

PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Meeting

Thursday, April 17, 2014

Twisp, Washington

Meeting Summary

PRCC HSC Members

Bill Gale, USFWS (via phone)
Lynn Hatcher, NMFS
Keely Murdoch, Yakama Nation
Todd Pearsons, GPUD
Tom Scribner, Yakama Nation (via phone)*
Mike Tonseth, WDFW
Kirk Truscott, CCT

Other Participants

Peter Graf, GPUD
Shannon Lowry, GPUD
Alene Underwood, CPUD (via phone)*
Elizabeth McManus, Facilitator
Andy Chinn, Facilitator

* For agenda item II only

Decisions

- A. HSC members agreed that Carlton Acclimation Facility staff should begin removing dam boards in the circular tanks to encourage fish release. Facility staff should configure the dam boards as they see fit, beginning with the highest density tanks and configuring one tank per day to maintain PIT-tag detection accuracy.

Actions

1. NMFS will check on any public process requirements related to re-initiation of the Upper Wenatchee biological opinion. (carry over)
2. NMFS will circulate an e-mail laying out the process for re-initiation of consultation.
3. Ross Strategic will circulate the revised Nason Creek broodstock SOA for review.
4. HSC members will meet via conference call on Thursday, April 25 to discuss the draft 2014 broodstock collection protocols and draft Nason Creek broodstock SOA.
5. WDFW will revise the draft 2014 broodstock collection protocols to state that 400 fish is the minimum collection target for Hanford Reach hook-and-line angling.
6. WDFW will contact NMFS geneticists to determine their ability to process SNPs panels in a timeframe sufficient to support a PBT approach for collecting upper Wenatchee basin spring Chinook broodstock.
7. JFP will meet on 4/21 to discuss the 2014 spring Chinook broodstock options.
8. NMFS will issue a letter to GPUD authorizing transfer of the White River cryomilt samples from GPUD to the Nez Perce tribe. (carry over)
9. YN will forward the 2013 rotary trap report to the HSC when available (carried over from April meeting summary).
10. CCT will circulate its Chief Joseph hatchery program workshop report with the HSC (carried over from April meeting summary).
11. GPUD will look into options for HSC document storage and access (carried over from April meeting summary).

summary).

HSC Meeting Summary

I. Updates and Meeting Summary Review

- A. 2013 Wenatchee Rotary Trap Report** – YN noted that the White River rotary trap report is complete and asked if the HSC would prefer to see the rotary trap reports as they are completed, or wait until all reports are completed.
- GPUD requested, as funder of the work, to receive the rotary trap reports prior to the HSC.
 - HSC members requested to review the rotary trap reports as they are completed.
- B. Meeting Summary Review** – HSC deferred review and approval of the March meeting summary.

II. Nason Creek Broodstock Collection

- A. SOA on Nason Creek Broodstock Collection** – HSC members discussed the draft SOA on Nason Creek broodstock collection (Attachment 1).
- NMFS is beginning discussions around an effects analysis for compositing of Nason Creek broodstock, led by Craig Busack; based on the results of the analysis, NMFS will reinitiate consultation.
 - GPUD requested clarification of language in the SOA (see line 27) which seems to imply that a favorable NMFS effects analysis would result in Nason Creek broodstock compositing in 2015 but that the last sentence suggests that an HSC decision would be necessary after the effects analysis.
 - Ross Strategic clarified that the text in question is intended to identify the effects analysis as the primary barrier to compositing.
 - YN noted that it would prefer the SOA to state that compositing will be implemented if the effects analysis is favorable, but recognizes that this would be pre-decisional for NMFS and therefore is not possible. However, YN does not want additional issues to delay compositing in 2015, as compositing is the only remaining path to full mitigation.
 - WDFW commented that re-initiation of consultation only reopens the section of the biological opinion that is under reconsultation; all other components of the permits remain valid. In addition, WDFW noted that regardless of its results, the effects analysis should be memorialized by incorporating it into the biological opinion.
 - CPUD noted that a separate SOA will need to be put forward in the HC in order to address CPUD programs.
- B. Draft 2014 Broodstock Collection Protocols** – WDFW submitted the draft broodstock collection protocols to NMFS on 4/15. For upper Wenatchee basin spring Chinook, the draft protocols describe the three options identified to date, all of which have certain drawbacks. The option to use parentage-based tagging (PBT) (option 1) requires

additional information from NMFS geneticists to determine if this approach is feasible.

- WDFW reiterated interest in meeting conservation programs for both Nason Creek and Chiwawa. Raising the fish at the Nason Creek facility would require that the fish be uniquely identified such that they could be 100% removed at Tumwater Dam. WDFW proposed that the JFPs discuss whether acclimation and release from Nason Creek is an option.
- CCT noted that one of the risks with option one is excessive handling of fish.
- USFWS commented that operations at Chiwawa weir should be offset with reduced operations at Tumwater Dam, in order to minimize impacts to bull trout.
- HSC members noted that depending on ability of NMFS geneticists to process SNPs panels, 2014 broodstocking could be a combination of the three proposed options.
- CPUD noted that the Chiwawa facility has the capacity to release approximately 400,000 fish at 18 fish per pound.

