initial testing is successful, fish will be placed in the acclimation ponds in the spring. During periods of acclimation, low flow is a larger problem than high flows. Additional sites are difficult to identify when flows are high because site characteristics during lower flows are unknown.
- **Fish Transfer to LWSNFH** - There is no definitive cause of a 30% mortality event that affected 14% of the total 2005 broodyear. Histology sampling and characteristics of the event suggest it was likely a result of multiple factors including injections, handling, fish condition, handling protocol, and anesthetic not being buffered. It was also determined that the fish have polycythemia, as well as gas bubble disease. Debate remains as to how the mortality event will impact egg takes in 2008 and 2009. **Langshaw will distribute a draft program summary on Monday, July 21, 2008 summarizing what the program will look like in the future. A conference call will be held to discuss the PRCC HSC recommendations on Tuesday, July 22, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.** Support to continue the transfer was given by all members except WDFW. **Grant PUD will draft a SOA to keep maturing fish at Aquaseed, and to transfer sub-yearlings as soon as possible.** Sub-yearlings have been moved successfully from Aquaseed to the LWSNFH in the past. The HSC is waiting for WDFW to make an internal decision to support the transfer. If WDFW decides not to support the transfer, it could go through the dispute resolution process. Water quality issues at this facility are in question. 100% of the fish at Aquaseed have severe fin erosion, and may be a result of a vitamin deficiency. **Langshaw will have WDFW stop injections. PRCC Hatchery Sub-Committee approves that WDFW stop all injections of fish at Aquaseed. Langshaw will refer to the Section 10 permit regarding allowable loss.**

C Nason Creek –

- HGMP – Ongoing

- **Rotary screw trap** – High flows continued during June. Refer to the attached rotary screw trap summary for details.

XII. **Sockeye**

- A **ONA presentation discussion** – ONA gave a presentation at the joint meeting of the HCP and PRCC Hatchery Sub-Committee. Data indicates they are achieving good SARs. The HSC was happy with the way the program is being run and were supportive that the program would meet Grant PUD’s sockeye mitigation for the duration of the 12 yr study plan. PRCC HSC members would like to discuss the potential for PIT-tags to identify potential issues with out-migration. ONA and the bank providing the construction loan would like an assurance from Grant PUD that they will commit to this program for the long term to recover costs for the sockeye hatchery construction. Grant PUD is working with legal to draft this document. ONA will likely build a hatchery facility with Grant PUD contributing towards capital improvements through O&M and M&E costs.
- B **HGMP** –Howie Wright, Chris Carlson and Dave Duvall will draft the HGMP that will include an M & E plan. The draft is due by April 01, 2009. Passage will be available at McIntyre Dam in 2010. Okanogan Falls is a barrier above McIntyre Dam.

XIII. **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, August 19, 2008, 9:00 – 4:00 in Wenatchee, WA. Location to be determined. Don Larsen and Brian Beckman of the Science Center would like to address the PRCC HSC at a future joint meeting with the HCP. Mike Schiewe, Anchor Environmental will arrange the meeting.