

Fish Passage Center Oversight Board Notes

1/14/13

Attendees: Bill Bradbury, Paul Kline, Ritchie Graves (phone), Michele DeHart, Tom Rien (phone), Doug Taki, Sue Ireland (phone), Karl Weist, Jim Ruff, Erik Merrill, Bruce Measure

Chair Bradbury convened the meeting at 1:30 PM.

Fish Passage Center Accomplishments for 2012 - Michele DeHart presented the Fish Passage Center Accomplishments for 2012. The foremost accomplishment – The FPC met all contract deliverables and on time and in budget.

The Center has incorporated lamprey juvenile identification and condition monitoring protocols for three dams (Bonneville, McNary and John Day) at no additional cost to the FPC budget.

They have collaborated with IDFG to add a sockeye PIT tag mark group for 2013 to have a continuous time series for sockeye, though Paul Kline noted that IDFG is unsure that funding will allow this mark group to continue from year to year.

Working with Idaho to establish a life cycle approach on Idaho's website, the Center and IDFG hope to follow a brood year of chinook all the way from incubation out to the ocean and back.

The Center has included Snake fall chinook metrics in the 2012 report and is developing SAR data for some upper Columbia stocks. However, the funding has run out for the Snake Fall study, so it is unlikely that tracking Snake fall chinook will continue.

At the request of NMFS, the FPC is working on a surface spill (sluiceways, corner collectors, removable spillway weirs) metric at the various dams to see if they can measure the benefits and the effects of the surface passage operation.

Michele also noted that the Center has used PIT tagged fish from a variety of funding sources for both hatchery and wild groups. She displayed a series of charts showing those various tag groups and the numbers of tags in each group.

Hits on the FPC website have increased by 13% in 2012 compared to 2011, largely through individuals accessing 7 day passage data. To accommodate the increased traffic and continue to provide rapid service and response to request, the Center believes it can increase the bandwidth for their servers within their budget. However, that might require the FPC to relocate their office since the landlord might not be able to accommodate the necessary upgrades.

ISAB Review of FPC Products for 2012 - Rich Alldredge presented the 2012 review by ISAB of Fish Passage Center products. It was a quiet year for ISAB reviews. Rich noted the Annual Report organization continues to improve, but it could use some editing before release. However, the ISAB believes the Annual Report no longer warrants scientific review and the Oversight Board agreed. Therefore, the Oversight Board recommended that the ISAB will no longer review the FPC Annual Report.

Rich stated the Comparative Survival Study Annual Report continues to be well organized and well written. The Board believes more years of data and yearly updates should continue. They had several suggestions for the region to ponder, including the need to evaluate the Council's 2-6% smolt-to-adult ratio goals to determine if the goal was sufficient for recovery.

ISAB had a series of comments for the CSS to consider. Rich covered the questions and the CSS response. The FPC website contains more detail of the ISAB comments and responses. Because of the technical scientific issues involved, ISAB will continue to review the CSS Annual Report.

Michele encouraged those interested to attend the April 30, 2013 CSS Annual Meeting at Vancouver Water Resources Center.

Nominations to fill Dr. Goodman's seat on the Oversight Board for the independent scientist slot - Please forward names to Karl Weist who will compile them for Council consideration.

Possible tour – Ritchie Graves suggested holding a tour of Bonneville (or another facility) passage areas so the Board can see first-hand the smolt monitoring program in action. We will send out a query to determine Oversight Board interest in a tour and possible dates and location, if interested.

The Board adjourned at 3:30 PM.

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