

100th Meridian—Columbia Basin Group
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
Portland, Oregon
April 7, 2004

In Attendance:

Amy Gaskill, USFWS
Bas Hargrove, TNC
Bill Monroe, The Oregonian
Bill Zook, PSMFC
Blaine Parker, CRITFC
Cidney Howard, ODFW
Eileen Ryce, MFWP
Fred Partridge, IDFG
Jim Athearn, COE
Joan Cabreza, EPA
John Wachsmuth, MFWP
Kathy Shimojima, PSMFC
Kevin Aitkin, USFWS

Mark Sytsma, PSU
Mary Pfauth, PSU
Pam Meacham, WDFW
Pat Lim, DFO
Patti Williams, COE
Paul Heimowitz, USFWS
Randy Henry, OSMB
Robin Draheim Waldeck, PSU
Scott Smith, WDFW
Stephen Phillips, PSMFC
Steven Wells, PSU
Tim Darland, COE
Tina Proctor, USFWS

At 9:00 a.m. introductions were made around the room before the group began on the agenda. There was a short discussion about the minutes from the December 2003 meeting in Boise. A change was noted regarding a cooperative agreement with PSU, where OSU was erroneously indicated as the cooperating agency. The minutes should have read a cooperative agreement between PSU and ODFW. With this change, the minutes were accepted as record.

Bill Zook gave a progress report on the work he had accomplished since the Boise meeting. He referenced a memo he wrote to the group on March 22nd that explained that some tasks he was assigned remained uncompleted due to lack of information. He was still in need of lists of boater access sites. He had received a list from WDFW, but has every access in WA and needed to be narrowed down to the Columbia River. Bill asked Randy Henry for the Oregon sites on the Columbia. Fred Partridge said he could get Idaho's list for Bill and Bill was going to contact Pat Lim from DFO for Canada's. With those bases covered he predicted a pretty comprehensive list of the Columbia River sites. Once have the sites we will need to set a priority list or do we want to put signs at all access areas?

ANS access point signs

- Washington - Pam Meacham said that most of the CRB launches on the Washington side are equipped with signs (450-500). WDFW has plans to check sites this summer for damaged signs. Washington will need to decide if they want to stay with their current sign or go with ours (if we come up with a new sign) once their stock of 125 is gone.

- Oregon - We don't know about sign coverage in OR.
- COE – Tim Darland got all the launches and marinas for COE. Mostly only what COE maintains, but there are some state parks and there was uncertainty as to whether COE maintains them.

The group needs to design and maintain a comprehensive database of signs and location for placement, replacement cycle, etc. Whatever is developed needs to be compatible with state sign databases so they could be merged. Robyn Waldeck has organized a DB for the current list and passed around a flow chart of how it would work. Her design includes location, owner, lat/long, and be organized by state, county, marina/baitshop, whether it's in the Basin. The database should have a priority field should the need to prioritize sign locations arise. Due to budget considerations, Mark will use a grad student to populate the database.

Marinas

Bill refreshed the group about his Columbia "River Watch" survey of marinas that was "assigned" in Boise. He would replicate his efforts from the year before on the Missouri River. He has received various marina and boat launch lists, from the mouth of the Columbia upriver to McNary Dam, but was not able to compile them. There were requests that Bill take note of unattended access areas to be marked for signage and also of TIS sites during his initial inventory of the river.

TIS in the CRB & Canada

Also following the MO River model, Bill went over sites mentioned in Boise. New suggestions were added for TIS locations.

- Canada
- Lewiston, ID (on the river and in Lewiston proper) leads to Granite.
- Umatilla (good boat launching area and several crossing interstates)

The group wants to concentrate on the east-west highways because that's where the majority of the Lewis & Clark traffic will be, so that's where we want to have the TIS. The U.S./Canada border crossing would also be a favorable location for a TIS due to the captive nature of the crossing process.

PSMFC has contracted with several state DOTs on the Missouri River. PSMFC provides funding for the system itself, installation and sign and the DOT maintains them and plays our message for an agreed upon length of time. John Wachsmuth will look into getting a current inventory of all TIS from the FCC and hopefully have a list within a month to see if the group could get the "Clark & Lewis" PSA airing on a wider distribution.

Inventory of boater survey

Washington has plans to do extensive boater survey work. Pam wants to use the 100th meridian survey format for the surveys she plans to do. Jim Athearn asked that Lake Washington be included in their surveys.

