

# Rocky Reach Fish Forum

Wednesday, 6 March 2013

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Chelan PUD Second Floor Conference Room

Wenatchee, WA



Meeting called by Steve Hemstrom

Chairperson, Tracy Hillman

Notes taken by Suzanne Hodgson

## ***Attending Representatives:***

Hemstrom, Steve	Chelan PUD	(509) 661-4281	steven.hemstrom@chelanpud.org
Huber, Bob (phone)	Alcoa	(509) 664-2193	bob.huber@alcoa.com
Irlle, Pat (phone)	Ecology	(509) 454-7864	pir461@ecy.wa.gov
Lewis, Steve	USFWS	(509) 665-3508 x14	stephen_lewis@fws.gov
Rose, Bob	YN	(509) 865-5121	rosb@yakamafish-nsn.gov
Verhey, Patrick	WDFW	(509) 754-4624	patrick.verhey@dfw.wa.gov

## ***Attending Participants:***

Clement, Mike (phone)	Grant PUD	(509) 754-5088 x2633	mclemen@gcpud.org
Hillman, Tracy	BioAnalysts	(208) 321-0363	tracy.hillman@bioanalysts.net
Hodgson, Suzanne	Chelan PUD	(509) 661-4758	suzanne.hodgson@chelanpud.org
Jackson, Chad	WDFW	(509) 754-4624 x250	chad.jackson@dfw.wa.gov
Keller, Lance	Chelan PUD	(509) 661-4299	lance.keller@chelanpud.org
Nelle, RD (phone)	USFWS	(509) 548-7573	RD_Nelle@fws.gov

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Tracy Hillman welcomed everyone to the Rocky Reach Fish Forum (RRFF) meeting and made known that voice recording of the meeting was initiated for note-taking purposes.

### **II. Review of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as written.

### III. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the 6 February meeting were reviewed and approved, with edits, including the addition on page 4 of the word “initial” before the phrase “adult lamprey work is done” under the Future Planning section. No one in the group voiced opposition to the new note format. Pat Irlle asked that Tracy’s name be listed at the top as chair. Steve Hemstrom requested that he be added to the list of representatives. Tracy agreed to make these additions.

### IV. Pacific Lamprey

#### Rocky Reach Project Effects Analysis

Bob Rose reported that he had convened a small group (including Bob, Patrick Verhey, Steve Lewis, and RD Nelle) to discuss Rocky Reach project effects on juvenile lamprey, and that no recommendations had been made yet, but that the group had identified key areas to further develop. He added that the main areas of work will be consistent with the goals of the conservation agreement. He reported that the group will meet again to determine the important questions to be answered, the tasks that need to be undertaken, and the timeline. He invited anyone else who wants to be involved to participate. He added that the results won’t be a mandatory set of tasks, but will be voluntary. He stated that this initial work could be completed in approximately one month, and presented at the next meeting.

Steve Lewis brought up Tumwater Dam and offered to have his consulting engineer, Steve Rainey, look at the dam from a lamprey perspective and possibly lead a tour. Bob Rose asked about lamprey salvage at Dryden Dam and suggested that a tour be included there as well. Steve Hemstrom stated that tours might be possible, and that he would contact the appropriate people at Chelan PUD and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Discussion took place regarding Dryden Dam and the location of lamprey found there in relation to the screens. Steve Hemstrom stated that the headworks at Dryden had recently been modified. Lance Keller stated that it would be good to get input from Thad Mosey regarding the screens. It was suggested that an additional tour take place the next time Tumwater fishway is de-watered. Steve Hemstrom replied that this could be arranged.

#### Action Items:

- Bob Rose will facilitate the Joint Fisheries Parties’ development of the No Net Impact (NNI) framework recommendations for juvenile Pacific lamprey. This will be discussed at the April meeting.
- Steve Hemstrom will check on the timeline and arrangement for tours of Tumwater and Dryden dams during the April meeting. He will also identify changes at Dryden Dam that may have occurred with regard to screening. Steve will also notify the RRF about the next time the fish ladder at Tumwater Dam will be de-watered (likely next year).

