



## Meeting Minutes

### Fall Chinook Working Group

Tuesday, February 02, 2010  
 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 pm

Grant PUD SeaTac Office

#### Technical Members

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Paul Wagner, NMFS  
 Robert Heinith, CRITFC  
 Holly Harwood, 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  
 Tom Kahler, DPUD  
 Paul Hoffarth, WDFW  
 John Clark, ADFG  
 Todd Pearsons, GCPUD

#### ATTENDEES:

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Paul Wagner, NMFS  
 Bob Heinith, CRITFC  
 Russell Langshaw, GCPUD  
 Joe Skalicky, USFWS (on phone)  
 Steve Hays, Chelan PUD (on phone)  
 Mike Bradshaw, CPUD (on phone)  
 Paul Hoffarth, WDFW (on phone)  
 Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Bob Rose, YN  
 Geoff McMichael, Battelle  
 John Clark, ADFG  
 Marcie Mangold, WDOE  
 Todd Pearsons, GCPUD  
 Tom Kahler, DPUD  
 Eve James, BPA

#### Action Items:

1. Russell Langshaw will provide the FCWG with the revised draft Flow Fluctuation Report before the March meeting.
2. Debbie Williams will upload the Stock and Recruitment Workshop notes and spreadsheets to the FCWG website.
3. Members were asked to develop a comprehensive list (5-7) of key variables that will be examined for correlations with productivity and recruitment at each life stage and send their lists to Langshaw before the March meeting.

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4. Members were asked to provide comments on the draft expert panel letter by February 15, 2010, and to identify additional experts to sit on the panel.
5. Tracy Hillman asked members to identify documents that discuss Hanford Reach topics (i.e. salmon ecology, published or unpublished data, how data were collected, and how derived metrics were calculated) and send them to Hillman and Williams so they can be uploaded the information to the FCWG website.
6. Tracy Hillman will distribute the draft summary of stranding/entrapment studies, which is being prepared by McMichael, Skalicky, and Hoffarth.

#### **Decisions:**

1. Members agreed that egg tubes should be pulled in the Hanford Reach when 950 Temperature Units have been reached.

### Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Attendees introduced themselves around the table and on the conference line (see list of attendees above).
- II. **Agenda Review** – The FCWG adopted the proposed agenda.
- III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
  - January 05, 2010 – Minutes approved with changes.
- IV. **Review of Action Items** - Action items identified during the January meeting were reviewed and discussed.
- V. **Update on Flow Fluctuation Report** – Discussion: Russell Langshaw received data from Battelle and is working to update the report. He hopes to distribute it to members before the March meeting. **Russell Langshaw will provide the FCWG with the revised draft Flow Fluctuation Report before the March meeting.**
- VI. **Productivity Workshop** - Tracy Hillman conducted a workshop on Stock and Recruitment. **Debbie Williams will upload to the FCWG website the workshop notes and spreadsheets.**
- VII. **Study Plan Updates**
  - A **Use of NNI Funds** – Bob Rose explained that the PRCC discussed the use of NNI Funds to help support Hanford Reach studies. He noted that the PRCC will ask Hillman to speak at their February 24, 2010 meeting to explain how the money would be used.
  - B **Revised Study Plan** - Langshaw made some edits/additions to sections 3.1 and 3.2 of the study plan based on comments he received. He explained the edits were made to help minimize delays during phase two preparations. Section 3.1 is to address

ambiguous or controversial results. Langshaw suggests the FCWG rely on the expert panel to review assessments and suggest ways to resolve issues brought up by the group.

The Joint Fisheries Party (JFP) is concerned that Grant PUD will state that they (Grant PUD) do not make an impact and will not agree to fund any of the proposed studies. Bob Rose was concerned that if the expert panel is utilized, the FCWG's decisions would be deferred to them. Langshaw explained that the expert panel should only be used to confirm the interpretations of study results or provide alternative interpretations. They will not have a say in whether a study is funded or not. Rose wants to make sure the expert panel guidelines are clearly defined.