Available Funding

The group will determine # and variety of tasks for the Columbia River Basin, but needs to know funding boundaries as it gives a more realistic view. There was a suggestion that other federal agencies, other than the ones listed below, be tapped for the possibility of funding activities. Also once Paul's old position with Oregon Sea Grant is filled, the group should check there to see if there is any funding available for Lewis & Clark ANS Activities.

- **FWS Region 1 & 6.**
 - Erin's shop is the primary for Lewis & Clark funds. Budget is still a little uncertain for FY 04. FY 03 had \$25K, but there is still no budget for next year. There will be some realignment between Region 1 and the California/Nevada operations. FWS wants to support the project at some level but what that is has not been determined. The field station budgets have not been released from Washington.
 - Paul's expectation was that FWS would continue with PSMFC at the same level as last year, so the group should work with that figure.
 - Tina said that Region 6 put up \$50K last yr for the Missouri River and part went to 100th meridian. This year she has an extra \$50K so there would be \$100K available for L&C activities in the Missouri and a more concentrated effort in the Columbia. Montana will receive some funding for signs, and boater surveys

- **PSMFC**
 - Funds available here and there (BPA & USFWS), but nothing more than \$10K.
 - Funds for Montana are for TIS and salary for John, but some of that money could be used for other ANS activities. There is some maintenance money for the TIS already installed. Also for new signs and maybe another TIS in combo with other money. 13K (10K after everything taken out) each year from PSMFC.
 - Idaho will receive \$73K over two years from the Sea Grant appropriation. They are budgeting for larger signs at rest areas, possibly a TIS or two at some specific recreational areas, 2 months of salary each year.

- **Washington**
 - Scott has a new person to do ANS work for 4 months during the summer. He can be flexible in using that person's time.

- **Oregon**
 - Mark may have \$5K-\$10K for a TIS, but needs to look at the budget again.

- **EPA**
 - Sometimes has money at the end of the year, but Joan knew of nothing specific
- **U.S. COE**
 - Patti—The Portland and Walla Walla districts have had no funding for the L&C program for the last 4 years, so there will probably be no money for the next FY either. If some does become available, it would have to be expended very quickly.
 - Jim—usually has no cash money and doesn't know of any available at the time. He has started including in-kind costs into his budgets again. He currently has some of Tim's time and other time for monitoring that he is doing. He is going to work with Bill on capturing in-kind costs for the budget he is working on for next year.
- **CRITFC**
 - Has no money to pledge, but Blaine is going to check with NOAA to see if they have any funding available.

Jim Athearn suggested that the group draw up a list that is specific to an item for a work product for federal agencies. Agencies could then fill some of those orders as money becomes available. The list would need to have drop-dead dates for the latest time an item can get accomplished. COE has to have something (work order, etc.) in the system by the first week of September in order to get it in for that FY.

John also suggested if TIS could go in, and/or around, communities, the communities a lot of times will throw money in.

Media, Public Service Announcements (PSA), Etc.

Paul introduced Bill Monroe, the outdoor sportswriter from the Oregonian who became interested in Invasive Species issues on a trip to Missouri. He realized that the west is not giving ANS the same level of coverage that the east coast and mid-west are and thinks that the Oregonian should step up. Bill could help with press release issues and getting ANS stories and information out to the public through his column in the Oregonian. Mr. Monroe is working out the angle he wants to follow for stories before he can determine what information he will require from the group.

- "Clark & Lewis" PSA
 - Most of the 200 CDs containing 2 PSA's and a press release went out to stations in the Missouri Basin and with the remainder being sent to stations east of the Missouri next week. Cost \$600 to distribute
 - Amy Gaskill, FWS Region 1 Outreach Coordinator, gave a list of events that she plans to use to get the message out about ANS issues. She

figures that she will be able to reach several hundred media contacts at these events.

- Other suggestions for distribution were to NPR (national public radio) and OPB/Steve Amen.

Other Media/Public Awareness activities:

- Randy Henry is currently implementing a sustainable boating campaign that includes ANS and clean boating. They are considering buying media time for radio slots. If they do decide on radio time, they will use the “Clark & Lewis” PSA.
- The 100th Meridian-CRB Work Group needs a lead person for media issues on the CRB.
 - Amy Gaskill will get back to the group once she is able to determine if she can give the appropriate level of time.
- OR Invasive Species Council is in the process of interviewing a public relations group for a campaign based on the Idaho Weed campaign.
- Idaho developed a weed awareness campaign—Raised money and bought radio and TV time. The ID model could be a good one to follow for future campaigns.
- DFO put ANS info in sport fishing guides. Have done education and outreach in schools with fact sheets and at boat shows in B.C. and eastern Canada. PSA’s are more factual in Canada, so a longer, more serious PSA would work better in B.C.

