

RIVERS SMITH SALMON ECOSYSTEMS PLANNING SOCIETY
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 15, 2005
Conference Call
10:00 a.m. to 10:55

In attendance:

Jen Fagan
David Stevenson
Matt Mortimer
David peacock
Ivan Winther
Sandie MacLaurin
Bob Bocking
Karl Wilson

Start meeting 10:00 a.m.

The purpose of this conference call was to address the Northern Boundary Fund Applications for the following projects:

- Evaluation and development of juvenile sockeye abundance estimation methods in Owikeeno Lake
- Evaluation and development of an in-season abundance estimator using echo sounding in Rivers Inlet
- Continuation of evaluation and supplementation program
- Radio telemetry study of Rivers Inlet sockeye to determine relative proportions escaping to spawning areas
- Radio telemetry study of chinook salmon in Rivers Inlet
- Evaluation of spawning habitat and condition in Long Lake

In addition, the potential re-allocation of \$10,000 of Pacific Salmon Foundation money for this year's projects was discussed.

Steve Cox-Rogers was unable to participate in this conference call; however, Jen Fagan has received an email from Steve stating that the rough drafts of the juvenile sockeye abundance and the echo sounding program proposals are near completion.

Action Item # 1: Sandy MacLaurin will revise the proposal for the enhancement evaluation project in the light of the discussion.

The potential chinook radio telemetry study for Rivers was discussed.

The potential for repeating mark-recapture experiments conducted in the early 1990's was discussed with objective of calibrating the deadpitch technique currently used as the index of abundance to an absolute estimate. The discussion revolved around whether recent improvements in the dead-pitch techniques might reduce the bias experienced in the '90's and allow for an estimate for males as well as females. The group didn't identify

any objectives that could be met through a telemetry study on Wannock chinook. In looking at the data there appear to be more males collected in recent dead pitches but the size bias is still evident with few age 3sub1 chinook recovered.

The objectives of the chinook study were discussed. These objectives are: addressing the exploitation by sport fishing lodges, the difference in exploitation between the local fishery and Wannock Chinooks caught elsewhere, and brood survival. The importance of generating accurate escapement estimates was discussed in order to generate exploitation rates.

Action Item # 2: David Peacock will follow up with Bruce Burrows to see if he has any concerns with the telemetry study.

Action Item # 3: David Peacock and Ivan will further flesh out the chinook proposal.

Action Item # 4: David Stevenson will email the chinook proposal (upon completion) to the group for comment.

Action Item # 5: Jen Fagan will send Ivan the data she has received from Julian.

Action Item # 6: Jen Fagan will send Vern's Dead Pitch reports out to the group.

Action Item # 7: Sandy MacLaurin will send David and Ivan the amount of money the lodges have put towards the Wannock chinook program since 1999, as well as the # of fish that have been tagged.

Previously, the group had decided to allocate \$10,000 towards the juvenile survey for Owikeno Lake. The Pacific Salmon Foundation has stated that since this activity will take place entirely in 2006, the money will not be accessible in 2005. The potential re-allocation of this money to 2005 projects was discussed. Suggestions included: Area 9 coho work (DNA collection) in the fall, and Chinook habitat evaluation in Long Lake. The Chinook stocks in Long Lake were discussed. We need information from the GNN on their plans for the Long Lake Chinook.

Action Item # 8: An appointed person from Stock Assessment will work an Area 9 coho proposal for the fall.

Action Item # 9: Karl, David Peacock and Doug will discuss the aspects of a habitat evaluation project in Long Lake.

The expense of installing a permanent weir for the Genesee program was discussed. Doubts were raised whether the proposal would be accepted with such high costs associated with a permanent fence. Installing a temporary broomstick style fence in conjunction with better creek walks was suggested. Sandie agreed to discuss the building

of a non-permanent fence with the Snootli hatchery technicians. The proposal should include a good stream walk program and a tagging program. It was suggested that the proposal could be a multi-year proposal as the Northern Boundary Fund will fund multi – year proposals.

Action Item # 10: Sandy will re-work the Genessee proposal with the above suggestions in mind.

David Peacock suggested that more in-kind contributions from the Rivers telemetry project be pursued for these proposals. In terms of the telemetry work, he can offer up 3 – 6 potential receivers, which would be a significant budget item. Also, he suggested that alternate arrangements be made to use a local boat, instead of purchasing a new one. He would like to see more detail on the work activities proposed.

Action Item # 11: David Peacock will email information on these receivers to Bob Bocking and ask him to revise the proposal. Also, he will ask Bob to include more detail on wages and salaries in the budget.

Action Item # 12: David Stevenson will forward all of the project proposals to the group.

Action Item # 13: Karl and David Peacock will discuss the above-mentioned items regarding the Genessee proposal.

The conference call concluded at 10:55. It was agreed to hold another conference call on Monday, August 22 at 10:00 a.m. to review the final proposals for the Northern Boundary Fund.