

MINUTES

100th Meridian Initiative - Columbia River Basin Team Meeting

October 15, 2008
Port of Portland
Portland, Oregon

1. Attendees:

Stephen Phillips, Chair, PSMFC
Scott Lund, BOR
Marla Harrison, Port of Portland
Randy Henry, OMB
Bill Zook, PSMFC
Paul Heimowitz, USFWS
Joan Cabreza, PSMFC
Dave Ward, CBFWA
Jim Ruff, NWPC
Rebecca Weiss, USCOE
Tim Darland, USCOE
Jill Hardiman, USGS
Glenn Dolphin, OMB

Allen Pleus, WDFW
Joe Divittorio, BOR
Eileen Ryce, MDFWP
Blaine Parker, CRITFC
Mark Sytsma, PSU
Sam Chan, OSU
David Britton, USFWS
Bill Horton, IDFG
Tim Counihan, USGS
Steve Wells, PSU
Robyn Draheim, PSU
Rian Hooff, ORDEQ
Linda Ulmer, FS/BLM

2. Comments and Approval of June 2008 Minutes

Stephen Philips welcomed the group. There were no additional comments on the minutes - they have been posted on the 100th Meridian web site:

<http://www.100thmeridian.org/ColumbiaRT.asp>

3. Non-Native Fish Predation Workshop

Dave Ward briefed the group on the non-native fish predation workshop held September 24, in Portland. This multiagency workshop was structured to (1) summarize what we know and don't know about predation on salmonids by non-native fish, (2) discuss what can be done, biologically and technically, to manage predation by non-native fish, and (3) discuss what is feasible, socially and politically, to manage predation by non-native fish. Smallmouth bass, which are very abundant in the Snake River, are a known predator of sub-yearling salmonids. Dave said that there appears to be little potential for controlling SMB through recreational angling. Walleye and channel catfish are two other non-native predators which may be having larger impacts than we think. Questions were raised about the potential for controlling American shad in the Columbia River Basin, though there are no known projects looking at this right now. Shad also are an important prey item for predators in the fall. For a summary report of the predation workshop go to

<http://www.cbfwa.org/RegionalIssues/Correspondence/CBFWA/PredationWorkshop2008SummaryReport.pdf>

4. 100th Meridian Web Based Response System:

David Britton called in to discuss the Aquatic Invasive Species Notification Database. This prototype database is now on-line, and we'd like your help in an initial Northwest pilot evaluation. We're asking you to take a look, add your information, and respond with your thoughts. David is still working to add the search function, and the display of listed contacts still does not yet show email addresses or associated state coverage. But please think about any other enhancements to the data entry or data access facets of this system that would make it more useful in quickly routing information on preliminary ANS detections and contaminated boat reports to first-tier ANS response contacts in the West.

5. Watercraft Inspection– Decontamination and Certification

Bill Zook called into the meeting to discuss the decontamination of recreational watercraft and certification of those watercraft. At its 2008 annual meeting the Western Regional Panel also set up a work group to address this issue. Elizabeth Brown (Colorado Division of Wildlife, Invasive Species Coordinator) is heading up this effort for the WRP. Bill discussed the project proposal he put together “Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Research” which aims to address the concerns and questions that have arisen regarding the effectiveness of various watercraft decontamination procedures, as well as what agencies/organizations are currently doing to certify watercraft as “safe.” Funding needs were discussed. It was decided that a follow-up conference call on this issue would be held and hosted by Eileen Ryce, chair of the WRP. Eileen will also follow-up on the decontamination effectiveness study that is being conducted at Notre Dame (with Greenfield Industries).

6. Columbia River Basin Interagency Invasive Species Response Plan: Zebra Mussels and Other Dreissenid Species

Paul and Stephen described the recent process to finalize the plan and gain signatures from the core Multi-Agency Coordination group members (states, USFWS, CRITFC, and NOAA). Minor changes have been incorporated from the February 2008 version, and unless there are any critical revisions prompted by the 2008 exercise, the signed plan will be posted on the 100th Meridian website. It was noted that the new version will retain an appendix with notification contact information, but the intent is to eliminate this in the future in deference to the new on-line database described above.

Paul Heimowitz discussed the exercise strategy. The Columbia Basin Team of the 100th Meridian Initiative will hold a series of table-top and/or field-based exercises over the next 5 years (or until an actual introduction occurs) in order to increase preparedness for implementing the *Columbia River Basin Interagency Invasive Species Response Plan: Zebra Mussels and Other Dreissenid Species* (a draft of the strategy can be found at the end of these notes). Comments on the latest draft of the exercise strategy are due by November 15, 2008 to

Paul_Heimowitz@fws.gov. The next rapid response exercise (after the 10/15-16 exercise) is scheduled for Spring 2009 in Idaho.