Whenever we have a media product, we need to make sure the group knows so we aren’t doubling up on effort. Is producing more media products the path the group wants to take? If so, then do we want to continue putting money in TIS or use more of the money for media time.

Boat Inspection Video

Pam Meacham unveiled WDFW’s new boat inspection video for training instructors. A discussion on inspection, wash areas and legalities continued. Stephen suggested the video be sent out to a wider distribution list. Paul offered to use some of the money he has for training for distributing Pam’s video.

John Wachsmuth suggested a “wash your boat” video for a broader audience (e.g., kayakers, drift boats, etc.) Pam said the guy who did their video was interested in doing more. Stephen offered to follow up on that.

HACCP Training

Paul and Blaine are moving forward on this training that addresses what steps agencies can take to minimize their risk of invasives. There is a 1-day Workshop tentatively scheduled for this spring (Portland June 4th). People who complete would go back and come up with a more specific plan which could then turn into customized training for that

person's agency/situation. There are limited funds to cover travel cost, but there is no charge for the workshop. They are looking at who needs this workshop and who to invite as it will be a limited group. Their training will be based on the manual that covers the National process on HACCP which is for a 2-day training course.

At this time the group took a break for lunch.

Strategy for Columbia River Lewis & Clark Efforts

Zook recapped what was proposed and implemented for the Missouri River—the Exclusion Strategy, Containment Strategy, the Trip Planning Stage. The group discussed what from that plan could and should be used on the Columbia.

- PSA's? TIS? Outreach Extension Centers? Access Area Signage
- Lewis & Clark Trail .com guide?
- Sport & Trade Shows (participate & trinkets)?
- Getting PSA broadcast in marine retail stores?
- Outreach Van?

Should the group be setting aside 2K (or more) for these kinds of things?

Idaho may be able to do some of these things with their aquatic education funds and Randy Henry offered OMB's assistance as well.

TIS

Bill went over the current status of TIS contracts and placements on the Missouri River and asked if we wanted to implement this on the Columbia.

Kevin Aitkin brought up a Doug Jensen study about the efficacy of TIS and how they relate to print media from which the group discussed if we would be missing the focus group. We should stop and evaluate what we've done and see if the response justifies money spent on the production costs (voice talent). The group will keep TIS in its toolbox for now.

River Watch

Bill thought that he could get about 50 marina operators, vendors, etc. on board for the Columbia version of RiverWatch, but would probably need to include some of the resorts and marinas off the main-stem. (e.g., Potholes, CleElum, Yakima, Mardon).

Outreach Van

USFWS has a van that will travel to Lewis & Clark events over the course of the re-enactment of the Corps of Discovery. FWS is still filling in their calendar for the van, but all the weekends filled. Paul asked for some trinkets, brochures, etc. to put on the van

for distribution. An educational traveling trunk will also be on board. Paul will follow up on this.

Corps of Discovery Truck

The National Parks Service will have a Class 8 truck and trailer traveling from event to event and would be another good outlet to give out information. Patti Williams can work with her National Coordinator to get this done

ZM Substrate Sampling Program

Mary Pfauth and Steven Wells from Portland State did a short presentation on their substrate sampling program.

Boater Surveys Database

Paul, Erin, Kevin, and David Britton had a conference call discussing the databases for boater surveys and making them more compatible. Need to know what the data types and data fields are. Group needs to decide what kind of queries they would want to make of a database or even a list of fields they could query on. Should also be able to combine that with info on where sampling is occurring and the number of sample(r)s in a location. This should probably be a subset of a more comprehensive monitoring database.

CRB boat access area signage

There was discussion if we want to have more than one sign. WDFW has adaptable signs depending on what body of water. When Idaho designed their sign they wanted to make it attractive enough that they could keep the attention of passersby. Bas said that they had 1500 aluminum and 2000 laminated posters. There could be integration into a sign database and there would be a media event when signs get posted beginning in May.

Bill said that in Missouri they discussed the sign issue and will change sign colors in three years. A problem on the Columbia may be the size of signage. John's thought was to keep the precautionary message consistent.

Pam already has 6-8k tied up in their state signs and it was suggested that there could be signs both in and outside of launch areas. Maybe could put the national "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers" sticker on the WA state signs.

The Oregon members talked about signs with the possibility coming up with a common one, which brought back the perceived necessity that a sign database be implemented so we know what signs are out there and where before we get aggressive on putting up more.

