

PRCC - SOA 2017-07

Performance Standards Achieved for Juvenile Steelhead

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

Statement of Agreement: Acceptance of the 2015, 2016, and 2017 Steelhead Survival Estimates as meeting the (3-year average) Project Performance Standard.

Submitted to the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee: 12-12-17

Approved by the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee: 12-13-17

Statement: The Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) agrees to accept the arithmetic 3-year average of the Priest Rapids Project steelhead survival studies of 2015, 2016, and 2017 as achieving the juvenile steelhead (Project-wide) performance standard for the Priest Rapids Project. The scheduled next survival evaluation check-ins for juvenile steelhead will be in 2022 and 2027 (PRCC-SOA 2017-02, item #8) unless modified by the PRCC per Section 15.6 of the 2006 Priest Rapids Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement.

Background: The Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County, Washington (GPUD) conducted three consecutive years of performance standard evaluations (i.e. survival studies) during 2015-2017 to determine Project-wide survival for juvenile steelhead migrating through the Priest Rapids Project (Table 1). The three-year consecutive arithmetic (survival estimate) average of 87.01 % exceeded the required performance standard of 86.49% per the 2008 NMFS Biological Opinions for the Priest Rapids Project (Hatch et al. 2016, Hatch et al. 2017a, and Hatch et al. 2017b).

Table 1 Survival estimates and standard errors (SE) in parenthesis (development and total Project) for steelhead for the Priest Rapids Project for years 2015-17.

Year	Wanapum Development	Priest Rapids Development	Total Survival for Priest Rapids Project*
2015	85.5%	94.1%	83.7% (SE=0.027)
2016	N/A	N/A	86.6% (SE=0.032)
2017	N/A	N/A	90.8% (SE=0.017)
3 Year Consecutive Average			87.0% (SE=0.020)

***Performance Standard Requirement = 86.49% (NMFS 2008)**

The standard error (SE) for the 2015 and 2016 steelhead survival estimates (Table 1) exceeded the study criteria of a SE of +/-2.5%. The PRCC acknowledged those and has accepted the survival estimates of 2015 and 2016 (PRCC-SOA 2017-02, item #3).

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Literature Cited:

- Grant PUD (Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County, WA). 2006. Priest Rapids Project Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement (SSSA) entered into by Grant PUD, USFWS, NOAA Fisheries, WDFW, CCT, and YN.
- Hatch, K.B, L.S. Sullivan, M.A. Timko, J.R. Skalski, R.L. Townsend, and C.L. Dotson. 2016. Behavior and survival analysis of juvenile steelhead and sockeye salmon through Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project in 2015. Report prepared for Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County, Washington by Blue Leaf Environmental, Inc., Ellensburg, Washington.
- Hatch, K.B, L.S. Sullivan, M.A. Timko, N.L. Ogan, J.R. Skalski, R.L. Townsend, and C.L. Dotson. 2017a. Behavior and survival analysis of juvenile steelhead through Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project in 2016. Report prepared for Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County, Washington by Blue Leaf Environmental, Inc., Ellensburg, Washington.
- Hatch, K.B, M.A. Timko, L.S. Sullivan, N. L. Ogan, J.R. Skalski, R.L. Townsend, C.L. Dotson. 2017b. Behavior and survival analysis of juvenile steelhead through Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project in 2017. Report prepared for Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County, Washington by Blue Leaf Environmental, Inc., Ellensburg, Washington.
- NMFS (National Marine Fisheries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). 2008. Biological Opinion for the Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 2114. NMFS, Seattle, Washington.
- PRCC-SOA 2017-02, Statement of Agreement on juvenile steelhead and summer sub-yearling Chinook NNI Calculations and Evaluation Schedule. Approved by the PRCC on 3/17/2017.