



Rivers and Smith Salmon Ecosystems Planning Society

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RSSEPS Update August 2004

1. This report is to update RSSEPS members on the activities of the Society since our last meeting in April. One meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and a series of conference calls were held to finalize the 2004 field projects.
2. On June 15 the TAC met in Port Hardy to discuss the 2004 field projects. The Wannock River Hydro Acoustic Enumeration project was discussed. At our April meeting we had been informed that the lead DFO biologist George Cronkite had been assigned to work on the Fraser River and would be available only for one week to help set up the equipment. We then discussed how the project would run with Dave Noon the technician and 2 Wuikinuxv crew under George's supervision. At our June 15 meeting we found out that we would not be able to proceed with the Wannock River Hydro Acoustic project as planned as Dave Noon had taken a full time job and would not be available. It was decided that we should hire a consultant to develop a hydro acoustic planning document for us. This planning document would examine the technology available, identify equipment costs, identify training, soft ware requirements, and data analysis requirements.
3. On June 22, the TAC held another conference call to discuss ways to make the hydro acoustic project work. We discussed other possible consultants who could supervise the project. We were informed that the Juvenile Assessment project for Rivers Inlet had been cancelled so we also discussed if we should contribute some funds towards that project.
4. On June 28, the TAC held another conference call. We were informed that some money (\$12,000) had been found in the DFO budget for the juvenile sockeye assessment. We further discussed the hydro acoustic project and the terms of reference for the RFP. It was agreed that the RFP would be budgeted for \$7,000.
5. On June 30, the TAC held another conference call. We discussed how to allocate the rest of the budget since the hydro acoustic budget had been reduced from \$50,000 to \$7,000. We discussed the proposal to remove large woody debris from the Machmell Flats. The DFO have already received \$10,000 to do an assessment on the effects that removing the large woody debris would have on salmon habitat. Bruce Burrows agreed

to develop a proposal to augment the DFO one. Rick Routledge requested another \$10,000 to allow for one more trawl for the Early Marine Studies project.

6. On the July 5 conference call it was agreed to increase the budget of the Early Marine Studies Project from \$53,000 to \$63,000 to allow for another trawl in Rivers and Smith Inlet. Bruce presented a proposal too remove large woody debris from the Machmell Flats with a budget of \$27,000. It was proposed to divide the beach up into 4 sections and to remove wood from 2 of the sections and use the other 2 sections as control areas. It was agreed to go ahead with this project. Subsequently, DFO members of the TAC expressed some concerns about going ahead with the removal of the large woody debris from the Machmell Flats before a proper bio-assessment of the area was done.
7. On the July 7 conference call it was agreed to not go ahead with Bruce's proposal for the Machmell Flats but to stay with the smaller bio-assessment project of the DFO. Karl Wilson will be looking after it. It was also agreed to contribute some funding to the Rivers Inlet Sports Fishing Creel Survey and to the Wannock River Dead Pitch.
8. Proposals for the Creel Survey and the Dead Pitch were submitted to the PSF. They agreed to fund the Creel Survey for \$14,000 and the Wannock Dead Pitch for \$17,536. An RFP was developed for the Wannock River Hydro Acoustic Project and sent to three different consultants and an RFP for a study of the productive Capacity of Owikeno and Long Lakes was also sent out to seven different consultants.
9. The 2004 field projects are summarized below.

RSSEPS Project Summary July 15/04					
Project #	Project Name	PSEF budget	Total Value	Received from PSF to date	Balance Due from PSF
RS1 2004	Project Coordination	\$52,000	\$52,000	\$46,800	\$5,200
RS 3 2004	Wannock River Hydro Acoustic Proposal - RFP	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$26,000	-\$19,000
RS 4 2004	Early Marine Productivity Studies	\$63,000	\$169,300	\$26,500	\$36,500
	Project Lead - Rick Routledge				
RS 5 2004	Docee Fence Co-Management Project	\$10,000	\$23,500	\$5,000	\$5,000
	Project Lead - Doug McCorquodale				
RS 7 2004	Critical Habitat Survey of Long Lake Chinook	\$10,000	\$14,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
	Project Lead - Doug				
RS 8 2004	Enhancement Evaluation Program – Owikeno Basin	\$13,100	\$33,752	\$6,550	\$6,550
	Project Lead – Jonathan Hepples/Sandie MacLaurin				
RS 9 2004	Genesee River Fish Counting Fence	\$3,000	\$6,250	\$1,500	\$1,500
	Project Lead – Jonathan Hepples				
RS 10 2004	Productive Capacity Review - RFP	\$7,000	7000	\$0	\$7,000
RS 11 2004	Rivers Inlet Creel Survey	\$14,000	\$39,000	\$0	\$14,000
	Project Lead Bruce Burrows				
RS12 2004	Wannock River Dead Pitch	\$17,536	\$33,536	\$0	\$17,536
	Project Lead Bruce Burrows				
	Total Proposed Budget	\$196,636	\$385,338	\$117,350	\$79,286
	Total Budget Available from PSF	\$200,000			
	Balance	\$3,364			

10. I traveled to Oweekeno Village for the Nanakila Community meetings on July 29 and 30. I gave as progress report on the RSSEPS and our 2004 field projects. The Wuikinuxv raised some concerns about funding for Wuikinuxv projects versus other projects funded. A review of the above table of projects shows that approximately 60% of our budget for field projects has been allocated to Rivers Inlet /Wuikinuxv projects. The Wuikinuxv expressed a strong desire for a hatchery similar to the one that they had on the Wannock.
11. Information on the 2004 field projects, including the 2 RFP's, is available on the Society's web page: rsseps.ca. If you have any question or require more information about the activities of the RSSEPS please contact me.

David Stevenson
Coordinator RSSEPS