

## PTSC Conference Call – Cowichan PIT Tag Data

February 13, 2019

Attendees:

John Tenney, Nicole Tancreto, Tiffani Marsh, Charles Morrill, Scott Putnam, Brady Allen, Tom Pansky, Kevin Pellet, Pat Keniry, Jeff Fryer, Will Simpson, Brandon Chockley

### **Kevin Pellet – Fisheries and Oceans Canada**

Would like to store data from a marine survival study focusing on Cowichan River Chinook. Looking at survival of hatchery and wild origin Chinook. Been tagging in the river and in Cowichan Bay since 2014, with a total of 65k tags out. One in-river detection site. Dealing with data overload and thinking about where data should be kept long-term. Cowichan is one of the larger PIT tag operations in western Canada, other than on the Okanagan, which is already tied into PTAGIS.

Scott expressed interest in data from PIT tag scanning on high seas and Kevin said there is some scanning being done and it could potentially be submitted to PTAGIS.

Charlie indicated that WDFW supports adding the Cowichan data to PTAGIS

Tiffani doesn't have a problem with adding Cowichan data as long as BPA is supportive, which it seems they are.

Brady said BPA's concern is with the threshold where adding more data would cost enough to impact PTAGIS, and when cost-share might be appropriate.

John said that threshold would be with projects that would require PTAGIS to build custom software, make changes to database, or perform a lot of coordination, or the amount of data required more hardware resources or software licenses. That would be the easiest cost-share – having to buy more hardware/software.

Tiffani asked what kind of numbers they have in terms of interrogation records. Kevin estimates 60k-100k. The site operates year-round but doesn't get much activity Nov-Apr, and they have operational information.

John asked if Kevin has any issues with data use policy and understands that data in PTAGIS is publically available. Kevin thought it sounded reasonable and expected, but might need to verify with some of their funders.

Brandon suggested we might want to establish more concretely the amount of data at which cost-share would need to start. If they start submitting data to PTAGIS while it is free, but the threshold is crossed where they are asked for cost-share, could cause some issues.

Tom indicated that as long as there are not any materially higher costs, BPA is supportive of including any data that might help us manage the fish. In regards to Brandon's concerns, he asked Kevin if he

would rather PTAGIS asked for money up front or at some point down the road if/when their data/coordination crosses the threshold.

Kevin indicated that he is trying to get an idea if a central database system like PTAGIS will be useful to his goals. They have some money and would be willing to cost-share if it provides useful data management. He likes the idea of being able to test drive the system first before making a financial commitment. It makes more sense and would be more efficient to use an existing system rather than trying to recreate his own if it adds value to his project.

PTSC agreed that the Cowichan River tagging and interrogation data should be added to PTAGIS.

There was a discussion about adding new MRR sites and validation codes for that area. Tiffani agreed to be the PTSC reviewer for Fisheries and Oceans Canada requests. Nicole indicated that Sites outside the Columbia Basin generally have nonsense RKM values assigned to them (e.g. \*\*\*) so they won't get confused with Columbia Basin sites. Nicole will work with Kevin to get his organization added to PTAGIS and to request project and site codes.