



## Meeting Minutes

### Fall Chinook Work Group

Tuesday, March 03, 2009  
10:00 – 3:00

Grant PUD Natural Resources Division  
Conference Room - A

#### Technical Members

---

Paul Wagner, NMFS  
Robert Heinith, CRITFC  
Roger Schiewe, BPA  
Keith Truscott, CPUD  
Bill Tweit, WDFW  
Marcie Mangold, WDOE  
Russell Langshaw, GCPUD  
Steve Hemstrom, CPUD

Joe Skalicky/Dan Diggs, USFWS  
Paul Ward/Bob Rose, YN  
Brett Swift, American Rivers  
Bob Clubb/Tom Kahler, DPUD  
Paul Hoffarth, WDFW  
John Clark, ADFG  
Todd Pearsons, GCPUD

#### ATTENDEES:

---

John Clark, ADFG  
Marcie Mangold, WDOE  
Geoff McMichael, Battelle  
Paul Hoffarth, WDFW  
Steve Hays/Mike Bradshaw, CPUD  
Russell Langshaw, GCPUD  
Alyssa Buck, Wanapum  
Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Bob Rose, YN  
Bob Heinith, CRITFC (on phone)  
Paul Wagoner, NOAA (on phone)  
Bob Clubb /Tom Kahler, DPUD  
Joe Skalicky, USFWS (on phone)  
Todd Pearsons, GCPUD  
Debbie Williams, GCPUD

#### Action Items:

1. Langshaw will update the Temperature Unit spreadsheet for distribution to FCWG members.
2. Langshaw will distribute protocols 10 days prior to the next meeting.
3. Langshaw will contact study plan proponents to define objectives prior to distributing the draft.

## Decisions:

1. **FCWG members agreed that requests to extend a comment review period be brought to the facilitator 10 days prior to the deadline, not 5 days as originally agreed upon.**
2. **FCWG members agreed to use the mean relativized scores to rank Study Plans**

## Final Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Attendees introduced themselves around the table and on the conference line.
- II. **Agenda Review** – Formation of a sub-committee to define study plan objectives was added to the agenda. Bob Clubb notified the FCWG that he will be retiring on March 20, 2009. Tom Kahler will be the representative for Douglas PUD.
- III. **Action Items Review** – Langshaw explained that 860 Temperature Units were reached last week. Rearing and protection flows will begin the third or fourth week of March. **Langshaw will update the Temperature Unit spreadsheet for distribution to FCWG members. FCWG members agreed that requests to extend a comment review period be brought to the facilitator 10 days prior to the deadline, not 5 days as originally agreed upon.**
- IV. **Meeting protocols, draft for discussion** – Langshaw drafted and distributed FCWG meeting protocols to Grant PUD staff. He would like to have them reviewed by Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE) prior to distribution to the committee. **Langshaw will distribute protocols 10 days prior to the next meeting.**
- V. **Flow Fluctuation Report**
  - A **WDOE Letter** – Mangold reviewed a letter distributed by WDOE explaining Grant PUD's contribution to flow fluctuations. WDOE requested that existing data in the Flow Fluctuation Report be summarized differently. Langshaw noted that all comments received were incorporated into the Flow Fluctuation Report. A 30 day comment period will be provided. Grant PUD will request a FERC time extension until June 30, 2009.

Section 6.3.6(a) states that the intent of this subsection is to have Grant PUD compile a list of the best studies to identify the impacts on Hanford Reach fall Chinook of flow fluctuations resulting from operations of all dams under the Hanford Reach Agreement, which the Fall Chinook Work Group (FCWG) will then prioritize as a group.

Depending on the outcome of the ranking process, Grant PUD would like to conduct feasibility studies in the fall of 2009, but FERC approval is required before implementing the final study plan. WDOE and Grant PUD will work to resolve issues that arise if Grant PUD decides not to fund a study selected by the FCWG. If resolution can't be reached, Grant PUD would take the issue to the Pollution Control Hearing Board.

## VI. Study Plan

**A Study ranking** – Langshaw provided an Excel spreadsheet summarizing the prioritization of the study plans. Bob Heinith, CRITFC, explained that he didn't have time to rank the plans, but agreed with how USFWS scored them. He stated enough time was allotted for the comment period, but other projects he's currently working on took priority. Langshaw explained that the deadline has passed for study rankings, and CRITFC's scores will not be included. Members discussed the two methods to be used to rank the studies; the mean of the ranks, or the rank of the mean relativized scores. **FCWG members agreed to use the mean relativized scores to rank Study Plans.** The following list reflects the consensus opinion on studies necessary to provide a solid understanding of the relationship between flow fluctuations and the fall Chinook population, regardless of the source of the fluctuations:

