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Idaho

Judi Danielson
Idaho

NORTHWEST POWER PLANNING COUNCIL

851 S.W. SIXTH AVENUE, SUITE 1100
PORTLAND, OREGON 97204-1348

Fax:
503-820-2370

Phone:
503-222-5161
1-800-452-5161

Internet:
www.nwccouncil.org

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Oregon

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Montana

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Montana

October 29, 2001

Northwest Power Planning Council, Artificial Production Advisory Committee
(Anadromous Workshop)

Date: October 10, 2001

Time: 9:00 AM to 2:25 PM

Location: Northwest Power Planning Council Offices, Portland, OR.

Meeting Minutes

Agenda Items -

1. General Introduction
2. Members Introduction
3. Administrative Issues and Questions
4. Review Agenda
5. Current Schedule and Workplan Update
6. NMFS Bi-Op RPA on Marking Spring Chinook
7. Status of HGMP's (NMFS, USFWS)
8. Data and Information Needs
9. Facility and Program Evaluation

Brian Zimmerman, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Patty O'Toole, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon participated by telephone.

Bruce Suzumoto opened the meeting at 9:05 am. This meeting was a meeting of the anadromous workgroup members of APAC. The resident fish workgroup will be meeting in Lewiston, Idaho on October 16, 2001.

There were no comments on the minutes of the last meeting. Bruce Suzumoto reviewed the agenda. Tom Scribner had requested that Larry Rutter, NMFS, give a report on the Hogan decision about hatchery fish.

Larry Rutter explained that almost 2 years ago, in the 4-H process, NMFS found that there was a serious problem distinguishing hatchery-origin fish and natural-origin fish in the environment and this was confusing knowledge about the ESA status of populations. A second issue was the role of marking in selective fisheries.

A work group has been recently formed and is now meeting to develop a comprehensive plan for the fish marking as called for in the FCRPS BiOp. NMFS has not stated that “all” spring Chinook need to be marked. The result of the work group will be a plan that indicates which fish should be marked for what reason. The FCRPS BiOp only resulted in new marking protocols at Leavenworth, Carson, and Little White National Fish Hatcheries. **Larry Rutter** indicated that not all spring Chinook would be marked in the future in the Columbia Basin.

The comprehensive marking plan is scheduled for completion in June of 2002. The scope of this plan is for chinook, coho, and steelhead in the Columbia Basin, but it will also be coordinated on the west coast. The plan will cover numerous types of marks, not just fin clips. The core group initiating the comprehensive marking plan includes tribes, USFWS, Oregon, Washington, and NMFS.

Rob Walton asked if similar fish marking issues are occurring in Puget Sound and in California? **Larry Rutter** responded that there was, particularly in Puget Sound where hatchery fish greatly affect Pacific Salmon Treaty requirements.

Larry Rutter commented on the Hogan decision and indicated that the review done by John Shurts was very insightful. NMFS thinks the reasons for not listing the hatchery fish are still valid. These included the ability to continue fisheries. The issue of what to do about the Hogan decision is being reviewed in NMFS headquarters this week. NMFS decided not to seek a stay in the decision. NMFS has not been able to respond about whether to appeal or other actions as quickly as they might due to the current change in NMFS leadership.

NMFS is analyzing implications to other ESUs. **Larry Rutter** mentioned that he was not sure if this issue was being reviewed for species other than anadromous salmonids. **Lee Hillwig** said that there are discussions ongoing within USFWS about potentially wider implications.

Steve Smith suggested the Council put the John Shurts’ analysis on its web site if it is not already there.

Rob Walton wanted to know if the Hogan decision was affecting the ability or proposal to harvest Upper Columbia River Steelhead of hatchery-origin. **Larry Rutter** was uncertain of the status of the harvesting issue. He suggested contacting Bill Robinson or Rob Jones about this issue.

