



DRAFT Meeting Minutes

PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee

Monday, March 30, 2009
3:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Conference Call

PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Members

Kris Petersen, NMFS	Bill Gale, USFWS
Jerry Marco, CCT	Russ Langshaw, GCPUD
Tom Scribner, Keely Murdoch, YN	Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Kirk Truscott, WDFW	

ATTENDEES:

Kris Petersen, NMFS	Bill Gale, USFWS
Kirk Truscott WDFW	Tom Scribner, YN
Jerry Marco, CCT	Russell Langshaw, GCPUD
Susan Gutenberger, Ph.D.	Todd Pearsons, GCPUD
Debbie Williams, GCPUD	Elizabeth McManus

Action Items:

- 1. Langshaw will send an email out by 3:30 pm on March 31, 2009 to update PRCC HSC members to the outcome of the first transfer.**

Decision Summary:

- 1. PRCC HSC members agreed to transfer a small test group of approximately 10,000 BY 2007 yearling F2's.**
- 2. PRCC HSC members agreed that the rest of the fish could be transferred if the test transfer was successful; if the test transfer was not successful, PRCC HSC members agreed to re-convene to decide what to do.**

Meeting Minutes

- I. The meeting was called so that the PRCC HSC could make decisions about transfer of White River Spring Chinook BY 2007 yearling F2s. The fish need to be transferred in the next two days because of the availability of transfer trucks**

and other timing considerations. Three primary options were discussed: release of fish into the White River, release of fish into Lake Wenatchee, and culling of fish. The fish have been exposed to bacterial kidney disease (BKD) and some fish have become moribund and some have died. The goal is to optimize survival of any healthy fish and minimize the potential for unhealthy fish to further spread BKD.

PRCC HSC members discussed culling BY 2007 yearling F2's from raceways 8 & 9 because they have been dying from BKD. Some culling has taken place over the past several days to thin out moribund fish.

Members discussed planting fish in the lower White River at the 6500 bridge site, or down lake from the net pen locations where fish would have to swim up current to reach the net pens.

Gutenberger discussed the ecological risk of planting sick fish into the lake and potential disease transfer mechanisms. Predators will eat sick fish and could possibly become infected. Lake Wenatchee also has a large population of Pikeminnow, and bull trout. This was a significant concern to members. Sick fish should be kept as far away from the net pens as possible to minimize the risk of infecting the other fish with BKD. Char are more resistant than salmon, rainbow trout or steelhead to BKD. Petersen explained that BKD is prevalent in the Wenatchee water shed, and of the spring Chinook sampled in the natural environment, Eliza tests show a lot of them have BKD.

After discussion, PRCC HSC members agreed to transfer a small test group of approximately 10,000 BY 2007 yearling F2's. Susan Gutenberger, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Fish Health specialist will travel to the Lake Wenatchee net pen location to provide her expert assessment of the health of the fish and the success of the transfer.. The Lower Columbia River Fish Health Center expects there could be significant mortality of these fish immediately following transfer. Prior to and during transferring fish, robust monitoring and intervention to remove dead and dying fish will take place. WDFW and Grant PUD staff also will be on location for the transfer.

The fish will be transported to Lake Wenatchee for release in the lower lake, below the net pens. Fish will be transported into the lake in the transfer net pen. No temperature shock issues are expected because ~~fish have not been~~ tempered of similar water temperatures. A corner of the net pen will be lowered to allow healthy fish to swim out of the net. Morts and moribund fish will be picked. Members were very concerned about minimizing the potential for a large, visible fish mortality event in Lake Wenatchee.

Langshaw will send an email out by 3:30 pm on March 31, 2009 to update PRCC HSC members to the outcome of the first transfer. If the transfer is successful, the rest of the fish will be transferred the next day. The group discussed the need for a qualitative assessment of whether the transfer is successful, informed by the judgment of the natural resource agencies that will be on hand.

The PRCC HSC discussed keeping fish that did not swim out of the net overnight in the transfer net pen, but eventually agreed that this was not practical because it would be difficult to keep the transfer net pen at a good distance from the net pens of healthy fish. There also was concern about crowding overnight in the transfer net pen increasing stress and mortality. (The group also discussed keeping all the fish overnight in one of the large net pens but rejected that idea because of concerns that the BKD infected/exposed fish would be too close to the healthy fish.)

Yakama Nation will be using a transfer truck with segregated compartments for the transfer. Approximate arrival time at Lake Wenatchee is 2:30 p.m.

A couple hundred morts will be frozen for visual assessment of their reproductive organs. Gale offered his assistance in training personnel with the dissection process. He explained that dissecting scopes are needed to determine the sex of the yearlings.

- II. Next Meeting:** Thursday, April 16, 2009, Cedars Inn, Wenatchee, WA, 8:30 to 3:30.