2019 Annual PTSC Meeting

January 25, 2019, Portland, Oregon

Attendees: Jeff Fryer, Pat Keniry, Scott Putnam, Tom Pansky, Tim Luddington, Sharon Grant, Brandon Chockley, Ben Warren, Charles Morrill, Brady Allen, Tiffani Marsh, Craig White, Daniel Wilson, Sebastian Dudek, Nicole Tancreto, John Tenney, Don Warf

Action Items:

- PTAGIS will work with Biomark to disseminate important information to PTAGIS tag coordinators
- Charlie, Tiffani, and Scott will work on another draft of the IPTDS subcommittee charter
- PTAGIS will work on quotes for PIT Tag Workshop in 2021, to be included in next contract
- PTAGIS will create terminology page for PTAGIS Data Specification
- PTAGIS will work with PTSC via email to finalize field and validation code definitions and domains for the PTAGIS Data Specification
- PTAGIS will forward language to the PTSC for review that better describes the goals of the tag mask validation process to prevent misinterpretation
- Charlie and Tiffani will remain co-chairs of the committee

Introductions and Review of 2018 Action Items

After introductions and reviewing the action items from the 2018 meeting, the group had a discussion about the issue with the FS2001 PIT tag readers and the results of PTAGIS coordination actions:

- Reader exploded due to buildup of gasses from unmaintained battery (most likely)
- PTAGIS examined reader and communicated with Biomark
- PTAGIS published a news item and notified tagging coordinators
- Biomark issued technical bulletin
- BPA recommended programs no longer use them and started process to purchase HPRs in bulk to replace old readers
- PTAGIS worked with Biomark to fix issues with HPR
- BPA purchased readers for projects, they were distributed in December and January
- BPA Initiated PIT Tag Reader Loaner program

Charles Morrill pointed out that FS2001 reader can be used safely if there is regular maintenance on battery or the battery is removed. Some projects continue to use them because they are preferred over the HPR for some uses:

- FS2001 has higher read range which helps with scanning adults
- HPR doesn't have easily accessible read on demand

Charles Morrill spoke with Biomark about improving communication between them and the PIT tag community, and thought it would be helpful if PTAGIS could provide a list of tag coordinator emails to Biomark.

Sharon Grant described the BPA PIT Tag Reader Loaner program, which will be managed by PTAGIS Kennewick staff. It was started with 2 HPR plus and 5 HPR Lite readers that were purchased by BPA as replacements for FS2001s, but ultimately were not needed. Since they were purchased with BPA Fish & Wildlife program funds, they should only be loaned to BPA F&W projects.

Brady Allen indicated that they are considering a loaner program for instream equipment, a cache of components that could be used as short-term replacements. PTAGIS could provide similar support for this as with PIT tag readers.

John in working with Biomark on HPR firmware issues learned that Biomark would like to remove the legacy serial emulation mode since P3 has officially been retired and P4 does not need it.

Portland PTAGIS 2018 Update and Plans for 2019

Presentation

Tom Pansky asked about the 555 users who ran queries – from which organizations?

Organization	Number of Users
Other	84
Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife	52
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife	47
Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game	45
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	43
Nez Perce Tribe	29
University of Idaho	28
NOAA Fisheries	25
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission	22
Biomark	20
Yakama Nation	19
Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission	14
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	14
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes	12
Colville Confederated Tribes	11
Confed. Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reser.	9
U.S. Geological Survey	9
University of Washington	9
Confed. Tribes of the Warm Springs Reser.	8
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory	8
Chelan County Public Utility District	6
Grant County Public Utility District	5
Idaho Power Company	5
Midas Gold Stibnite	4
Okanagan Nation Alliance	4
Bonneville Power Administration	3
Douglas County Public Utility District No. 1	3
Fish Passage Center	3
Portland General Electric	3
Quantitative Consultants, Inc.	3
Real Time Research, Inc.	3
Wild Fish Conservancy	2
Bureau of Reclamation	1
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board	1
Spokane Tribe of Indians	1

Ben Warren asked if PIT tag data is available via API.

- PIT tag data is limited to the mark information for one PIT tag, but the plan is to expand that. PTAGIS currently uses API to submit P4 files and pull information into P4. Will be used to submit new interrogation files, and can be expanded in multiple ways to allow access to data. Craig – we can expose reporting data through an API

Brandon Chockley asked if there was any chance to make the P4 XML files more easily readable as a text file.

- We usually recommend that you import P4 files into P4 to view the records. Another option is to open them in Excel. We can look into doing a transform to make them more readable when opening in a browser.

Kennewick 2018 Update and Plans for 2019

Presentation

Discussion about the prototype RSW spillway detection system (GRS):

- Kennewick staff member Alan Brower moved the GRS forward by developing a conduit design that goes through adult ladder channel and prepared a 3D drawing of the design that was accepted by the COE / NOAA / PSMFC design team.
- Tiffani Marsh said that the GRS design and build process is an excellent example of the reasons privatizing the work that Kennewick O&M staff do would be a bad idea. The GRS project would never have come this far without Kennewick staff

Brady Allen and Charles Morrill had questions about water depth and speed over the spillway.

