

White Sturgeon Brood Stock Planning
Rocky Reach Fish Forum Meeting 7/30/2009

The Rocky Reach License requires determination of an initial source of brood stock within one year of the effective date of the license. Chapter 3 of the Rocky Reach White Sturgeon Management Plan (WSP) provides the foundation for our brood stock plan.

Our goal in the coming months is to determine if there are any specific recommendations that Forum members have with respect to the options and methodology described in the WSP. The excerpt below provides a list of potential broodstock options that we would like Forum feedback on. More specifically we'd request that Forum members evaluate the options below and develop recommendations. We anticipate holding additional technical meetings to discuss the options prior to a Forum decision.

4.1.1 Brood Stock Planning and Collection¹

Due to the low population estimates indicated by the 2001 and 2002 white sturgeon Investigations, there is a low probability that brood stock from the Reservoir can be utilized as the basis for a long-term supplementation, so other sources of fish must be considered to increase the white sturgeon population (Golder 2003b). Within one year of the effective date of the New

License, Chelan PUD shall, in consultation with the RRF, prepare a brood stock collection plan

that considers such factors as genetics and questions of imprinting. Possible sources of brood stock fish include:

- Brood stock collected from the Rocky Reach Reservoir and nearby reservoirs (Priest Rapids, Wanapum, or above McNary) and used in a hatchery supplementation program;*
- Brood stock collected from the Columbia River below Bonneville Dam and used in a hatchery supplementation program;*
- Excess juvenile production from other compatible supplementation programs;*
- Juveniles purchased from a commercial facility for direct release into the Reservoir; and*
- Juveniles from new or existing Chelan PUD-funded hatchery facilities retrofitted to accommodate white sturgeon brood stock, egg incubation, and juvenile rearing.*

The initial source of brood stock will be determined by the RRF within one year of the effective date of the New License, and collection will begin in year two of the New License, if fish are

¹ Excerpted from: *Chapter 3: Rocky Reach White Sturgeon Management Plan*, Page 3-14, Comprehensive Plan February 3, 2006

available and the RRF determines that brood stock collection within such a timeframe is feasible (see Table 3-1, footnote 1). If collection is not feasible by year two of the New License, Chelan PUD shall proceed on a schedule to be determined by the RRF, using Adaptive Management, as reflected in Table 3-1. The intent of brood stock collection is to use the progeny of the initial source of brood stock, if feasible, in the future for the white sturgeon stocking program.