

## **PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Meeting**

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Wenatchee, Washington

Meeting Summary

### **PRCC HSC Members**

Matt Cooper, USFWS (alt)

Bill Gale, USFWS

Peter Graf, GPUD (alt)

Lynn Hatcher, NMFS

Keely Murdoch, Yakama Nation

Todd Pearsons, GPUD

Mike Tonseth, WDFW

Kirk Truscott, CCT

### **Other Participants**

Richard Bussanich, ONA\*

David Duvall, GPUD \*

Kristi Geris, Anchor Environmental\*

Kim Hyatt, advisor to ONA\* (via phone)

Greg Mackey, DPUD\*\*

Alene Underwood, CPUD\*

Howie Wright, ONA\*

Elizabeth McManus, Facilitator

Andy Chinn, Facilitator

\* For agenda item I only

\*\* For agenda items I and II only

### **Decisions**

- A. Approved the August meeting summary as amended
- B. Approved the NTTOC SOA
- C. Approved the broodstock collection SOA

### **Actions**

1. WDFW and USFWS will continue discussions within the HC regarding Eastbank facility modifications.
2. Ross Strategic will circulate the revised SOA on Mid Valley acclimation. HSC members will coordinate SOA approval via e-mail and if necessary meet via conference call on 9/25 to discuss any outstanding issues.
3. WDFW will check on the timing of the Agency's composite broodstock collection SOA review.
4. Ross Strategic will format the approved NTTOC SOA and forward the final version to the PRCC.
5. Ross Strategic will format the approved broodstock collection SOA and forward the final version to the PRCC.
6. Ross Strategic will re-circulate SOA 2013-01 to inform the discussions around White River decision making in 2026.
7. CCT will circulate its Chief Joseph hatchery program workshop report with the HSC (status: carried over from April meeting summary).
8. GPUD will look into options for HSC document storage and access (status: in progress).

### **HSC Meeting Summary**

## I. **Okanagan Sockeye Re-Introduction to Skaha Lake**

**A. Peer Review & Hatchery Progress** – ONA representatives provided an overview of their long-term project to re-introduce sockeye into Skaha Lake. The presentation included background information on ONA’s territory, member bands, mission, and the historical range of Okanagan Sockeye. ONA reviewed its four key research questions on the re-introduction project and key accomplishments/milestones since the project concept was outlined in 1997. ONA summarized its project design, implementation, and monitoring efforts and described the outcomes from an April 2014 peer review workshop on key research questions. ONA concluded with an update on its hatchery construction efforts; the grand opening ceremony for the new hatchery is scheduled to coincide with ONA’s annual salmon feast.

- ONA is proposing a trap and transport of 250-300 adult fish around Okanagan Dam for this year.
- ONA will continue to monitor Kokanee-sockeye hybridization. This phenomenon appears to be directional but there are limited data and a proper management framework will have to be developed. In the Skaha system the evidence is clear that McIntyre Dam and Okanagan Falls Dam have not been total barriers to anadromous sockeye, as there was likely entry at levels too low to detect. The province of British Columbia does not at present have a detailed policy on hybridization but recognizes the need for such a policy.
- During 2013-2014 the fish management tool was deployed successfully to avoid drought/desiccation and flood/scour events. There was a pulse release in 2013 from Okanagan Lake to help with a temperature and oxygen squeeze in Osoyoos Lake. An overview paper on water managers’ response to the fish management tool has been accepted by a Canadian fisheries journal and should be published shortly.
- ONA has made progress assessing the impact of the Testalinden Creek earthen dam failure on fish production.

## II. **Methow Spring Chinook**

**A. Updated Data on Methow Spring Chinook at Mid Valley Pond Complex** – YN reviewed the data sheets circulated with the HSC, with particular focus on additional data requested by GPUD.

- YN noted that a decision to transfer Methow Spring Chinook to Mid Valley Pond is needed soon, as PIT tagging will take place at the Methow Hatchery on 9/29.
- DPUD commented that the homing sequence for wild fish is thought to start with imprinting on-site, followed by imprinting after the fish first significant movement; when they return from the ocean they locate their natal river or stream by first locating the marker of significant movement. However, when fish are spawned in the hatchery and transported upstream, the sequence is not followed directly, as returning fish will encounter the spawning facility (i.e., where they were “born”) *before* the location of their first significant migration.

- WDFW reminded the Committee that data on homing fidelity to Methow hatchery is unavailable.
- YN discussed its proposed improvements to operations at the Mid Valley complex to reduce mortality. The Mid Valley pond is subject to a conservation easement which prevents lethal trapping of predators; YN is in discussions with the conservation group about non-lethal trapping options.
- NOAA commented that in the Agency’s view, the proposed fish transfer activities are covered in the 2013 letter of extension for the permits. The letter included the phrase “...anything else determined unanimously by the committee”. GPUD is drafting an SOA on Methow remote acclimation and if the language in the SOA is sufficiently succinct, NOAA will use the language in the next permit.
  - GPUD noted that the draft SOA was written specifically for spring 2015 releases and may require modification if incorporated into a longer term permit condition. The draft SOA contained 4 conditions that were necessary for GPUD to support remote acclimation. These 4 conditions were discussed by the HSC.

**B. Next Steps**

- Ross Strategic will circulate the revised SOA on Mid Valley acclimation. HSC members will coordinate SOA approval via e-mail and meet via conference call on 9/25 to discuss any outstanding issues.

