

# Memorandum

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To: Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island HCP Hatchery Committees, and Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Hatchery Subcommittee      Date: November 23, 2020

From: Tracy Hillman, HCP Hatchery Committees Chairman and PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Facilitator

cc: Sarah Montgomery, Anchor QEA, LLC

**Re: Final Minutes of the September 16, 2020, HCP Hatchery Committees and PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Meetings**

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The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plan Hatchery Committees (HCP-HCs) and Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Hatchery Subcommittee (PRCC HSC) meetings were held by conference call and web-share on Wednesday, September 16, 2020, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Attendees are listed in Attachment A to these meeting minutes.

## Action Item Summary

### Joint HCP-HCs and PRCC HSC

- Brett Farman will discuss with NOAA staff and Mike Tonseth the potential use of a multi-population model for estimating proportionate natural influence (PNI) for the Nason and Chiwawa spring Chinook salmon programs (Item I-A). *(Note this item is ongoing.)*
- Greg Mackey will work with Mike Tonseth to test a modeling approach and prepare a white paper on the method for determining a range for the number of females to be collected for a given broodstock in the upcoming year (Item I-A). *(Note this item is ongoing.)*
- Greg Mackey will prepare a plan for alternative mating strategies based on findings described in his previously distributed literature review (Item I-A). *(Note this item is ongoing.)*
- Mike Tonseth will distribute the analysis showing feasibility of the Methow Spring Chinook Outplanting plan based on historic run-size data (Item I-A). *(Note this item is ongoing.)*
- All parties will provide updates on changes to marking and tagging plans due to the impacts of COVID-19 on operations as updates become available (Item I-A). *(Note this item is ongoing.)*
- Kirk Truscott will determine the number of scales that should be collected from spring Chinook at Wells Dam for elemental signature analysis to discern Okanogan River spring Chinook from Methow River spring Chinook (Item I-A). *(Note this item is ongoing.)*
- Mike Tonseth will check with Andrew Murdoch (WDFW) on presenting pre-spawn mortality data to the HCP-HCs and PRCC HSC at an upcoming meeting (tentatively planned for fall 2020; Item I-A). *(Note this item is ongoing.)*

- Todd Pearsons will continue coordinating with Mark Sorel (University of Washington) regarding his work on life cycle models for Wenatchee spring Chinook salmon and invite him to an upcoming meeting (tentatively planned for winter 2020/2021; Item I-A). *(Note this item is ongoing.)*
- Kirk Truscott will work with CCT staff to develop a model that addresses the probability of encountering natural-origin Okanogan spring Chinook at Wells Dam (Item I-A). *(Note this item is ongoing.)*
- Kirk Truscott will work with Casey Baldwin (CCT) to prepare a presentation about reintroduction of endemic anadromous fish upstream from Chief Joseph Dam (Item I-A). *(Note this item is ongoing and tentatively planned for the October HCP Hatchery Committees meeting.)*
- Keely Murdoch and Mike Tonseth will update the retrospective analysis for Wenatchee spring Chinook salmon using estimates of female pre-spawn mortality (Item II-A).
- Greg Mackey will ask Betsy Bamberger (Douglas PUD) if any surplus fish are needed for research projects in 2021, which would need to be included in the Broodstock Collection Protocols (Item II-B).

## PRCC HSC

- None

## Decision Summary

- The Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Hatchery Committees approved the *Chelan PUD 2021 Hatchery Monitoring and Evaluation Implementation Plan*, as follows: Chelan PUD, the YN, the CCT, WDFW, NMFS, and USFWS approved during the meeting on September 16, 2020.

## Agreements

- No agreements were approved during today's meeting.

## Review Items

- The Douglas PUD *2019 Wells Complex M&E Annual Report*, which was provided by Greg Mackey and was distributed to the Wells HCP Hatchery Committee by Sarah Montgomery on August 28, 2020, is available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Mackey by September 28, 2020.

## Finalized Documents

- The final report, *Monitoring and Evaluation of the Chelan and Grant PUDs Hatchery Programs 2019 Annual Report*, was distributed by Kristi Geris to the Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Hatchery Committees and PRCC HSC on September 11, 2020.

## I. Welcome

### A. Review Agenda, Announcements, Approve Past Meeting Minutes, Review Last Meeting Action Items

Tracy Hillman welcomed the HCP-HCs and PRCC HSC to the meeting and read the list of attendees signed into the meeting. The meeting was held via conference call and web-share because of travel and group meeting restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Hillman reviewed the agenda and asked for any additions or changes to the agenda. Brett Farman added an update on NOAA representation. Todd Pearsons said he will provide an update on the ABC fishery at a later meeting. All representatives present approved the agenda with these changes.