A signage sub-committee should meet and get back by

THIS CONFERENCE IS SHOWING NO ACTIVITY

Recall laughter here it should be noted that we were experiencing conference call troubles with Erin Williams.

Expansion of planning and implementation of the ANS strategy to B.C.

Pat Lim gave an overview of activities in BC on:

- European Green Crab—have info in their sport fishing guides
- Eurasian Water Milfoil—B.C. has had it for 20-30 years
- Purple Loosestrife
- Spartina—actively developing a plan to control it.
- Mitten Crab & Zebra Mussels—have info in their sport fishing guides.
- Strategies in place on several fronts
 - Puget Sound/Georgia Basin International Task Force
 - Province of BC Biodiversity Branch—Ted Down is BC Contact
 - National Framework Dennis Wright is working on this
 - WRP
 - Ballast Water Management— Vessel sewage matters & problems with recreational boaters discharging in to the Strait of Georgia (BC Green Boating Initiative)
 - Now national legislation in process.
 - BC Green Boating Initiative
 - Provincial Museum in Victoria

There are no border crossings between the Canadian provinces so there is no tracking of boats that are coming from the great lake states. B.C. needs to know what agencies are in charge, what the protocols are, and what info is available for getting and giving ANS info at international border crossings. Mark suggested some people at AFIS and Cathy Hamel as persons to contact for answers to those questions. Pat also thought that Canada should approach boat brokerages about ZM education and transport, as well as having the 100th Meridian RiverWatch program in BC.

Stephen said if there is extra end of year money, it would be a good way to get Canada involved by buying signs or something for them. Pat noted that signs in Canada have to be bilingual (English & French).

Emergency/Rapid Response Planning

The \$20K from NOAA is at PSMFC. A contract to develop the plan is needed by 30 September. We discussed options for getting a contractor to do the response plan and the appropriate level of coverage. The contractor should get specific information from each state covered by the plan.

Boater Surveys with Handhelds (PDAs)

Bill showed map of boater surveys (locations and # of surveys per location) and Stephen talked about filling in the gaps in the survey locations. There is interest in

obtaining handhelds to do surveys out in the field. Bob Pitman is ordering a supply of Pocket PCs that carry a downloadable survey form for his 100th Meridian survey samplers and asked if anyone else wants to do it.

In KS they are using the PDAs. They drew down 6 ft at the El Dorado Reservoir and found thousands of ZM. Kits were given to all managers of public water works on ZM. Veligers were identified in the Missouri River between SD and NE below Gavins Pt. Dam. A chemical formula of potassium and formalin has been developed that kills the ZM, but not the fish. It is a two step process: 1) The potassium softens the shell, and 2) The formalin kills 100% of the ZM.

There is a meeting in May about that will address this and crafting more of a ZM Response Plan.

L & C Funding

We may need to pool money for miscellaneous opportunities that haven't been identified.

- Radio PSAs \$5K (will get us about 200 stations)
- TIS \$42k (2 state 1 interstate)
- Signs \$12K (based on 25 extension centers)
- Access Area Signs \$5K (based on 400 signs)
- Boater Surveys \$24K (2 state employees for 3 mos + travel) (15 individual waters outside of WA)
- DB Integration/Upgrade \$5K

Total \$93K

This is what we know for funding: **\$75K from USFWS**
\$10K from PSMFC
\$10K from PSU
\$5K from MT

Stephen outlined the budget and prioritized the needs list as:

1. TIS
2. Bill's time
3. Printing of brochures
4. Marina educational information (media, & signs like was done in the Missouri)

Upcoming Events and Agency Updates

- Western Regional Panel to W. Governors' Association on ANS to create a regional prevention program centered on recreational boating and aquatic plant suppliers.
 - MOU between WGA and WRP on each group's role in creating the regional plan.

- The workgroup would create a yearly progress report to be given at WGA's annual meeting. Also would help get federal funds to the states.
- Kevin brought up that the states may be taking money out of other state programs to fund this. Could be stealing out of your own pocket.
- PBWG Meeting on June 29th in Portland at the Embassy Suites Hotel Downtown
- Victoria Lake Management Meeting in November. WRP is helping to fund it.
- Columbia, MO in May, 2004
 - ANS Task Force
 - 100th Meridian Annual Meeting
 - Several other meetings. In May
- July 18-23, 2004 Society of Wetland Scientists in Seattle.

Next Meeting: July 27, 2004 in Portland at PSMFC.

Meeting Adjourned