

DRAFT MINUTES

The Oregon Hatchery Research Center (OHRC) Advisory Committee

Date: March 8, 2010
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Location: Oregon Hatchery Research Center
2418 E. Fall Creek Rd.
Alsea, OR 97324
(541) 487-5510



Type of Meeting: Oregon Hatchery Research Center (OHRC) Advisory Committee

Attendees:

Members: Reese Bender, Tom Davis, Tom Ebert, Tom Gilg, Judy Gordon, Jeff Hard, Wayne Hoffman, Doug Hunt, Ron Mason, Barry McPherson, Denny Richey, Dave Russel
Staff: Greg Apke, Bob Buckman, Rich Carmichael, Shaun Clements, Margaret Cleveland, Charlie Corrarino, Ryan Couture, Matt Frank, David Noakes, Joseph O'Neil, Michelle Schuitman, John Thorpe
Guests: Eric Andersen, Dennis Bromka, Sonny Ramaswamy
Public: Cyndi Karp, Thom Nelson, Joe Rohledel, Stan Steele, Tom Wolf

Agenda

9:30 – Welcome, Introductions, Minutes – Chair Tom Ebert

9:55 – Michelle Schuitman - ODFW Coastal Avian Predation Coordinator

10:25 – Eric Anderson – Methods for assessing fish passage and barriers

10:50 – Break

11:00 – Dennis Bromka – Swim-Thru Fishway

11:30 – Greg Apke – Fish Passage

11:50 – Public Comment

12:00 – Working Lunch – Staff Reports:

Housekeeping Issues – Tom Ebert

Recent Research Projects – Dr. David Noakes

Outreach and Education – Joseph O'Neil

Facility Operations Update – Ryan Couture

1:00 – Rich Carmichael – ODFW NE Oregon Research Program Manager Supplementation:
Viable management alternative or only wishful thinking?

2:30 – Review of OHRC Mission, Goals, and Objectives

3:00 – Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy – OSU Dean of Agricultural Science

3:15 – Good of the order and adjournment

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Welcome and Introduction

Meeting was called to order by Chair Ebert at 9:30. Introductions were completed in a round-table manner. The December 2009 minutes were moved and seconded with one minor change in the attendee list.

ODFW Coastal Avian Predation Coordinator

Michelle Schuitman accepted the position of Coastal Avian predation Coordinator as of January 1, 2010. Currently, Michelle is studying Caspian terns and three types of Cormorants and their effect on salmonid smolts. In explaining the purpose of this position, Michelle provided information on existing studies. Most of her information relied on studies. There must be FWS depredation research prior to allowing legal hazing. Hazing would be non-lethal, with Cormorant hazing only. These birds are not on the ESA list, but do qualify for protection under the Migratory Birds Act. [Avian Predation Mgt in Oregon OHRC](#)

Methods for assessing fish passage and barriers, especially related to culverts – What we know, what we want to know

Eric Anderson, OSU M.S. grad student of Dr. Desiree Tullos presented his studies on fish barriers. Improving fish passage for more adequate passage has high rate of success. The presentation included where to focus efforts and what is the value of this study. The location chosen was the Santiam river, tributary to the Willamette River. Degree of passage impairment. Biological benefits? Cost – very expensive estimate \$372m . odot \$250k. existing options – high or low quality stream before and after passage replacement? Bayesian belief network – commonly used statistical tool – slide 10. Netica program . conceptual model: culvert status, habitat suitability = site quality. Quantify decision drivers using USFS FishXing software. Built in fish data base. Quantify decision drivers temp productivity, effect of combined rearing variables, habitat use. Overall benefits to steelhead – model structure with data entered. Assumptions are shown in model structure, e.g. nodes and prior probabilities. Many structures assessed. Benefit. Must define conditional probability table depicts the probability of every combination of parent variable states; generated 2 models: expert opinion & Netica's counting algorithm. Qualitative relationship to quantitative (expert vs algorithm). expert = information, algorithm = habitat suitability. Evaluate data scenarios slide 18. can we believe data combination. Limitations? Guidance, designed for area, nonnative species. Future work: test in Santiam River, roll back clock and assess culverts, flexible. [A Bayesian Network to Prioritize Aquatic Connectivity](#)

Swim-Thru Fishway.

