

Lake Chelan Fishery Forum Meeting Minutes

Date: December 15, 2016
Time: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Location: Chelan PUD Headquarters Building,
Wenatchee, WA. Engineering Services Conference Room

Meeting called by: Jeff Osborn, Chelan PUD Type of meeting: Lake Chelan Fishery Forum Meeting
Note taker: Debby Bitterman

Attending Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Graham Simon	WDFW	509-662-0503	Graham.Simon@dfw.wa.gov
Travis Maitland	WDFW	509-665-3337	Travis.Maitland@dfw.wa.gov
Breean Zimmerman (phone)	Ecology	509-575-2808	Bzim461@ecy.wa.gov
Emily Johnson	USDA-FS	509-784-1511 x570	ekjohnson@fs.fed.us
Hugh Anthony	NPS	360-854-7324	Hugh_Anthony@nps.gov
Ashley Rawhouser	NPS	360-854-7317	Ashley_Rawhouser@nps.gov
Phil Archibald	Citizen	509-784-2471	kim.llohse@gmail.com
Jeff Osborn	Chelan PUD	509-661-4176	jeff.osborn@chelanpud.org

Meeting Purpose: Meeting of the Lake Chelan Fishery Forum to develop the 2017 Lake Chelan Fishery Forum Annual Work Plan

Minutes

Jeff Osborn, Chelan PUD, welcomed everyone to the Lake Chelan Fishery Forum (LCFF) meeting and made known that voice recording of the meeting was initiated for note-taking purposes only.

The agenda was review and an action item from the 2015 meeting was added “entrainment investigation” to the agenda.

Review/Update of December 2015 Action Items:

- Jeff will provide the historical estimated kokanee escapement surveys information to compare with the current 2015 survey results to the LCFF. ***Ongoing-forward pre-2005 survey count information to Hugh and Travis***
- Jeff will compile a tributary photograph report and post to the web site. ***Completed***
- Emily will inquire with Board of Trustees for the Holden Mine National Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) process as to projects that have been prioritized for funding, and will share this information with the Lake Chelan Fishery Forum. ***Projects submitted***
- Jeff will talk to Rosana Sokolowski regarding combining Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) funding, kokanee surveys and comprehensive kokanee creel, into one task. ***Completed-keep separate***
- Jeff will draft a letter to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) to adjust Annual Work Plan submittal date January 10 to April 1. ***In progress***
- Hugh and Travis will discuss joint effort for conducting kokanee spawning ground surveys due to Chelan PUD budget cuts and staff unavailability. ***Ongoing***
- Jeff will add the agenda item “entrainment investigation” to future agendas. ***Completed***

Monitoring and Evaluation Results for 2016:

Travis Maitland, WDFW, reviewed the results for the 2016 Lake Chelan comprehensive creel survey. The survey results were broken into lower and upper lake. Periodic effort counts and roving on-lake angler interviews were used. Angler interviews were designed to collect information on individual angler effort, fish caught and kept or released, fish length, scale samples for age analysis and all fin clips, or other identifying marks were recorded. It was determined that 50-60 percent of the total catch was kokanee.

The goal for westslope cutthroat trout (WCT) is to increase, significantly, the population in the Lake Chelan Basin to a level, eventually, where they can replace themselves naturally. WDFW conducted tributary abundance and composition surveys at Big, Cascade, Fourmile and Pyramid creeks. High numbers of producing rainbow trout were observed at Fourmile Creek. Big Creek was 100% cutthroat. Stocked, catchable-sized cutthroat were observed at Big Creek.

Hugh Anthony, National Park Service (NPS), highlighted 2016 accomplishments:

- Collected 100 newly emerged trout fry from Stehekin River spawning habitat for genetic analysis
- Stehekin River side channel index reaches were snorkeled on six occasions from May – September
- Kokanee spawning surveys were conducted at Chelan PUD index sites nine times September – October
- eDNA sample collection was performed at 115 sites in the Stehekin basin

2017 Annual Work Plan Development:

USDA Forest Service (USFS) 2017 proposed scope work:

Emily Johnson, USFS, proposed to work with the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station and National Genomics Center for Wildlife and Fish Conservation to survey the potential westslope cutthroat habitat in the Fish Creek sub-watershed using eDNA. The long-term goal after baseline data has been collected would be to analyze and implement a Lake Chelan Westslope Cutthroat Trout Management Plan focused on potential eradication of rainbow trout and re-introduction of native westslope cutthroat trout in the Lake Chelan Basin. The baseline data collection would be a multi-year project, with one stream being surveyed each year. The proposal would begin with eDNA analysis of Fish Creek. After discussion, the LCFE supported USFS monitoring proposal.

NPS 2017 proposed scope of work:

- Stehekin side channel trout spawning surveys
- Stehekin side channel trout abundance surveys
- Kokanee surveys on Chelan PUD index sites: 4-6 surveys
- eDNA sample collection analysis cost

WDFW 2017 proposed scope of work:

WDFW provided project scope of work and budget to Chelan PUD at the annual make funds available (MFA) planning meeting on November 29, 2016.

Entrainment Investigation Plan:

The LCFF discussed the importance of establishing a timeline regarding the development and implementation of an entrainment study plan. Chelan PUD is to conduct entrainment sampling between years 7 and 35 during the current license to determine the potential for entrainment of adult WCT at the project intakes. Jeff noted that the sampling plan would need to be submitted to the Commission and approved before implementation could occur. Annual results of any entrainment-sampling plan shall be compiled in a final report and filed with the Commission no later than March 1 of the subsequent year. The report shall also contain any recommendations for continued sampling, or other studies to evaluate entrainment of WCT.

Action Items:

- Jeff will send Hugh a word version of the 2016 Annual Work Plan.
- Hugh will provide 2017 budget estimates to Jeff who will forward to Rosana Sokolowski.
- Travis will provide stocking history of their lakes to Emily Johnson.
- Ashley and Hugh will contact Carl Ostberg regarding potential use of his lab, National Genomics Center.
- Jeff will discuss with Steve Hays a time-line for the development for the Entrainment Plan.
- Jeff will contact Steve Hays regarding an Entrainment Plan presentation.
- Jeff will update Section 2.8 Entrainment Investigation in the 2017 Annual Work Plan.
- 13 January 2017: agencies provide text update for their section in the 2017 Annual Work Plan proposal to Hugh.
- 10 February 2017: Hugh will provide first draft 2017 Annual Work Plan to Jeff and LCFF.
- 24 February 2017: LCFF 2017 Annual Work Plan comments back to Hugh.
- 24 March 2017: Hugh will submit 2017 Annual Work Plan final to Jeff.
- 31 March 2017: Jeff will provide final 2017 Annual Work Plan to the LCFF