- Water depth varies with the forebay depth, but is around 2ft over the antennas.
- Antennas will be under 6 inches of concrete and have a read range of about 4ft.
- Water velocity is 70 fps, which is quite an increase from the last major antenna project at BCC, where the velocity is 40fps.
- We don't know what the detection efficiency will be, hoping for 80-90%.

Discussion about replacing old weir orifice antennas at BO2 with new thin body antennas at the UMT entrance and the counting window.

- Brandon Chockley and Jeff Fryer suggested that installing antennas at ladder entrances and exits would help with directionality and time spent in ladder analyses.

PTAGIS actions in support of Instream PIT Tag Detection Systems (IPTDS)

Presentation

Tom Pansky noted that PTAGIS currently uses HUC8 as the standard for interrogation site locations, and suggested using HUC16. Tom also wondered if noting sites as Mainstem or not is still appropriate.

John replied that we can use HUC16 as that is available through the PSMFC GIS data. We are looking for input from the IPTDS subcommittee on metadata like the Mainstem indication for sites.

IPTDS Steering Subcommittee Charter Discussion

The group agreed on the following items regarding the subcommittee and its charter:

- It is a subcommittee of the PTSC
- Chair of the subcommittee should be member of PTSC or participate in PTSC meetings
- Subcommittee will bring recommendations to PTSC for review and approval
- Private entities would be welcome to participate but would not be voting members of the subcommittee
- Subcommittee members should not be limited to members of FPAC organizations
- Subcommittee should not be responsible for things PTSC is currently responsible for, e.g. training and reviewing/approving new sites
- Subcommittee would not be coordinating placement of new sites, would be providing technical guidance to PTSC and PTAGIS

Current draft subcommittee charter does not adequately communicate the role and responsibilities. Charlie and Scott and Tiffani will work on another draft and circulate to the rest of the PTSC for review. After PTSC approves the draft, FPAC should be given a chance to review it. Once it is finalized, the PTSC will circulate to agencies who will be responsible for finding and supporting a member to represent them on the subcommittee.

Brandon noted that FPAC wrote a new charter last year that is currently being reviewed by agency management. John suggested that the PTSC consider doing the same thing. It was agreed that the PTSC should wait until the FPAC charter is completed.

Potential PIT Tag Workshop 2021

John and Brady considered holding a workshop in 2020, but cost estimates came back very high. Are there other formats PTAGIS should be considering for the workshop?

How the costs work: Registration fees cover most of the 3-day catering and venue rental costs, PTAGIS picks up the rest.

PTAGIS has held the workshop at Skamania in the past because:

- Centrally located
- It can accommodate 300 attendees
- PSMFC has a relationship with them
- Having all attendees in same place promotes discussions and informal information sharing

John, Brady and Tom will work on getting in the next contract for FY 2021, but is this still a good format for the workshop?

Some suggestions:

- Tribal casinos as possible venues
- Concurrent sessions could be used to keep same amount of content, but have fewer days
- PTAGIS could ask registrants which sessions they want to attend and schedule accordingly

PTAGIS Data Specification

Presentation

- PTSC agreed to change title from *PIT Tag Specification Document* to *PTAGIS Data Specification*

Some of the review comments were about changes in terminology, such as *Coordinator ID* to *Tag Data Project* to *MRR Project*. Suggestions were made to change it to *MRR Project ID*.

- Nicole will work on a terminology page to highlight field name changes or other terms that are used synonymously.

Discussion of *Brood Year* field definition ended with suggestion that it be changed to:

- Calendar year when fish was spawned, if known.

Discussion of temperature fields and whether something should be done to change 25.0 being used as a NULL value.

- PTAGIS could make these fields optional when submitting data, and nullable in the database. Would need to determine how to handle current records with 25.0 temps. For salmonid species, these can be assumed to be NULL values. For other species, they could be real values.

It seems as though other fields could use this level of discussion, but we are running out of time at this meeting. The group agreed to review and discuss fields in small chunks via email to hash out some of these issues. If not possible to resolve over email, we'll schedule conference calls.

Tag Mask Validation

Presentation

Question for PTSC: Do we need to refine the language around tag mask validation to better communicate the reasons and requirements for requesting a new tag mask be added to PTAGIS?

Some suggestions from attendees:

- Ask companies to pay PTAGIS to test the tags?
- Tag masks should not be added to validation codes until it is acquired and ready to use
- In private sector, companies would get a certification that their equipment can be used in certain systems and would pay to get that certification. PTAGIS could become certifying body for PIT tags

John will draft some language to include on the request to registering a new tag mask and investigate what PIT tag certification might look like.

Edit Hanford Release Sites to make common – Jeff Fryer

Jeff Fryer would like PTAGIS to edit data from some inactive tag coordinators to consolidate Hanford release sites. There are two fixed location sites that have been recently added to PTAGIS, but earlier data has release sites of COLR, COLR6 and with various RKMs.

The PTSC agreed that the person who would like to change data from inactive coordinators make a request to that coordinator's organization for permission to make those changes.