Dennis Bromka, attorney for Norm Neufeld who has a patent for Swim-Thru Fishway fish passage equipment. Dennis requested research validation for this equipment, hopefully at OHRC. Like a small tributary entering the stream, valves slow the velocity of water to allow fish to pass. Red Valve Corporation has committed to sponsorship. A pinch valve, operated by compressed air, regulates stream flow and fish passage. In previous rotary field testing there was a failure after the 28th fish. There was a successful two-valve USFS field test in Virginia. A proposal would bring the 12" system to the OHRC test site. Premise 1: will enter if sufficient outflow and no other way to pass. Premise 2: fish will use passage. Premise 3: water pressure caused by closing and opening of valves. Premise 4: valves are

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fish friendly, durable, built for years of trouble-free use. Premise 5: without impeding fish – capability to prevent stream-borne debris into system. Premise 6: minimal maintenance. Premise 7: designed for dams where passage is not complete solution or too expensive. Premise 8: workable over trap and haul (cost), fabrication off-site. [Swim-Thru Fishway Presentation](#)

ODFW Fish Passage Coordinator

Greg Apke, ODFW Statewide Fish Passage Coordinator, stated that ODFW welcomes innovation. Laws regulate passage with key triggers. Questions to be included in the swim-thru testing: will there be a 2cfs minimum flow rate, how are the fish getting into system, and what is the time frame to allow fish to move out of upper section.

Public Comment

There was no public comment offered.

Working Lunch – Staff Reports

Housekeeping Issues – Tom Ebert – Barry McPherson has been working to obtain loaned art. The September 13th meeting is being rescheduled to September 20th due to a conflict with the AFS annual meeting.

Recent Research Projects – Dr. David Noakes brought the committee up to date on activities over the past three months. See [March 2010 Research Report](#) for list of research projects and proposals, publications, presentations, and teaching opportunities.

Outreach and Education –The OHRC is continuing to work with the Lincoln County School District and OCAMP (Oregon Coast Aquatic and Marine Science Program) to provide science teachers with professional development in inquiry based methods and to increase teacher's use of informal learning strategies through a partnership with Hatfield Marine Science Center, The Oregon Coast Aquarium and Yaquina Head Natural Area. The Oregon Hatchery Research Center plays a pivotal role in providing the opportunity for students and teachers to participate in inquiry based field experiences in the fresh water environment. We have hosted more than half a dozen such events. As well as met with teachers in pre and post meetings to set up and evaluate the success of the events. This is the first year of a three year program organized through the Lincoln County School District and Oregon State University

Operations Update – Ryan Couture reported on January, February activities, using a new format. The committee expressed approval of the new format. Reports are available at [JAN '10 OHRC Progress Report](#) and [DEC '09 OHRC Progress Report](#) under Meeting Schedule and Materials, March 9, 2010.

Viable management alternative or only wishful thinking?

Rich Carmichael – ODFW NE Oregon Research Program Manager presented a discussion on supplementation and the pros and cons of continued artificial propagation to augment the native fish populations. [Supplementation: A Viable Management Tool...](#)

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Review of OHRC Mission, Goals, and Objectives

David Noakes led a review of the facility's mission, goals, and objectives as posted on the web site; education and outreach; examples of research projects and how they relate to the mission, goals, and objectives; "Research Plan" and how it relates to the actual use of OHRC facilities. A copy of the review is at [OHRC Mission-Goals Discussion](#)

Meet and Greet with Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy

Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy, the new OSU Dean of Agricultural Science participated in discussion of how best manage water, land, and natural resources. Agencies handle this in partnership with others. The public is a most important partner, very special. It is very important to discover, take, translate, and share knowledge and the reason for OSU Dept of Ag's being. He shared the origins of a land grant college, OSU's beginnings.

Excellent Q&A time regarding funding, research, ability to create jobs, NOAA fleet to Newport, and the possibility of eliminating 60 positions. He is working to provide up to 25% of funding from state to local extension services, research stations, and other local organizations and groups. Additional topics of discussion included invasive species issues, federal government investing with grants, and marine mammal institutes located at sea level with sea levels rising.

Good of the order and adjournment

Chair Ebert asked for any additional discussions. With none offered, he declared the meeting closed at 3:30.