The HCP-HCs and PRCC HSC representatives reviewed the revised August 19, 2020, meeting minutes. Minor revisions were resolved in the meeting. The HCP-HCs and PRCC HSC approved the August 19, 2020, meeting minutes, as revised. Kirk Truscott noted that he was not in attendance. Bill Gale noted that Matt Cooper should also confirm edits in the minutes (this was provided via email after the meeting).

Action items from the HCP-HCs and PRCC HSC meeting on August 19, 2020, were reviewed, and follow-up discussions were addressed (*note that italicized text below corresponds to action items from the previous meeting*):

#### *Joint HCP-HCs and PRCC HSC*

- *Brett Farman will discuss with NOAA staff and Mike Tonseth the potential use of a multi-population model for estimating proportionate natural influence (PNI) for the Nason and Chiwawa spring Chinook salmon programs (Item I-A).*  
Farman said this item is ongoing; however, Charlene Hurst no longer works at NOAA so he will be discussing this item with other NOAA staff.
- *Greg Mackey will work with Mike Tonseth to test a modeling approach and prepare a white paper on the method for determining a range for the number of females to be collected for a given broodstock in the upcoming year (Item I-A).*  
Mackey said this item is ongoing and will be a focus for him as discussions about the Broodstock Collection Protocols develop.

- *Greg Mackey will prepare a plan for alternative mating strategies based on findings described in his previously distributed literature review (Item I-A).*  
Mackey said this item is ongoing. He has been working on it, but not ready to share yet.
- *Mike Tonseth will distribute the analysis showing feasibility of the Methow Spring Chinook salmon Outplanting plan based on historic run-size data (Item I-A).*  
Tonseth said this item is ongoing.
- *All parties will provide updates on changes to marking and tagging plans due to the impacts of COVID-19 on operations as updates become available (Item I-A).*  
This item is ongoing.
- *Kirk Truscott will determine the number of scales that should be collected from spring Chinook at Wells Dam for elemental signature analysis to discern Okanogan River spring Chinook from Methow River spring Chinook salmon (Item I-A).*  
This item is ongoing.
- *Mike Tonseth will check with Andrew Murdoch on presenting pre-spawn mortality data to the HCP-HCs and PRCC HSC at an upcoming meeting (tentatively planned for fall 2020; Item I-A).*  
Tonseth said this item is ongoing.
- *Mike Tonseth will distribute information from Mike Hughes (WDFW) about visual assessments of males vs. females at Tumwater Dam (Item I-A).*  
This item is complete. Montgomery provided Tonseth's email with this information to the committees following the meeting on August 19, 2020.
- *Todd Pearsons will continue coordinating with Mark Sorel (University of Washington) regarding his work on life cycle models for Wenatchee spring Chinook salmon and invite him to an upcoming meeting (tentatively planned for winter 2020/2021; Item I-A).*  
This item is ongoing. Pearsons said he and Sorel will work to pick a time to present to the committees, which will depend on Sorel's progress.
- *Kirk Truscott will work with CCT staff to develop a model that addresses the probability of encountering natural-origin Okanogan spring Chinook at Wells Dam (Item I-A).*  
This item is ongoing.
- *Kirk Truscott will work with Casey Baldwin to prepare a presentation about reintroduction of endemic anadromous fish upstream from Chief Joseph Dam (Item I-A).*  
This item is ongoing and will be first on the agenda for the October HCP Hatchery Committees meeting.
- *Keely Murdoch and Mike Tonseth will update the retrospective analysis for Wenatchee spring Chinook salmon using estimates of female pre-spawn mortality (Item II-A).*  
Keely Murdoch said this item will be discussed today. She said she has not had a chance to get together with Tonseth on this yet.

- Sarah Montgomery will update and distribute the document *Discussion Topics for 2020 to prepare for discussions about changes to the broodstock collection protocols for 2021 (Item VIII)*. This item is complete. The revised document was distributed on September 10, 2020 by Kristi Geris.

### PRCC HSC

- None

## II. Joint HCP-HCs and PRCC HSC

### A. Updated Retrospective Analysis of Wenatchee Spring Chinook Salmon Conservation Program Size

Keely Murdoch said there is no update at this time.

### B. Broodstock Collection Protocols

Tracy Hillman shared the revised document, *Topics for HCP-HC and PRCC HSC Discussion in 2020*, which was distributed to the HCP Hatchery Committees and PRCC HSC on September 10, 2020. He summarized that the committees have a number of items to discuss related to the drafting the 2021 Broodstock Collection Protocols, as follows:

- Chiwawa spring Chinook marking strategy
  - Catherine Willard said this item should be revisited to make sure folks are aware of how things went in 2020 and the committees can discuss whether to move forward with the same strategy for 2021. She said this should be discussed again in January 2021.
- Differentiating natural-origin Okanogan and Methow spring Chinook salmon
  - Kirk Truscott said the CCT is working on developing these protocols. He said this discussion should continue in 2021, as the CCT will likely not be prepared to implement any studies or actions in 2021 to begin this process. He said this process has become more complicated than he originally thought. He identified that one option for 2021 could be to collect additional scales and archive them; this could inform a retrospective analysis of whether Okanogan-origin spring Chinook were encountered at Wells Dam. Hillman said one task for Truscott was to analyze how many fish could potentially be returning to Wells Dam. Truscott said this discussion should be brought up again in January 2021.
- Outplanting surplus Methow-composite spring Chinook salmon adults

- Mike Tonseth said he will distribute this analysis when it is prepared. The committees can then discuss it in October or November 2020.
- Wenatchee pre-spawn survival estimates
  - Tonseth said this item will be presented to the committees in October or November 2020.
- Sizing of conservation programs
  - Hillman said it appears this item will not change for 2021 based on recent conversations. Todd Pearsons agreed and said the committees will discuss marking protocols in winter 2021, so it would be unlikely that a change would be made for 2021. Keely Murdoch agreed. Hillman said he will leave this one on the agenda for upcoming discussions.
- Revising protocols for identifying and transferring Chief Joseph Hatchery fish from Winthrop National Fish Hatchery
  - Kirk Truscott said this item could be discussed briefly now. He said the only way currently to identify Chief Joseph Hatchery-origin fish is to read the coded wire tags during spawning. Bill Gale asked how this process of transferring fish would work. He asked about the logistics of not spawning these fish, then transferring green eggs.
  - Truscott said notification for green eggs would require having males available at Chief Joseph Hatchery to make the cross, which would require same-day spawning. He said this is logistically very unlikely to work. Gale identified another concern: spawning adults that have shown a propensity to stray elsewhere may not be desirable for the CJH program. Truscott agreed and said the term "stray" may not be accurate, however, because these fish are trapped. Gale also noted that the Broodstock Collection Protocols are specific to the HCPs, and this discussion is outside of the HCP. He said it can still be included in the protocols, but representatives should be aware of that point.
  - Tonseth asked how many fish this protocol would apply to. During the call Bill Gale contacted Michael Humling (USFWS), he reported that there have been zero fish from CJH trapped at Winthrop NFH in recent history. He said they appear on spawning grounds but do not ascend the ladder to the trap. Gale said this information from Humling means there would be zero transferrable fish, so no protocol is needed.
- Request for HCP surplus adults for research

- Mike Tonseth clarified that this item is in relation to requests for adult surplus fish that would directly benefit or inform HCP programs. Hillman noted that the research conducted by Douglas PUD to control saprolegnia also falls under this item. Tonseth said additional examples would be egg to fry survival studies or passage survival studies.
- Greg Mackey said he will check with Betsy Bamberger on any potential requests for surplus adults.
- Hillman asked whether Chelan PUD will be requesting any fish for their survival studies. Willard said Chelan PUD uses run-of-the-river fish for survival studies, not fish from production.
- Review Broodstock Collection Protocols and assign responsibilities to HC members
  - Address redundancies in Methow steelhead juvenile release methods and broodstock methods (re-write the Wells/Methow steelhead section)
    - Greg Mackey volunteered for this task.
  - Consistent descriptions of allocation of surplus
    - Kirk Truscott asked whether this item relates to describing the allocations or describing how allocations are determined? Tonseth said this section relates to describing that allocations are available. Truscott noted that not all members of the committees are involved in allocating surplus.
    - Tonseth said he will revise this section.
  - Chiwawa broodstock collection protocols: trapping for natural-origin fish at Tumwater Dam
    - Catherine Willard volunteered to update this section
  - ABC (Angler Broodstock Collection) Fishery contingency plan
    - Todd Pearsons said he will know by November 2020 if the ABC Fishery will occur this year. If the committee is comfortable in having one low year of PNI, this item can be postponed until November. If the ABC Fishery does not occur in 2020, he said the committees may want to write a tiered approach to broodstock collection, with a fallback plan of collecting fish at the OLAFT.

- Tonseth said he is comfortable with waiting until November. He asked about the participation level for the ABC Fishery in 2020. Pearsons said the number of boats is capped at 75, compared to 100 in 2019. He said he does not anticipate any issues with meeting the broodstock goal if the fishery occurs.
  - No representatives present expressed concern with waiting until November to decide whether a contingency plan should be added to the protocols.
- Broodstock Collection Protocols coauthoring
    - Sarah Montgomery said she can coordinate any necessary co-authoring.

### **C. Effect of COVID-19 Pandemic on Monitoring and Evaluation Activities**

Tracy Hillman asked each committee member to provide an update on impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on monitoring and evaluation activities.

Brett Farman reported no changes from NOAA.

Keely Murdoch reported no changes from YN.