Section 3.2 - Langshaw suggests that in order to be prepared to implement phase two of the study plan, when phase one is complete, FCWG members need to prepare clearly defined final objectives in order to go out for Request for Proposals.

Langshaw explained that he modified the original implementation schedule in this version of the report. If the comment schedule in the 401 Certification is followed, the Study Plan would not be approved until 2011. He wants members to think about what it will take to get the plan approved and asked that everyone be prepared to finalize and approve the Study Plan at the next meeting.

Wagner questioned if 2011, 2012, and 2013 are being incorporated in the Study Plan. Langshaw noted that monitoring occurs under three different requirements and signatories to the 2006 Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Protection Program Agreement should be tasked with development of a follow up monitoring plan, not the FCWG.

**FCWG members will provide comments/edits to Langshaw regarding his edits to the Draft Study Plan before the March meeting.**

## **C Productivity Assessment**

- 1. Environmental Variables Used** - The importance of identifying environmental variables that influence or correlate with productivity in the Hanford Reach was discussed by FCWG members. **Members were asked to develop a comprehensive list (5-7) of key variables that will be used to examine correlations with productivity and recruitment at each life stage and to send the lists to Langshaw before the March meeting.** Hillman reminded members to think about habitat quality (not habitat quantity or capacity) and early incubation and rearing requirements when developing their list of variables.

2. **Expert Panel** - Hillman reported that Dave Hankin has agreed to chair the expert panel, but that he will not be available until August 2010. **Members were asked to provide comments to the draft expert panel letter by February 15, 2010, and to identify additional expert to sit on the panel.**
3. **Information Packet for Expert Panel** - Hillman asked members to provide documents that discuss Hanford Reach topics (i.e. salmon ecology, published and unpublished data, how data were collected, and how derived metrics were calculated) and to send them to Hillman and Williams so the information can be uploaded to the FCWG website.

**D Updates on Egg-Fry Studies** - Geoff McMichael explained that because temperatures have been higher than normal, egg tubes will be pulled around the first week of April. He noted that the control samples in the lab have hatched, and explained that when the first 10% show parr marks, their yolk sack is almost all buttoned up. He explained that because this is a pilot effort, he does not want to leave them in the tubes where they will expend all their energy. By pulling them early, he noted the egg to fry survival rate will be more representative of egg to emergence survival. **Members agreed that egg tubes should be pulled in the Hanford Reach when 950 Temperature Units have been reached.**

An agreed upon method to compare the survival of embryos in an egg tube to a natural redd still needs to be discussed and agreed upon by FCWG members.

**E Information Updates on Entrapment and Stranding Studies** - Bob Heinith explained that the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) would like to PIT tag additional fish in the Hanford Reach in 2010 and are looking for funding. Langshaw questioned the objectives of the tagging and reminded members that this is not a requirement of Grant PUD's license, but that the follow up monitoring plan (which hasn't been developed yet) is and it is due to FERC before June 2011. Tagging natural origin fish may fit in, but the plan will need to be discussed with the Hanford Reach Work Group because it's limited to the Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Protection Program Agreement (HRFCPPA). It is unknown whether the plan will include an index area or if tagging of natural origin fish will take place.

**Hillman will distribute the draft summary of stranding/entrapment studies, which is being prepared by McMichael, Skalicky, and Hoffarth.**

**VIII. Hanford Reach Work Group**

**A Updates on Operations** - No discussion took place.

**B Website Development** - No discussion took place.

**IX. Continuation of Mid-Columbia Hourly Coordination Workshop** - Joe Taylor, Mid-Columbia Hourly Coordinator, explained to members how he tries to meet the challenges and expectations of the HRF CPPA as it relates to critical elevation and stranding.

**X. Next Meeting:** March 02, 2010, Grant PUD Natural Resources Office, Ephrata, WA