Per the HGMP template, **Larry Rutter** stated that NMFS settled on the HGMP template as a means to get common information to meet ESA regulatory processes – with the

support of fishery managers. The template then got integrated into the APR report. The HGMP then became a key component of the 4(d) Rule on threatened species to limit take prohibitions. [Larry Rutter distinguished between the HGMP and the HGMP template] NMFS has been including in section 7 consultations that HGMP template be used. What confused the issue was the FCRPS BiOp that declared jeopardy on the hydrosystem, requiring off-site mitigation in hatcheries, harvest, and habitat to achieve increases in survival that could not be achieved in the operations of the hydrosystem. Under this process, HGMPs are being developed to not only ensure that hatcheries are not jeopardizing listed fish, but could also result in hatchery actions that would increase survival of listed fish that would help offset unavoidable mortalities associated with the FCRPS. This must be very clear that hatchery actions to avoid jeopardy can be mandated, are different than discretionary actions to change hatcheries to increase survival of listed fish as mitigation for the FCRPS. NMFS does not want to change the basic HGMP template, but is considering an addendum that would describe hatchery operations that could contribute to recovery.

Problems with getting HGMPs done are due to start up issues - transitioning from section 7 to 4(d) and the confusing nature of crediting under the FCRPS BiOP. Also there are so many processes that refer to using the HGMP that it is hard to get a common understanding. There are also funding and staffing issues to get HGMPs done and whether they should be done right away for hatchery programs that already have ESA coverage. Lee Hillwig stated that HGMPs would be dynamic documents once completed. USFWS may get appropriated funds in FY'02 to undertake some HGMPs. With regards to listed bull trout and sturgeon, USFWS did not find the FCRPS in jeopardy for these resident fish so there are no requirements for HGMPs. The USFWS will be using a modified HGMP template for resident fish.

NMFS has several draft HGMPs that have been turned in. These are undergoing negotiations between NMFS and the entity that submitted the HGMP. To Date no HGMP's have been approved.

Break

Dan Warren gave an update on the work schedule for the Hatchery Review and Evaluation (page 22 of handout). A key first step is to collect and consolidate base information. The Phase I report would be completed in July 2002 with the Phase II report completed in December 2002. This would address about 120-140 different programs. **George Nandor** remembered that IHOT addressed about 140 anadromous fish programs. **Lee Hillwig** expressed concerned that July 2002 may be optimistic for completion of a Phase I report. **Rob Walton** countered about the frustration of regional leaders for some important hatchery information. One product of the Phase I report will be a mid-point audit of the hatchery reforms in the region.

Council staff met with NMFS prior to this APAC meeting to be sure each hatchery work is integrated and not duplicative. **Dan Warren** reviewed page 23 of the handouts on the data information needs for the Hatchery Review. Most of the data will be from states and

USFWS, with tribes on a more limited basis. **Chuck Johnson** mentioned that WDFW's Future Brood Document is maintained in Olympia. **George Nandor** mentioned ODFW's Hatchery Production Schedules, as the key central database for their hatcheries. USFWS has its Columbia River Information System with its hatchery and brood data. **Lee Hillwig** suggested a subgroup of data managers: Steve Pastor for USFWS and Kyle Addicks for WDFW. The Yakama hatchery data should be in WDFW's database. **Dan Warren** wants to use existing databases as much as possible as long as data is current and answers the key questions needing to be addressed. **Bruce Suzumoto** reiterated the need for a centralized current data on all Columbia Basin hatchery production.

Tom Scribner suggested getting the old PAC annual production spreadsheets that may have much of this information and were used to predict adult returns and distributions.

Bruce Suzumoto requested written comments on page 24 – purposes and outcomes in the next week.

There was discussion about “alignment and nonalignment” as a result. The key issue here is alignment of key operations with the stated facility/ program purpose, not so much alignment of the operations with original mandate.

The Phase I template was reviewed. Comments will be reflected in the next draft of the template.

A key area of discussion was how to collect O&M costs in Phase I. To collect any data requires getting very detailed data. Otherwise the information might be misused. **Bruce Suzumoto** and **Dan Warren** will go back and rethink the questions related to costs.

Lunch.

The smolt quality goal needs more thought as to what to measure the PSI indicator for smoltification refers to a regional smoltification index “when developed”

The incubation and rearing question needs work, particularly on what is natural incubation specific elements from the SRT report should be incorporated into the question

On research, the question may be whether this should explore research of propagation itself or explore the issues surrounding the need for and use of hatchery fish for studies of passage, habitat, etc.

Ian Fleming thought the questioning on research should be included under each purpose. Are research facilities included at the hatchery?

No meeting is currently planned for November.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm.

These minutes are an accurate and complete summary of the matters discussed and conclusions reached at the Anadromous Workshop of the Artificial Production Advisory Committee held on October 10, 2001.

Signed by:
Bruce Suzumoto
10/29/01

Bruce Suzumoto