

PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Meeting
Wednesday, January 17, 2018
GPUD Wenatchee Office and via Conference Call
Meeting Summary

PRCC HSC Members

Brett Farman, NOAA (via phone)
Peter Graf, GPUD (alt)
Keely Murdoch, Yakama Nation
Todd Pearsons, GPUD
Mike Tonseth, WDFW
Kirk Truscott, CCT

Other Participants

Eric Lauver, GPUD
Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel, GPUD
Elizabeth McManus, Facilitator (via phone)
Andy Chinn, Facilitator (via phone)

Decisions

- A. HSC members agreed to cull high ELISA summer Chinook at Carlton, in light of the risk posed to the health of other fish in the Carlton and Eastbank facilities and potential amplification of pathogens in the natural environment.

Actions

1. Ross Strategic will re-send the draft November meeting summary to the HSC.
2. GPUD will revise the Carlton Acclimation Facility transition plan for greater clarity on various organizations' roles and responsibilities.
3. HSC will consider future management of the summer and fall Chinook programs during the upcoming broodstock collection protocol discussion.
4. WDFW will circulate the draft broodstock collection protocols in advance of the February HSC meeting.

I. Updates and Meeting Summary Review

- A. Upcoming Regional Meetings** – The Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Conference agenda is posted. For the Washington/British Columbia AFS meeting, GPUD is organizing a session on hatchery reform.
- B. HCP** – *Note: See Appendix A for summary of joint HSC-HCP discussion during January HCP meeting.*
- C. November Meeting Summary** – HSC members deferred review of the November meeting summary until the next HSC meeting.

II. Carlton Acclimation Facility

- A. Transition from WDFW to DPUD** – With DPUD taking over other Upper Columbia hatchery operations from WDFW, GPUD decided to also transition operation of the Carlton Acclimation Facility to DPUD. The transition plan is based on the similar plan for Wells Hatchery. Fish transfer permits will be obtained by DPUD and there will be no changes to M&E or fish husbandry. The plan also includes a section on workplace culture.

- HSC members suggested delineating more clearly in the transition plan which organizations are responsible for which activities (e.g., permit applications, transportation, etc.)
- WDFW clarified that current operations at Carlton are not covered under the recently completed 2017 biological opinion. Coverage is provided under the extension of the previous Section 10 permit.
- GPUD clarified that M&E activities referenced in the transition plan are in-hatchery; other activities, such as adult sampling, are done by other organizations.

B. Next Steps

- GPUD will revise the Carlton Acclimation Facility transition plan for greater clarity on various organizations' roles and responsibilities.

III. Carlton Program

A. High-ELISA Fish at Carlton – Due to the high-ELISA summer Chinook at Carlton, and HSC decision is needed. The first option is to cull the high-ELISA summer Chinook, which would reduce the current eyed-egg inventory from 175,000 to 152,000. This would result in 132,000 smolts at release (66% of program). Alternatively, WDFW could rear the fish in segregation at Carlton and Eastbank, which would result in 77% of the program at release (assuming certain survival rates) but would pose a health risk to other fish. Because these are progeny of wild fish, WDFW's preference is to retain them even with high ELISA.

- GPUD noted some concern with retaining high-ELISA fish due to the potential risk to target and non-target populations and relatively small gain (60-120 adults produced from 23,000 smolts, depending on SARs).
- YN noted that for the Coho program, real-time fecundity sampling allows for additional broodstock collection if necessary. If other species have overlap between broodstock collection and spawning, this method can be used to adjust program goals.
- WDFW commented that the Agency performs a fecundity-at-length regression in-season to address whether egg take targets will be met, and there was no evidence this year to suggest those targets would be missed. WDFW also collects weight data at time of spawning and is currently examining whether that is a factor, since it is possible for fish to attain length but not body mass.
- WDFW noted that the culling criteria under consideration for summer Chinook at Carlton was developed for spring Chinook and has never been fully applied for summer Chinook because those fish have not previously been regarded as high risk.
- CCT commented that biosecurity at Eastbank will be more difficult than at Carlton because the fish will be ponded in a raceway at Eastbank. In addition, the fish will pose at least some level of health risk in the natural environment upon release.