C. Path Forward and Next Steps

- NMFS will check on any public process requirements related to re-initiation of the Upper Wenatchee biological opinion.
- NMFS will circulate an e-mail laying out the process for re-initiation of consultation.
- Ross Strategic will circulate the revised Nason Creek broodstock SOA for review.
- HSC members will meet via conference call on Thursday, April 25 to discuss the draft 2014 broodstock collection protocols and draft Nason Creek broodstock SOA.
- WDFW will revise the draft 2014 broodstock collection protocols to state that 400 fish is the minimum collection target for Hanford Reach hook-and-line angling.
- WDFW will contact NMFS geneticists to determine their ability to process SNPs panels in a timeframe sufficient to support a PBT approach for collecting upper Wenatchee basin spring Chinook broodstock.
- JFP will meet on 4/21 to discuss the 2014 spring Chinook broodstock options.

III. Wanapum Dam

- A. Status Update** – The pool at Wanapum Dam will remain at a lower level until at least the end of June. Fish ladder modifications at Wanapum Dam are nearly complete, and trap and haul operations from Priest Rapids Hatchery are underway. The Wanapum Dam ladder was opened on 4/15 and fish began ascending immediately. During the first two days, nineteen spring Chinook, sixty-nine steelhead, and nineteen “other” fish ascended the ladder.

IV. Carlton Acclimation Facility

- A. Facility Operations** – PRCC HSC members adjourned following the Wanapum Dam update and reconvened at GPUD’s Carlton Acclimation Facility. HSC members discussed facility operations and status of summer Chinook currently held in the facility. Because the fish size at transfer was larger than anticipated, several of the circular tanks are at high fish density. Facility staff has opened an initial pathway for volitional release but

few fish have volitionally exited to date. GPUD requested HSC members' direction on suggested path forward for fish release.

B. Path Forward and Next Steps

- HSC members agreed that Carlton Acclimation Facility staff should begin removing dam boards in the circular tanks to encourage fish release. Facility staff should configure the dam boards as they see fit, beginning with the highest density tanks and configuring one tank per day to maintain PIT-tag detection accuracy.

V. Wrap Up and Next Steps

A. Next Meeting: Thursday, May 22, 2014

B. Potential May Meeting Agenda Items

- 2013 Rotary Trap report
- Nason Creek broodstock collection
- Wanapum Dam update

Meeting Materials

The following documents were provided to HSC members in advance of this meeting:

- April meeting agenda
- Revised Nason Creek SOA
- Upper Wenatchee Spring Chinook broodstock options
- Priest Rapids Hatchery March M&E update
- USFWS fish health report for White River broodstock euthanized on 2/19/14

1 **Attachment 1**

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3 **DRAFT – 4/10/2014**

4 **SOA 2014–XX**

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Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee’s Hatchery Subcommittee

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Statement of Agreement

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Wenatchee Basin Spring Chinook

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Composite Broodstock Collection Evaluation SOA

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11 Submitted to PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee:

12 Approved by PRCC:

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14 Submitted to HCP Hatchery Committee:

15 Approved by Hatchery Committee:

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17 **Statement**

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19 The Priest Rapids Coordination Committee Hatchery Subcommittee (PRCC HSC) and HCP Hatchery
20 Committee agree that meeting mitigation goals of 223,670 and 144,026 spring Chinook smolts for,
21 respectively, Grant County PUD’s Wenatchee River (Nason Creek Acclimation) and Chelan County PUD’s
22 Wenatchee River (Chiwawa Creek Acclimation site), while balancing ESA objectives, is a priority. The
23 HSC and HC further agree that since genetic based approaches used to collect Nason Creek broodstock
24 have been generally inconclusive, a composite approach to broodstock collection at Tumwater Dam will
25 be evaluated for implementation in 2015. A composite approach has the potential to ensure that
26 mitigation obligations are met annually while achieving PNI goals and minimizing excessive handling of
27 the Wenatchee River spawning escapement. Implementation is only contingent on a favorable NMFS
28 analysis of effects of a composite broodstock for Wenatchee basin spring Chinook and completion of a
29 re-initiated 2013 Wenatchee spring Chinook Biological Opinion prior to broodstock collection in 2015.

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31 The NMFS’ regional and science center staff will meet to discuss ESA viability criteria and recovery
32 objectives for the Wenatchee spring Chinook salmon population based on the most current genetic
33 results. Since the effects of a composite broodstock of Wenatchee spring Chinook were not analyzed
34 under the 2013 Wenatchee Spring Chinook Biological Opinion and not included in the Nason Creek
35 Section 10(a)(1)(A) Permit (#18118) and the Chiwawa River Section 10(a)(1)(A) Permit (#18121), a re-
36 initiation of the Biological Opinion is required for composite broodstocking to move forward. In
37 addition, discussions with the co-managers are needed prior to selection of a 2015 broodstock collection
38 program.