7. Dreissenid Monitoring workshop

David Britton reported on the upcoming dreissenid monitoring workshop planned for January 21-22, 2009 in Denver. The goals of the meeting are to discuss the relative strengths and weaknesses of existing analysis of water samples for veligers (primarily microscopy and PCR), share sampling and analysis protocols, and ultimately seek consensus on criteria for classifying, verifying, and communicating results of sample evaluation with the intent to implement consistent methods in the 2009 field season. 100th Meridian Initiative meeting will follow the monitoring meeting.

8. Northwest Power and Conservation Council - Draft Amended Fish and Wildlife Program

Jim Ruff of the Council briefed the meeting on the status of the amendment process. ANS actions are included in the draft document. The comment period has been extended until December 1, 2008. Jim encouraged comments from the group. For further information go to <http://www.nwcouncil.org/Default.htm>.

9. New CRB ANS Publication

Paul Heimowitz said that the USFWS brochure “International Waters: Nonnative Aquatic Species in the Columbia River Basin” and an associated poster, will be sent to print by the end of December and should be available in early 2009. Contact Paul at Paul_Heimowitz@fws.gov for further information.

10. Frog

Marla Harrison and Allen Pleus discussed the discovery of a single live non-native frog in a shipping container (From China) at the Port of Portland this past summer. The frog was eventually destroyed. There are currently plans to study the multi-agency response and eventual eradication of the frog and whether actions taken were conducted in accord with pertinent regulations, identify possible gaps in regulations, and make suggestions on how to improve interjurisdictional interdiction activities.

11. Next Meeting Date:

- The next meeting of the CRB Team will be held Wednesday **February 4, 2008**, in Vancouver Washington **at the Hilton Hotel, 301 West Sixth Street, Vancouver WA 98660.**
- The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

***Columbia River Basin Interagency Invasive Species Response Plan:
Zebra Mussels and Other Dreissenid Species***
Exercise Strategy: 2008-2013

The Columbia Basin Team of the 100th Meridian Initiative will hold a series of table-top and/or field-based exercises over the next 5 years (or until an actual introduction occurs) in order to increase preparedness for implementing the *Columbia River Basin Interagency Invasive Species Response Plan: Zebra Mussels and Other Dreissenid Species*. Although no single event will meet all of the below objectives, exercises will be organized so that all objectives are met at least once by 2013. The Columbia Basin Team will review the objectives periodically and provide input to the Multi-Agency Coordination Group regarding which objectives should be covered by any given exercise. At least one exercise will occur each year, and more frequently as resources allow. An ad hoc work group will be assembled to design and organize each exercise. Each ad hoc work group will be comprised of relevant Columbia Basin Team members and external partners associated with the specific focus/location of the exercise.

Exercise Objectives

1. Enhance capacity to make and implement vessel traffic management decisions
 - closing recreational boat ramps/access/movement
 - commercial traffic
 - locks/navigation management
 - ports
 - regional support for enforcement, etc.
2. Enhance capacity to make and implement eradication decisions
 - go/no go
 - how: weigh short-term/long-term risk management
 - shared resources for monitoring, treatment, permitting, etc.
3. Prompt states/jurisdictions to pre-plan response prior to exercise
4. MAC coordination and relationship-building (meet at least once annually)
5. Generate detailed summary/incident action plan (s) that can be used for “most likely scenarios” section in plan
6. Test on-the-ground coordination for a scenario involving each of the following focus areas:
 - Idaho high-risk waterbody
 - Oregon high-risk waterbody
 - Washington high-risk waterbody`

- Lake Chelan/Lake Roosevelt NRAs
- Local partnership priorities (e.g., Lake Pend Oreille, Henry's Lake)

7. Field test rapid deployment operations for:

- diver-based monitoring
- water sample collection
- substrate/hard surface survey
- communications

8. Enhance capacity for JIC operation

9. Test notification effectiveness

Schedule:

<u>When</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Focus</u>
October 2008 [Completed]	Portland/Vancouver	Objectives 1, 4 (MAC working relationship, vessel pathway management) - Port of PDX/Columbia River barge
Spring 2009	Idaho	Objectives 2-7 (Eradication Decision; Divers; Monitoring; Idaho partnerships)
Fall 2009	Washington	Same as Spring 2009
2010	Montana	Same as Spring 2009
2011	Oregon	Same as Spring 2009
2012	TBD	TBD
2013	TBD	Large-scale cumulative exercise