1. **6.1 & 7.1** – Effect of Priest Rapids flows on Productivity of Upriver Bright Chinook & determine the optimum or maximum sustainable yield of natural spawned fall Chinook from the Hanford Reach and the required escapement of spawning adults.
2. **5.4** - Conduct controlled flow fluctuation experiments to identify specific flow bands and fluctuation magnitudes that entrap disproportionately large numbers of juvenile Chinook.
3. **5.3** - Quantify the effect of flow fluctuations on stranding of juvenile fall Chinook.
4. **4.1 & 4.2** - Empirically determine egg to emergent fry survival rates for each of the major spawning sites in the Hanford Reach & Effects of Flow Variation on Chinook Salmon Egg Hatching Success.
5. **3.4** - Conduct a case-control spawning study under alternate or Agreement flow scenarios for comparison to the results from the "baseline" spawning study to describe the relative effects of these scenarios.
6. **5.2** - Evaluate the entrapment sampling efficiency and accuracy for juvenile fall Chinook.
7. **5.1** - Hydrodynamic model synthesis, evaluation and integration into a geographic database for the specific purpose of Hanford Reach habitat and hydrologic evaluations.

8. **3.1 & 3.2** - Spawning Period operational effects on abundance and distribution of redds on Vernita Bar & the effects of fall Chinook redd abundance and distribution on productivity of individual redds.
9. **7.4** - Evaluate the effect of various ramping rates as they relate to the entrapment and stranding of juvenile fall Chinook.
10. **3.3** - Determine the behavioral components of the spawning process for fall Chinook, and the physical conditions selected by spawners under “normative” (relatively stable) stream flow conditions to derive “true, baseline” habitat requirements.
11. **5.5** - Develop an index sampling program including index sampling tools and methodologies that are statistically rigorous for estimating entrapment fates, the total number of entrapped fall Chinook, and juvenile Chinook mortality throughout the Reach and with adequate temporal resolution.
12. **7.2** - Evaluate the feasibility and benefit of re-regulation of stream flows coming into the Priest Rapids Project to change the flow pattern downstream into the Hanford Reach for the benefit of both juvenile and adult fall Chinook.
13. **6.2** - Evaluate Hanford Reach fall Chinook life cycle productivity and population dynamics using a production simulation model.
14. **7.3** - Relate spawning habitat availability (i.e. carrying capacity) resulting from an array of operational scenarios to the number of fall Chinook spawners (i.e. redds) that could be accommodated.
15. **3.7** - Investigate, identify, and quantify the extent of deep-water spawning by fall Chinook throughout the Hanford Reach.
16. **3.6** - Evaluate and quantify the effect of redd superimposition on spawning fall Chinook in the Hanford Reach.
17. **3.8** - Evaluate fall back of adult fall Chinook at Priest Rapids Dam.
18. **3.5** - Evaluate the energetic costs of fluctuating flows and the impact of those costs on completion of successful spawning.
19. **3.9** - Hanford Reach adult spawning surveys.
20. **7.6** - Hanford juvenile PIT-tag studies.
21. **7.5** - Conduct annual orthophotography for each of the main Hanford Reach fall Chinook spawning sites.
22. **7.7** - Hanford adult fall Chinook PIT-tag studies.

**B** **Draft Update** – Langshaw will incorporate rankings into the draft Study Plan document. Hillman proposed that a sub-committee be formed to identify study objectives after study rankings are complete. FCWG members decided that **Langshaw will contact study plan proponents to define objectives prior to distributing the draft.** Langshaw will distribute the draft Study Plan to FCWG members by Wednesday, March 11, 2009. After distribution of the Study

Plan, members will review the plan and provide editorial reviews only. Heinith, CRITFC, explained that he may be providing comments beyond editorial because he didn't have time to rank the plans. Members noted they do not want to have the rankings re-worked after review of the Study Plan.

The plan will also identify how Grant PUD proposes that each study be funded. This does not mean that Grant PUD will solely fund each study. If Grant PUD's proposed study plan differs in priority from that proposed by FCWG members, or if the FCWG fails to reach consensus, the plan submitted by Grant PUD shall include a detailed explanation of the differences, including the responses of all members. The Yakama Nation (YN) asked to be part of the determining voice for studies that will be funded, co-funded, or not funded. Section 6.6.3(d) of the 401 Certification fully outlines funding details.

Rose explained that the Yakama Nation (YN) would like to be able to comment on the Study Plan as co-managers. He asked that they be involved when WDOE reviews the studies, and suggested that WDOE, WDFW and the YN schedule a meeting to discuss the Study Plan after it is submitted to WDOE. Heinith concurred with Rose on behalf of the Umatilla Tribe. Hillman asked that the member's priorities be taken into consideration, so rankings are equitable. He asked that the meetings be documented and brought back to the FCWG.

**VII. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- February 03, 2009 – Approved with edits/changes

**VIII. Next Meeting:** April 07, 2009 at the Grant PUD Natural Resources Office, Ephrata, WA.