

## **100<sup>th</sup> Meridian - Columbia River Basin Group Meeting**

**February 15, 2006**

U.S. Fish and Fish and Wildlife Service Fisheries Program Office  
Vancouver, Washington

### **Attending:**

**Kevin Aitkin, USFWS**  
**Phil Bandy, State of Idaho**  
**James Gores, ODFW**  
**Jim Irish, BPA**  
**Jill Hardiman, USGS**  
**Lonnie Mettler, USACE**  
**Jim Athearn, PSMFC**  
**Jill Leary, LCRE**  
**Steve OLhausen, USFWS**  
**Heather Arbuckle, OSU Sea Grant Program Intern**  
**David Bergendorf, USFWS, Stockton, CA (phone)**  
**Tim Darland, USCOE, Cascade Locks, OR**  
**Robyn Draheim, PSU**  
**Mary Pfauth, PSU**  
**Scott Wiedemer, OSU**  
**Paul Heimowitz, USFWS, Portland, OR**  
**Stephen Phillips, PSMFC, Portland, OR**  
**Susan Anderson, PSMFC**  
**Eileen Ryce, MFWP, Great Falls, MT**  
**Mark Sytsma, PSU/ESR, Portland, OR**  
**Bill Zook, PSMFC, Olympia, WA**

### **Comments & Approval of November Meeting Minutes:**

Minutes can be reviewed on the 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian website

### **Individual Agency Updates:**

Robyn– Discussed the ship breaking work proposed for Oregon (Newport) and associated environmental and ANS concerns.

Kevin: WDFW will soon be receiving watercraft tax funds (April) that will go to their ANS program. Tunicate infestation is a problem -- Emergency action funding pending. There is a potential for a tunicate boat cleaning program, which will require boat removal from the water. Land filling cost of removed tunicate is substantial. Legislation to establish a Washington Invasive Species Council has passed the WA Senate.

Robyn discussed the Oregon Outdoor School and potential for ANS outreach with that group.

Scott W. gave a presentation on his research into New Zealand Mudsnaill gear cleaning. It is very difficult to kill NZMS attached to waders with dry ice in a cooler. NZMS can survive in nooks and crannies of gear. More research planned.

Eileen said that she can remove NZMS by rinsing; scrubbing and drying (also treat with bleach).

There is still uncertainty on the best method to remove all NZMS's from gear.

Tina Proctor is working on the National NZMS Plan...the plan must include an effective gear cleaning strategy. Robyn, with Scott, Paul and Eileen will provide comments to Tina for inclusion into the plan.

Lonnie: USACE in the CRB is increasing focus on NZMS and zebra mussels. Waterways Experiment Station (WES) group also may become more involved on the West Coast. A potential ballast water meeting in June on the West Coast sponsored by WES is a possibility. Lonnie will get more details on this from WES. Discussion on USACE dredging contracts and need for this group to comment on those contracts to prevent spread of ANS (e.g. NZMS and ZM). Lonnie will follow up.

Bill: The CRB marina outreach final report is nearly completed and will be distributed.

Paul has requested USFWS Asian carp risk assessment funds. He anticipates an increase in 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian funds in 2006. Hatchery ANS HAACP planning is being pushed and a training workshop is planned for Boise this spring. The University of Idaho is researching control methods for NZMS at fish hatcheries. The USFWS's National Fish Habitat Initiative has significant funding – ANS is one priority for a regional "Request for Proposals" just issued under the NFHI. The USDA has ANS economic impact study funds available.

Sam will soon release brochures targeted at school science classes on proper disposal of live organisms.

Paul also has requested Habitatitude funding for ANS educational outreach to aquarium hobbyists.

Jill: USGS has submitted ANS proposals to BPA's Fish and Wildlife Program for funding.

Mark: Ballast water exchange for coastwise vessel traffic from San Francisco Bay to Columbia River appears to be working.

Jim Gores, ODFW, introduced himself. He has been on the job 4 weeks. The development of an ANS presence/absence list for Oregon is a priority.

Bill talked about the watercraft inspection training classes that he is leading. A WIT video is also being developed that will be distributed to the 400 + boating agencies in the 5 state region (CA,NV,WA,OR,ID).