### Future Planning: Potential Juvenile Lamprey Measures, Timeframes, and Budgeting

Steve Hemstrom stated that, for the juvenile measures, Chelan PUD is waiting for recommendations that will satisfy the Pacific Lamprey Management Plan, the Settlement Agreement, and NNI. Regarding juvenile timelines, Steve explained that Chelan PUD's Compliance Tracker system helps manage deadlines, tasks, and required reporting to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). He pointed out that the requirement for annual impingement monitoring had been modified in 2011 to bi-annual monitoring on the recommendation of the RRF, because of the low numbers of juvenile lamprey impinging on screens. He asked the Forum about the timing of this year's monitoring. **After discussion, the group agreed that impingement monitoring should be done during the same time frame as 2011.** Steve reported that monitoring is taking place on fishway modifications related to Upstream Passage Improvement Design Implementation, and a report on that was sent to FERC on 20 February 2013. He added that reporting on the Pacific Lamprey Juvenile Downstream Passage Impact Measurement will be due on 19 February 2014, and that NNI reporting is also due on 19 February 2014. Discussion took place regarding the spreadsheet that was initiated earlier by the RRF to track impacts on juvenile lamprey. The group agreed that the spreadsheet should be revisited at a future meeting in order to finalize it.

#### Action Items:

- Steve Hemstrom will review past data to determine the best time to conduct juvenile lamprey impingement monitoring in 2013.
- Chelan PUD staff will bring the juvenile lamprey project effects spreadsheet to the April meeting with the intent to finalize it for the February 2014 report to FERC.

### Adult Lamprey Monitoring Results

Steve Hemstrom reported that Chelan PUD will get the half-duplex system up and running as soon as possible. Lance Keller added that it would happen in the month of March. Steve Hemstrom reported that Cramer Fish Sciences tested the system on 7 & 8 February and installed a new antenna, and that all was working well. Tracy Hillman asked how many-tagged adult lamprey passed through the system. Steve Hemstrom replied that eight had passed the project. Steve Lewis asked if fallback is measured from entrance to exit. Steve Hemstrom replied that project and ladder fallback could be measured, and would be based on the time frame of detection. Steve noted that Pacific lamprey upstream passage improvement design and implementation monitoring is still taking place, and that a report was sent to FERC to meet the 20 February 2013 deadline.

## V. Resident Fish

A copy of the draft Resident Fish Report had been sent out and was available at the meeting. Tracy Hillman noted that with a thirty-day comment period, the deadline for comments is 25 March 2013.

Chad Jackson reported that this draft report is an inventory, as opposed to an Index of Biological

Integrity (IBI)<sup>1</sup>. Discussion took place regarding the report. Tracy Hillman asked if the section on methods could detail how many sites were electro-fished, fyke-netted, and pot-netted. Tracy stated that any comments should be sent to Dave Burgess, with a copy to Chad. Steve Hemstrom stated that the report does not show observations of any invasive species that should cause concern and that the number of suckers reported in comparison to other species is not problematic. He added that he would like to see more detail in the conclusion about why specific fish, such as smallmouth bass, are not more prevalent, and that he could help provide that information. Pat Irle asked whether information collected for the license could be compared with data in the report. Steve Hemstrom replied that there is not a lot of early work to compare current numbers to, and that the current report will serve as a baseline. Steve Hemstrom read from the Settlement Agreement that if no predation problem is found, Chelan PUD will conduct three one-year surveys to monitor changes in the resident fish population. He continued reading, noting that if evaluations show that there is a predator problem, Chelan PUD will work with the HCP Coordinating Committee to develop and implement a predator control measure and conduct two additional surveys. Steve Hemstrom said that Chelan PUD has already achieved the HCP juvenile survival standard for spring-migrating HCP species. **After discussion, the group agreed to review pages 6-15, section 4.2 of the Settlement Agreement and consider the issue of a predator problem.**

**Action Items:**

- RRF representatives should send their comments on the draft Resident Fish Report to Dave Burgess, with a copy to Chad Jackson, before 25 March 2013.
- RRF representatives will read pages 6-15, section 4.2 of the Settlement Agreement and consider whether a predator problem exists, so that the appropriate path can be determined. The group will revisit the issue in April.

