

Feb. 8, 2007

PTSC Annual Meeting

Teleconference began at 9:00AM

Attendees:

PTSC:

Ed Buettner (IDFG), Charles Morrill (WDFW), Pat Keniry (ODFW), Steve Pastor (WDFW), Carter Stein (PSMFC)

Interested Parties:

Don Warf, John Tenney, Dave Marvin (PSMFC), Sandy Downing (NOAA), Zeke Mejia, Roger Anderson (Digital Angel), Steve Anglea, Scott McCutcheon (Biomark).

1. Steve Pastor from USFWS introduced himself and provided a brief background of his experience. Steve described that he's been involved in PIT tagging since 1988, and had attended the earliest PTSC meetings, but stopped since USFWS didn't have any PIT tagging projects. Steve works with the USFWS Columbia River Information System and is involved somewhat with RMIS and StreamNet.
2. Don reported that BCC transceiver has an issue that will be worked with DA. The BCC antenna will be characterized prior to waterup of the flume.

Sandy reported that the SST tags read about 70% and the ST tags read about 40% in tests conducted during 2006 migration season.

Dave asked if Sandy's report on the BCC testing was complete. Sandy said she would check with the NOAA editor to see where it is and send copies if requested. The report is available on the BPA publications web site.

Zeke reported that production of the SST is going well. Production is about 18,000 tags per day.

Don reported that the BCC transceiver parameters would be put into charts and graphs that can be viewed daily. Stick testing (in coordination with the Pike Minnow angling project, conducted by USDA) would be done monthly. During the first year of BCC Pit Detection in 2006, ST tags embedded in sticks read at about 80% since they floated on the water and were close to the edge of an antenna, not in the middle.

Charles asked about any ongoing issues with HDX tag usage in lamprey research. Don reported that he's still coordinating with UI and Mary Moser.
2. Sandy Downing Re: instream transceiver development Sandy reported that a meeting of the instream team was held to gather initial requirements.

During the Fall the requirements document was developed with a sub-team. The requirements were sent to DA. DA produced a proposal and budget in January, 2007.

Funding is being provided through BPA, Corps and NOAA.

If funding is available, a prototype could be developed during 2007 and a product would be available in 2008.

Zeke said DA would concentrate on making an elementary unit, something not too complex.

Ed asked about antenna design and simplification. Zeke replied that DA performed some tests in the lab and the results were positive. The goal would be to be able to create an antenna that could use a garden hose to waterproof the antenna.

Charles asked what the lifetime of the existing units is. Zeke replied that seven years or more is expected life. Don commented that we are going on eight years for the existing FS1001 transievers.

Zeke reported that the older juvenile units are out of warranty in October, 2007.

John asked if there are plans for upgrading the FS1001M, Zeke said that DA does not have any plans for upgrading it.

3. Adult fish ladders at John Day and The Dalles.

Sandy reported that PSMFC performed testing using two multiplex transcievers and found that the units produced too much electromagnetic interference (EMI or "noise").

Sandy asked Steve A. how Biomark could use two multiplexing transcievers. Steve replied that the antennas are oriented up to the sky, not parallel with the horizon. EMI is still high.

Sandy reported that the Corps is looking at JDA and TDA adult installations. Corps was looking at using elements of prior installations for these new installations. However, the new installations have overfall / orifice weirs which require new antenna and transciever design configurations.

4. Charles described a request from Dan Roby at OSU for PTAGIS to allow re-use of PIT tags in the basins.

Carter said that PTAGIS would prepare a scoping memorandum that would identify the requirement, list the issues involved, and identify a few alternatives with associated (relative) costs, advantages and disadvantages. PTAGIS would do this work as time allowed. (going into the field season, Summer might be a good target time period).

5. In Doug Marsh's absense, Ed described a NOAA database that contains transported PIT tags. Each tag record has time of barge loading and time of barge dumping. Tags are from 1998 - 2005.

Dave Marvin described that NOAA received data from the Corps and correlated the barge data with PIT tag detection data. The Oracle database is in NOAA offices in Seattle and is not linked to PTAGIS.

Charles asked what the relationship is between this database and PTAGIS? The consensus is that questions about this database should be directed to Doug Marsh. Charles suggested that Ed ask Doug to send an email to PTSC describing this database in more detail.

6. Dave Marvin suggested that PTSC approve a new species code for Mountain Whitefish. Dave asked if there should be a distinction between Bonneville Whitefish, Lake Whitefish or Mountain Whitefish. There was discussion about whether to use a generic description or species specific whitefish. The consensus was that the code should be species specific for Mountain Whitefish: "G". The verbose code will be "GOW".

7. Ed discussed PTSC with Dave Wills with respect to CBFWA / FPAC participation. Ed suggested that PTSC review its charter. Carter read the purpose of the committee from the charter.

"The goal of the Committee is to coordinate implementation of PIT Tag tagging and interrogation systems and to provide a comprehensive PIT Tag database accessible to all interested parties in the Columbia River Basin.

The purpose of the Committee is to: a) Provide technical guidance for the field tagging, interrogation facilities and data management of the

PIT Tag Operations Center. b) Provide feedback to the PSMFC Executive Director for annual performance review of the PTOC. c) Coordinate training for taggers and other field personnel involved with the PIT Tag tagging system as needed. Facilitate implementation of standardized tagging techniques to ensure high quality marking. d) Establish system specifications and update annually to assure integrity and continuity of the data. e) Provide coordinated recommendations to appropriate agencies on activities and programs that further the Committee's goals. f) Identify and forward policy issues to FPAC (Fish Passage Advisory Committee) for resolution through the CBFWA."

There was discussion about whether PTSC needed to be involved in the performance review or evaluation of the PTOC. Since PTSC hasn't provided feedback to PSMFC executive director, the assumption is that no feedback is feedback.

Charles suggested listing the purpose in relative order of importance. Steve suggested the charter is clear and sending the charter to FPAC would be appropriate.

Ed will write Dave Wills a letter that indicates that the PTSC charter describes the purpose of the PTSC.

8. Carter asked for PTSC members to volunteer to prepare a PTAGIS user satisfaction survey in response to ISRP comments in reviewing 199008000, PTAGIS. Ed, Charles and Steve offered assistance. Carter said he'd like to do this survey sometime during 2007.
9. PTSC elected Pat Keniry from ODFW the new chair person and Ed the new Co Chair Person.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20!