

## PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Meeting

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

GPUD Wenatchee Office

Meeting Summary

### PRCC HSC Members

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

### Other Participants

Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel, GPUD  
Elizabeth McManus, Facilitator  
Andy Chinn, Facilitator

### Decisions

- A. Approved the November 2017 and January 2018 meeting summaries as amended.

### Actions

1. HSC members will review the draft 2018-2019 PRH M&E implementation plan by March 15.
2. WDFW will circulate the draft 2018 broodstock collection protocols for HSC review.
3. GPUD will write up a short study plan to look at possible connections between fish deformity and peduncle marking.
4. WDFW will look at the data on returns of lower fecundity females and propose an adjustment to broodstock collection numbers for summer Chinook, if warranted.
5. Ross Strategic will circulate the approved PRCC SOA on Coho.

### **I. Updates and Meeting Summary Review**

- A. Upcoming Regional Meetings** –For the Washington/British Columbia AFS meeting, GPUD is organizing a session on hatchery reform. The Chief Joseph Hatchery Annual Performance Review (APR) is scheduled for March 14 and 15.
- B. HCP** – *Note: See Appendix A for summary of joint HSC-HCP discussion during February HCP meeting.*
- C. November 2017 and January 2018 Meeting Summaries** – HSC members approved the November 2017 and January 2018 meeting summaries as amended.

### **II. Priest Rapids Hatchery**

- A. Draft 2018-2019 PRH M&E implementation plan** – The draft implementation plan was circulated with the HSC on February 15 for 30-day review. The primary change in the document is to standardize data categories for visual estimation of egg voidance so that it can be compared to measured egg voidance.
- B. Next Steps**
  - HSC members will review the draft 2018-2019 PRH M&E implementation plan by

March 15.

### III. Broodstock Collection

- A. Draft 2018 Protocols** – The draft 2018 protocols have few changes from the previous year. WDFW is waiting on two additional spring Chinook forecasts before circulating the draft protocols for review.
- GPUD raised the question of whether alternative marking has been considered for Nason spring Chinook and Okanogan steelhead, which are currently peduncle tagged. Anecdotal evidence indicates that peduncle tagging could be adversely impacting fish health with fungal or skeletal effects (i.e., crinkle back). In addition, tag loss for these fish may impact M&E efforts.
  - WDFW noted that the JFP has previously discussed alternative marking for fish populations above Wells Hatchery, and whether these alternatives make sense for how fish populations should be managed while meeting M&E requirements. There are limited alternatives for marking spring Chinook, and it is necessary to differentiate Nason fish from Chiwawa fish for adult management and broodstock prioritization as agreed to in the management plan, Section 10 permit, and biological opinion.
  - YN commented that they have been using adipose wire tags for Coho and there have been no reported fish health issues.
  - CCT suggested analyzing the available data to see when fish first began showing signs of crinkle back, and when the fish were marked. GPUD could also run a pre- and post-marking evaluation of the Chiwawa conservation group, Nason Creek safety net group, and Nason Creek conservation group to evaluate the cause of the crinkle back.
- B. Protocols for Summer Chinook** – There are no significant changes to the broodstock collection numbers for summer Chinook. Because the assumptions in the protocols use a five-year rolling average, it is difficult to estimate the yield given environmental conditions in summer 2018.
- GPUD expressed interest in sampling summer Chinook early in the run to gather more data and try to understand if fecundity is lower than expected.
- C. Next Steps**
- WDFW will circulate the draft 2018 broodstock collection protocols for HSC review.
  - GPUD will write up a short study plan to look at possible connections between fish deformity and peduncle marking.
  - WDFW will look at the data on returns of low fecundity females and propose an adjustment to broodstock collection numbers for summer Chinook, if warranted.

### IV. Coho NNI

- A. Approved PRCC SOA** – During the most recent meeting, the PRCC approved an SOA for Coho with GPUD mitigating at 14% through the 2032 recalculation. GPUD will also meet its mitigation by funding YN's Coho program; YN and GPUD are entering into a 15-year agreement.
- CCT noted that the approved SOA does not change CCT's position on the operator of

the Chewuch facility. The SOA also includes schedules for yearling Chinook and steelhead survival studies.

**B. Next Steps**

- Ross Strategic will circulate the approved PRCC SOA on Coho.

**V. Wrap Up and Next Steps**

**A. Next Meeting:** March 12, 2018

**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:

- February meeting agenda
- PSC presentation on ocean indicators