



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

Priest Rapids Fish Forum

Wednesday, 5 October 2016

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Grant PUD, 11 Spokane St., Suite 205B, Wenatchee, WA

Call-In Number: 1-800-977-8002, Bridge: 7422882

MEETING MINUTES

PRFF REPRESENTATIVES

Steve Lewis, USFWS

Bob Rose, YN

Pat Wyena, Doris Squeochs, Wanapum

Jason McLellan, CCT

Mike Clement, Grant PUD

Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Patrick Verhey, Chad Jackson, WDFW

Breean Zimmerman, WDOE

Aaron Jackson, Carl Merkle, CTUIR

Keith Hatch, BIA

Chris Mott, Grant PUD

Orlene Hahn, Grant PUD

ATTENDEES

Doris Squeochs, Wanapum (via phone)

Chad Jackson, WDFW (via phone)

Breean Zimmerman, WDOE (via phone)

Donella Miller, YN (via phone)

Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Mike Clement, Grant PUD

Steve Lewis, USFWS

Jason McLellan, CCT (via phone)

RD Nelle, USFWS (via phone)

Action Items:

1. Tracy Hillman will include time on the November agenda to discuss how Pacific lamprey NNI should be defined.
2. Tracy Hillman will ask the RRFF if the RRFF Pacific Lamprey Subgroup can meet with the PRFF Pacific Lamprey Subgroup in November or December to discuss how NNI should be defined.

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Agenda Review

- A. **Additional Agenda Items** – No new agenda items added.

III. Approve September Meeting Notes – 7 September 2016 Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved.

- A. **Review Action Items from September Meeting**

1. Tracy Hillman will try to find the presentation by Ralph Lampman that discussed juvenile lamprey survival in the lower Columbia River. **Complete. Tracy checked with Ralph and there is no presentation identifying juvenile lamprey survival in the lower Columbia River.**
2. Tracy Hillman will contact Bob Rose to determine the status of the CRITFC lamprey proposal. **Ongoing. Bob could not attend the meeting. He suggested that Brian McIlraith (CRITFC) provide an update. Brian was unable to call into the meeting.**

IV. Update on White Sturgeon Management Plan (WSMP)

- A. **Update on Juvenile Rearing** – Donella Miller reported that the juvenile sturgeon rearing at Marion Drain are doing well and growing. Survival is good and fish are doubling in size monthly. Juveniles are currently at 45-85 fish per pound (5.0-9.5 g/fish).
- B. **Larvae Collection** – Chad Jackson reported that Brad James (WDFW) is working on the larvae collection report. A draft report should be available for review by the end of November. Mike Clement reported that Grant PUD has not yet identified a clear path forward on future larval collection. Donella Miller said they (Yakama Nation) collected larvae during the period 1-22 June. They fished for larvae during 15 nights and captured 211 juveniles (includes larvae, eggs, and sac fry). She noted that they captured about 5-41 larvae per day. All larvae were sent to the CRITFC lab for genetic analysis. CRITFC is covering the cost of genetic analysis. Donella added that they held about 40 larvae for one week and during that period only three larvae died.

Update on Monitoring Activities – Mike Clement gave a brief presentation on monitoring activities within Wanapum reservoir and preliminary results (see Attachment 1). Mike said juvenile index monitoring began on 7 September and will end on 6 October. The protocol is similar to previous years except for additional sampling effort in Wanapum reservoir. They are using standardized gear (2/0 and 4/0 hooks) that targets age 2-6 sturgeon. Setlines include 40 hooks per line with hooks spaced 3 m apart. So far, 271 overnight sets have captured 747 sturgeon (699 supplemented fish, 41 CRITFC fish, and seven wild fish). Fish captured from the supplementation program ranged from 32 to 101 cm in length, with the majority between 34 to 65 cm. Mike indicated that about 27% and 36% of the 2/0 and 4/0 hooks, respectively, were lost or bent. He said that BY2010 fish are large enough to bend both hook sizes. Jason McLellan noted that there is a tradeoff between fishing with small hooks, which target younger fish, and numbers of hooks bent by larger sturgeon. If the goal is to sample small sturgeon, smaller hooks are needed, which will result in hook loss or bending. If larger hooks are used, fewer smaller fish will be captured, but fewer hooks will be lost or bent.

- C. **White Sturgeon Fishery in the Priest Rapids Project Area** – Chad Jackson reported that based on WDFW creel surveys to date, 380 sturgeon have been harvested (227 from Wanapum reservoir). An additional 392 were captured and released because they were too small to retain; 126 were captured and released because they were too large to retain. Effort so far is about 25,505 angler hours. Chad said WDFW extended the fishery two more months and increased the limit to three sturgeon in the same slot size to try and achieve the 20-30% exploitation rate.
- D. **Other White Sturgeon Items** – None.

V. Update on Pacific Lamprey Management Plan (PLMP)

- A. **Adult Lamprey Monitoring** – Mike Clement said there is no new information on adult lamprey monitoring. He said Blue Leaf Environmental will complete data collection and analysis, write a report, and give a presentation to the PRFF early next year. Mike indicated that more than 8,000

adult lamprey passed Priest Rapids Dam this year. He said over 100,000 passed Bonneville Dam this year.

- B. **Update on the CRITFC Lamprey Proposal** – This item will be discussed at next month's meeting.
- C. **Other Pacific Lamprey Items** – Members discussed the need to reassemble the Lamprey Subgroup to discuss how NNI will be defined. Members also asked that this topic be included on the November PRFF agenda. Steve Lewis said the USFWS is contemplating proposing an upper NNI passage criteria of 80% (rather than 100%). Tracy Hillman will include this topic on the November agenda and will discuss it with the RRFF.