**III. Composite Broodstock Collection**

**A. Draft SOA Status** – YN and WDFW met to discuss the composite broodstock SOA. WDFW agreed to review the draft SOA and will respond to YN by October 2014.

**B. NOAA Internal Discussions** – NOAA decided to write a supplemental biological opinion for Wenatchee spring Chinook; the next step is a USFWS decision on bull trout. NOAA will request that USFWS review the three alternatives provided by YN, and after USFWS responds, NOAA will notify the HSC via e-mail. After that NOAA will initiate the revision to the biological opinion. By the end of September NOAA plans to conclude discussions with USFWS and in December the Agency will write the supplement. Craig Busack has drafted pieces of the supplement already, basically stating that compositing is an adequate short term action but restoration of sub-population diversity should be the long term goal.

**C. Next Steps**

- WDFW will check on the timing of the Agency’s composite broodstock collection SOA review.

**IV. Updates and Meeting Summary Review**

**A. PAC Update** – The Ringold HGMP has been issued for review; the deadline for public comments is 9/19. ACOE has not responded to GPUD’s previous letters regarding Ringold expansion concerns.

**B. August Action Item Review**

- WDFW and USFWS initiated discussions with CPUD regarding Eastbank facility modifications. The parties agreed that the outfall is effective in providing broodstock for the Chelan Falls program and that additional modifications will help address straying.
- WDFW will complete the summary 2014 tangle netting report by 9/25 and will forward the report to GPUD.
- The final 2015 Wenatchee Implementation Plan is complete and posted to GPUD's Boxnet site.
- NMFS will circulate the revised broodstock collection SOA to the HSC.
- WDFW is on track to develop a section in the broodstock collection protocols that identifies marks and tags.
- BY2013 Nason and Chiwawa fish are not identically marked; through a miscommunication, Chiwawa fish were adipose clipped. WDFW is working on mechanisms to prevent this from occurring in the future. In order to differentiate Nason Creek and Chiwawa fish, Nason Creek fish will receive a body tag at the base of the adipose fin. This affects the ability to use a conservation fishery for adult management. In 2017 all adult management will have to occur at Tumwater, with no safety net of adipose clipped fish.
- WDFW reported that time of transfer for Nason Creek fish with a supplemental mark is not an issue.

**C. Meeting Summary Review** – HSC approved the August meeting summary.

**V. NTTOC Report**

**A. Draft SOA** – The draft NTTOC SOA was approved in the HC during the morning of 9/17. GPUD submitted an identical SOA to the HSC for approval, with GPUD in place of CPUD in the text.

**B. Voting**

- The HSC approved the draft NTTOC SOA.

**C. Next Steps**

- Ross Strategic will format the approved NTTOC SOA and forward the final version to the PRCC.

**VI. Wenatchee Broodstock Collection**

**A. Draft Broodstock Collection Protocol SOA** – The HSC approved the broodstock collection SOA.

**B. Next Steps**

- Ross Strategic will format the approved broodstock collection SOA and forward the final version to the PRCC.

**VII. White River Spring Chinook**

- A. Path to 2026 Decision** – HSC members discussed key questions needed to inform the decision about whether to restart a hatchery supplementation program in the White River, as outlined in the HSC’s SOA 2013-01. The discussion produced the following list of questions:
- Is a supplementation program feasible and is it worth the effort?
  - Can the population support broodstock removal?
  - Would an adult-based supplementation program increase the probability of meeting recovery under ESA? (Related: What is NMFS view on recovery requirements/best path to recovery) Data requirements:
    - Ongoing evaluation of genetic changes in NOR to see if the level of differentiation is changing
    - Changes in Ne over time, and is supplementation likely to improve Ne
    - VSP parameters: Abundance, productivity, spatial structure, genetic diversity. What is the most limiting VSP?
  - How many additional NO adults could be reasonably expected by operating an adult based supplementation program for WR spawning aggregate?
  - What is the available spawning capacity in WR compared to current populations? Data requirements:
    - Spawning capacity, rearing capacity, other life stage capacity, identify what is the limiting life stage
    - Reproductive success for hatchery fish: What is their reproductive potential/capacity? (This will be available via the reproductive success study)
  - What is the magnitude of the risk to spring Chinook spawning aggregates (e.g., Little Wenatchee, etc.) by operating a hatchery supplementation program for WR?
- B. Next Steps**
- Ross Strategic will re-circulate SOA 2013-01 with the HSC.

**VIII. Other HSC Updates**

- A. Wanapum Dam** – Fall Chinook and Coho are arriving at Wanapum Dam.
- B. Facilitation** – The HSC discussed the pros and cons of a single facilitator for the HSC and HC. GPUD expressed interest in a single facilitator due to the number of issues that affect CPUD, DPUD, and GPUD.
- C. Personnel** – Casey Risley resigned as manager of LWSNFH. Mark Ahrens, the Spring Creek hatchery manager, is currently the acting manager at LWSNFH.

**IX. Wrap Up and Next Steps**

- A. Next Meeting:** Thursday, October 16, 2014
- B. Potential September Meeting Agenda Items**
- Composite broodstock collection
  - Wanapum Dam update

- White River spring Chinook program

### **Meeting Materials**

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

- September meeting agenda
- August White River rotary trap summary
- August Nason Creek rotary trap summary
- PRH M&E August update
- LWSNFH White River August report
- Methow Expanded Acclimation Return Rate Analysis
- Methow Expanded Acclimation Data Summary Table