B. Decision

- HSC members agreed to cull the high ELISA summer Chinook at Carlton, in light of the risk posed to the health of other fish in the Carlton and Eastbank facilities and potential amplification of pathogens in the natural environment.

C. Next Steps

- HSC will consider future management of the summer and fall Chinook programs during the upcoming broodstock collection protocol discussion.

IV. Broodstock Collection

A. Draft Broodstock Collection Protocols – The draft protocols are mostly consistent with the previous year. There is some uncertainty around spring Chinook returns, with implications for production targets. WDFW is looking into possible explanations for high ELISA levels in summer Chinook. Initial theories include thermal barrier/ocean conditions contributing to lower fertilization rates and disease expression. Notably, disease expression for the current year is not isolated to Upper Columbia fish.

B. Next Steps

- WDFW will circulate the draft broodstock collection protocols in advance of the February HSC meeting.

V. Coho NNI

A. Survival Estimates – YN and GPUD are developing an SOA to present to the PRCC related to Coho survival estimates; once that SOA is completed and approved, the HSC can calculate mitigation obligations. SOA 2017-06 Coho Evaluation Goals and Standards was approved by the PRCC.

VI. Wrap Up and Next Steps

A. Next Meeting: TBD

B. Potential Agenda Items:

- Draft broodstock collection protocols
- Coho NNI

Meeting Materials

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

- January meeting agenda
- November 2017 Hatchery Progress Report
- November Nason Rotary Trap Summary
- November White River Rotary Trap Summary

Appendix A: Joint HCP-HC/PRCC HSC Minutes

V. Joint HCP-HC/PRCC HSC

A. NMFS Consultation Update (Brett Farman)

Brett Farman said Emi Kondo (NMFS) distributed the BiOp for the unlisted summer/fall Chinook salmon programs in the upper Columbia River after it was signed on December 26, 2017. He said permit approvals are still needed, but he does not know the permitting timeline.

Farman said Chuck Peven (NMFS) is working on the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) consultation for Methow steelhead and the unlisted programs (summer/fall Chinook salmon for Wells, Methow, Chelan Falls, Dryden, and Priest Rapids).

Mike Tonseth noted that the Wenatchee steelhead permit was issued in late December 2017. Tracy Hillman suggested that permits and BiOps could be saved on the Extranet site for reference. Sarah Montgomery and Tonseth agreed to compile permits and BiOps and save them to the Extranet site.

USFWS Bull Trout Consultation Update (Matt Cooper)

Matt Cooper said Karl Halupka (USFWS) has no consultation updates for the Hatchery Committees because all section 7 consultations are complete with the submission of BiOps or letters of sufficiency. Todd Pearsons asked if the consultation pathway for the BiOp for the unlisted summer/fall Chinook salmon programs in the Columbia River was a letter of sufficiency. Cooper said yes.

Cooper asked if the Hatchery Committees would like any further updates from USFWS regarding consultation. Representatives present stated updates are not needed at this time.

Mike Tonseth noted that permits for the Methow steelhead program and for the unlisted summer/fall Chinook salmon programs are still pending.

Timelines of Changes in Programs (Tracy Hillman)

Tracy Hillman shared the most recent version of the timelines for program changes. He reviewed the different draft timelines. Specifically, regarding the Methow spring Chinook salmon timeline, more information is needed from Douglas PUD. The Wenatchee steelhead timeline also needs more details. The Entiat steelhead timeline may need additional details regarding state releases, which Mike Tonseth will look into. The Methow steelhead and summer Chinook salmon timelines also need more information. Hillman said the next steps are incorporating more details provided by representatives, making tables with this same information, and then deciding the statistical break periods for each program. Kirk Truscott suggested adding a timeline for sockeye salmon in the Okanogan River. Hillman replied that he would need to consult with his funding sources before moving ahead with an additional timeline. Representatives present said they would continue providing input to Hillman for the timelines.