VI. **Next Meeting:** 2 November 2016 – Wanapum Heritage Center at Priest Rapids Dam. Tracy Hillman indicated that Jesse Schultz (WDFW) will give a short presentation on zebra and quagga mussel shoreline surveys during the November meeting.

Attachment 1

2016 Juvenile Sturgeon Index Monitoring: Preliminary Results

September 7 to 30; Wanapum Reservoir

2016 Juvenile Indexing Summary (Preliminary)





Sample Design

2016 Sample Design was similar to the 2014 approach

Unstratified, Unequal Probability GRTS Survey Design

Wanapum reservoir partitioned into three sample areas (three multidensity categories) defined as the Upper, Middle, and Lower Reservoir sections (identical to 2014)

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Sampling Gear

Line Length: 400 ft (122m), 1/4" Everson Aqua tarred line - 3 strand nylon - soft lay

40 hooks per line, attached at marked intervals ~ 9 ft (3 m) apart, 2/0 and 4/0 Mustad

Demon Circle Perfect 2X Strong . Twenty of each size hook per line

Jinkai (or similar) monofilament leaders; 150lb test, 12" in length excluding hook and clip

Stainless sized for main line being used with attached swivels.

Gilmore Pickled Squid.

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2016 Sample Effort

Total 2016 Juvenile Indexing Sample Effort in Wanapum Reservoir = 271 overnight sets

~90 sample per section (91 in Lower; 90 in Middle and Upper); 50% over samples selected for each section.

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2016 Catch

Row Labels	Count of HorW
H-123LAD	699
H-CRITFC	41
W	7
Grand Total	747

H-123LAD = 2010BY to present.

H-CRITFC = 2002BY

W = Wild fish

Row Labels	Count
Lower	168
H-123LAD	156
H-CRITFC	9
W	3
Middle	248
H-123LAD	240
H-CRITFC	7
W	1
Upper	331
H-123LAD	303
H-CRITFC	25
W	3
Grand Total	747

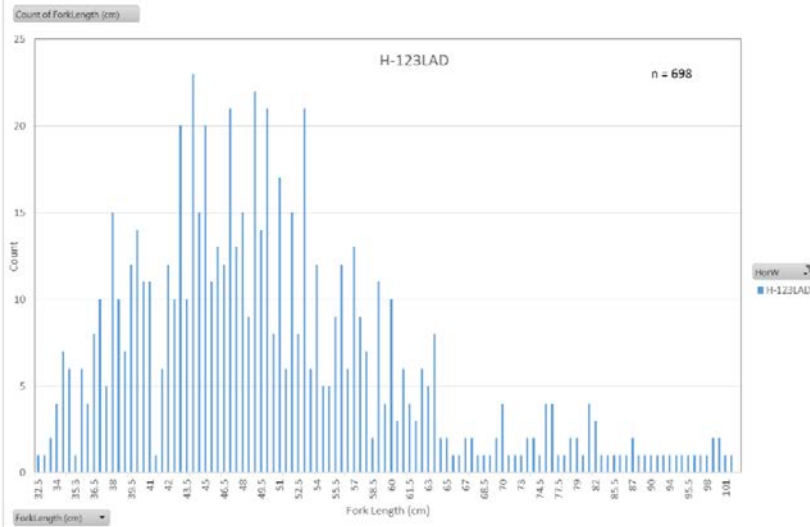
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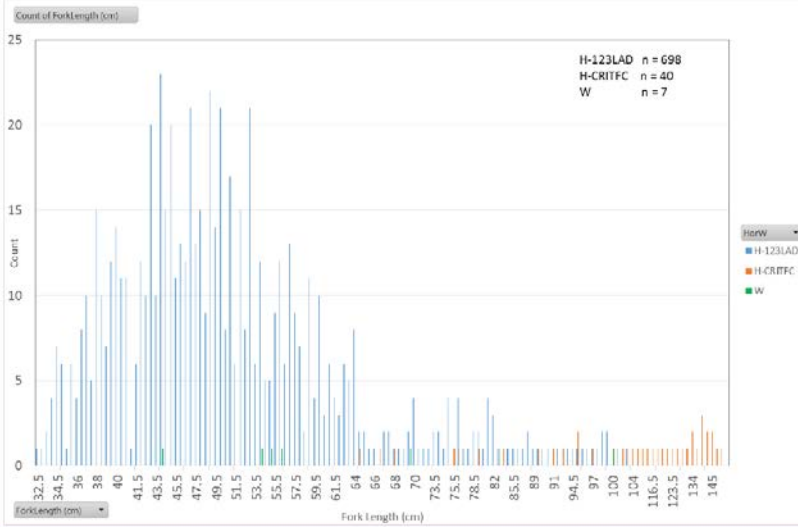




Length Frequency – H-123LAD



Length Frequency - all catch





Hook Loss

Num 2/0 Hooks		Num 4/0 Hooks	
Lost or Bent	139		173
Total Hooks	520		480
%Bent or Lost	26.7		36.0

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Summary

- Set line gear appears to effectively target 2010BY and subsequent brood year release.
 - Evidence that the large 2010BY can straighten both the 2/0 and 4/0
- Fewer 2002BY (CRITFC fish) captured; most are large enough to straighten the hooks
- Higher than expected percent of straightened hooks (most common; only a few lost hooks). Rare to find a broken leader.
- More analysis planned

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