Paul led the CRB zebra mussel rapid response plan discussion. Comments on the current draft need to be in by the end of February. There was discussion on who should be the point of contact in the first 24 hours after discovery; and where should ZM samples be sent for verification.

Phil emphasized the importance of predetermined agency coordination.

Mark: do we want to develop an expert panel from outside the region to help in response planning?

Discussion on the need of an interagency MOU for rapid response protocol.

We need to do response drills to test the rapid response system that will be developed....gap analysis should be included

Descriptive versus prescriptive portions of the plan...Paul suggested that the first 24 hours should be prescriptive.....after that period it should be descriptive....

Eileen: we need to get some agency agreement in place soon...before plan is finished

There was a discussion on the need for another stand alone rapid response meeting.

Bill: It is time for another CRB ANS newsletter. There will be a 4/7 article deadline, with a 5/1 publish date.

Bill: How about an ANS conference for marina operators? Bill will follow-up, and also contact the Oregon Marine Board on their Clean Marina Program.

Mary reported on the ZM substrate and veliger monitoring programs. Veliger monitoring efforts are mostly in the lower river. In 2006 will move veliger sampling upriver as well. Mary is contacting irrigation districts on substrate monitoring.

There was discussion on NW coordination with the 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian monitoring database. Paul will follow up with David Britton on progress.

Discussion evaluating ANS education program effectiveness, per discussion at the recent 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian Initiative meeting in Las Vegas....Phil said that Boise State conducts a state wide phone survey that we might be able to tap into.

Eileen talked about hatcheries in MT that are quarantined because of NZMS's. The TIS evaluation study is going as planned for this summer. The efficacy of a TIS system at El Dorado (KN) will be also done, using MT protocol, for comparison of results. Eileen updated the group on the Peanut Butter jar incident at Jordon MT. If Ft Peck Reservoir is contaminated, one of the issues that will need to be addressed by MTFWP is movement of fish from one waterbody to another. The Hell Creek marina on Ft Peck will have a Prefix boat wash system installed with a permanent crew. Ft Peck will have a comprehensive zebra mussel survey undertaken in 2006.

Bill led a discussion on the Burma shave style outreach message boards. The final messages were voted on....Bill will follow up with the group on exact language for adoption. The signs will be posted in MT leading up to a boat ramp, and will include an 800 number.

Phil: The Idaho Invasive Species Plan has been in place for one year. Idaho will soon begin developing an aquatic nuisance plan, funded in part from the PSMFC. Eurasian milfoil in northern Idaho continues to be a major ANS issue; there is an upcoming Idaho Milfoil Task Force report.

The greater Yellowstone ecosystem group is working on an ANS plan with cooperation from the states of Idaho and Montana. Phil says it is important that federal/state issues on this interjurisdictional effort be addressed.

The next meeting will be June 14, 2006 in either Vancouver Washington or Portland Oregon .

**Columbia River Group  
Follow-up Tasks – 02/15/2006 Meeting**

1. Robyn - will follow up on providing ANS information to Outdoor School.
2. Bill - will follow up with Clean Marina Program of OMB (Oregon Marine Board: assist: Sam Chan)
3. Kevin - will send Invasive Species legislation information to Stephen for distribution
4. Robyn - will write to Tina Proctor on inclusion of cleaning gear issues in national NZMS plan.
5. Group - comments on CRB rapid response plan to Paul by 02/28/06.
6. Paul - will follow up with David on 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian database.
7. Group - ideas/articles for the next Columbia River Basin ANS newsletter to Bill

by 04/07/06.

8. Susan - will send out sign choices for review/comment  
Group - send comments to Bill
9. Bill - will follow up on idea of marina operator ANS conference.
10. Robyn - will send out ship breaking links
11. Lonnie - will follow up on particulars of a potential Corps' (Waterway Experiment Station) ballast water meeting in June in the Northwest.
12. Lonnie/Tim - will follow up on having Stephen be on the list of contacts for proposed Corps dredging plans/information. Notices would then be sent out to the List Serve.