Mike Tonseth reported no changes from WDFW. Katy Shelby agreed and said the smolt trap was shut down in early August due to high river temperatures.

Kirk Truscott reported no changes from COVID-19. He added that the CCT's hatchery programs have been heavily impacted by recent fires. He said the Chief Joseph Hatchery M&E Program lost outbuildings, boats, and other equipment. This may affect upcoming summer/fall Chinook salmon surveys. He said staff have not been able to fully assess losses and damages yet so this may be an incomplete summary of impacts.

Bill Gale said the USFWS has no additional updates. He offered that the USFWS may have rafts, boats, or other equipment to loan to the CCT if needed for their upcoming surveys.

Catherine Willard reported no changes from Chelan PUD. She also offered that Chelan PUD may similarly be able to loan M&E equipment to the CCT.

Greg Mackey said Douglas PUD has no changes to report since the previous meeting. He also offered that Douglas PUD may similarly be able to loan M&E equipment to the CCT.

Todd Pearsons said Grant PUD has no changes to report related to COVID-19. He said smoke has been an issue recently for M&E activities, and they have implemented containment measures to reduce staff exposure to smoke. He also offered that Grant PUD may similarly be able to loan M&E equipment to the CCT.

Truscott thanked the representatives for their offers of support.

### III. Wells HCP-HC

#### A. Draft 2021 Hatchery M&E Implementation Plan

Greg Mackey said Douglas PUD's Draft 2021 Hatchery M&E Implementation Plan will be ready for review soon. He summarized the changes from 2021, as follows:

- Mackey said there was a section about alternative assessment techniques (e.g., electrofishing) in the juvenile fish assessment section, which has been removed. He said this was removed because the plan describes rotary screw trapping and no changes to implementation of juvenile fish assessment are anticipated.
- Mackey said in the steelhead section, he added language about applying the redd observer efficiency model retrospectively.
- Mackey said the genetics sections have been updated to reflect the work to be done for the 10-year M&E report.

Mackey said he will provide the plan for review soon.

### IV. RI/RR HCP-HCs

#### A. Hatchery M&E Implementation Plan 2021

Tracy Hillman said Chelan PUD's *Hatchery M&E Implementation Plan* for 2021 has been available for review, and Catherine said she received comments last week. She said there were two minor revisions in the final plan, as follows:

- Willard said on page 9, she updated language about electrofishing to PIT-tag parr. She corrected the language to reflect that the random sampling of 10% occurs throughout the annual period (not each time a fish is PIT-tagged).
- Willard said on page 15, she updated language about spring Chinook surveys regarding "all redds and all carcasses," which is what Chelan PUD has been doing but it was previously recorded as "all redds and all female carcasses" in the plan.

Kirk Truscott asked whether the aggregate sampling for PIT-tagging is a 10% random sample, and if that is used to make an assessment of the abundance of migrants during non-trapping periods.

Willard said the random sample is collected to evaluate tag loss and delayed mortality.

Representatives present approved the plan as follows: NMFS, CCT, YN, WDFW, USFWS, and Chelan PUD approved the plan during the meeting on September 16, 2020.

## **V. PRCC HSC**

### **A. Review Agenda, Announcements, Approve Past Meeting Minutes**

The PRCC HSC representatives approved the August 19, 2020, meeting minutes as revised.

## **VI. Administrative Items**

### **A. NOAA Representation**

Brett Farman said Charlene Hurst is no longer working at NOAA, so NOAA is working to appoint a new alternate for the HCP Hatchery Committees and PRCC HSC.

### **B. WDFW Cybersecurity**

Mike Tonseth said WDFW is experiencing a cybersecurity attack and it has been affecting staff email use. He said WDFW staff may be unable to send email attachments or open received attachments in the meantime. Montgomery said she will coordinate with Tonseth on any necessary delivery of committee materials to WDFW during this time.

## **VII. Next Meetings**

The next HCP-HCs and PRCC HSC meetings will be Wednesday, October 21, 2020; Wednesday November 18, 2020; and Wednesday, December 16, 2020; held by conference call and web-share until further notice.

## **VIII. List of Attachments**

Attachment A List of Attendees

**Attachment A**  
**List of Attendees**

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Name	Organization
Sarah Montgomery	Anchor QEA, LLC
Tracy Hillman	BioAnalysts, Inc.
Catherine Willard*	Chelan PUD
Kirk Truscott*‡	Colville Confederated Tribes
Greg Mackey*	Douglas PUD
Peter Graf‡	Grant PUD
Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel	Grant PUD
Todd Pearsons‡	Grant PUD
Brett Farman*‡	National Marine Fisheries Service
Bill Gale*‡	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mike Tonseth*‡	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Katy Shelby	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Keely Murdoch*‡	Yakama Nation

Notes:

\* Denotes HCP-HCs member or alternate

‡ Denotes PRCC HSC member or alternate