## **VI. White Sturgeon**

### **Update on Juvenile Rearing**

Josh Murauskas was unable to attend the meeting, so Lance Keller reported that on 25 February, he, Bob Rose, Chad Jackson, and representatives from Grant PUD, Douglas PUD, and Blue Leaf Environmental met to coordinate the collection of broodstock for 2013. He stated that the process will be similar to past years, with a few changes. He added that they would like to extend Blue Leaf's time in the McNary tailrace from one week to two, because of past success in obtaining viable males and females there, and that they would welcome volunteers. He reported that Grant PUD will do some adult broodstock collection as well as some D-ring sampling in the Rock Island tailrace, and that Douglas PUD is exploring D-ring sampling with the Colville Tribes in the Rock Island tailrace. He added that everyone is conscious of timing in an effort to get a good collection of diverse fish to Marion Drain.

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<sup>1</sup> The Index of Biological Integrity or Index of Biotic Integrity is a multivariate index that quantitatively assesses changes in the composition of biological communities. IBIs were developed to reflect ecological complexity from statistical analysis.

Lance reported that Chelan PUD's seasonal crews will be going to the Columbia Basin Hatchery next week to PIT tag and scute mark all of the sturgeon, and will also tag some of Grant's fish. Then they will scute mark and PIT tag all of the sturgeon at Chelan Falls. Discussion took place regarding the size of fish for marking and tagging. Mike Clement stated that it is important to maintain equal size among groups and that fish roughly 200 mm are a more desirable tagging size as opposed to smaller fish.

Tracy Hillman asked about an action item from last month, which was whether some juvenile sturgeon could be held over one more year in the hatchery. Lance reported that the hatchery manager at Chelan Falls said that they do not have the capacity to hold sturgeon for two years.

With regard to the broodstock collection efforts, Chad Jackson stated that he will provide the link to the WDFW site for transport permit applications. Completed applications should be sent to Chad, not to Olympia. This will expedite the application process.

**Action Item:**

- Chad Jackson will send a link to the WDFW transport permit application web site.

**Update on Juvenile Monitoring**

Lance Keller reported that Blue Leaf has provided a draft of the 2012 annual report for juvenile monitoring, and that he and Josh Murauskas have sent their comments back to Blue Leaf. He expects to have the revised draft sometime next week, and will send it out to the Forum. Lance stated that this will be their third year of stocking juveniles, but that they only have one year's worth of good data. He added that Chelan PUD would prefer to do another year of stocking 6,500 white sturgeon in 2014.

- Lance Keller and Josh Murauskas will send the draft of the 2012 annual report for juvenile white sturgeon monitoring to the Forum when it is available. A thirty-day comment period will follow.

## **VII. Water Quality**

Tracy Hillman asked if there were any updates on the status of the report on water quality monitoring within macrophyte beds. Steve Hemstrom had no updates. Pat Irle stated that Waikele Frantz sent out a report on the macrophyte beds, and a draft version of the annual water quality monitoring report. She added that Waikele was going to provide a list of all the documents that were due, and asked if Waikele could provide a monthly brief. Tracy stated that he would contact Waikele to see if she could provide those updates.

**Action Item:**

- Tracy Hillman will contact Steve Hays and Waikele Frantz to see if they can participate in RRF meetings to provide updates on their reporting, and to discuss Total Dissolved Gas (TDG) and

DO-pH.

## **VIII. Next Steps**

The next RRF meeting will be held on Wednesday, 3 April 2013, from 1 to 4 p.m. Tracy Hillman will notify the RRF of the location, which may be in Leavenworth if tours at Dryden and Tumwater dams can be arranged.