



# Conference Call Action Items

## Aquatic Settlement Work Group

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**To:** Aquatic SWG Parties

**Date:** May 13, 2022

**From:** John Ferguson, Chair, Anchor QEA, LLC

**Re:** Final Action Items of the May 11, 2022, Aquatic SWG Conference Call

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Below is a summary of Action Items from the Aquatic Settlement Work Group (SWG) meeting that was held by conference call on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Attendees are listed in Attachment A. These action items include the following:

### I. Summary of Action Items

1. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will distribute the web link to access the WDFW Fish and Shellfish Carcass Reporting Form, for Aquatic SWG use, review, and feedback regarding reporting White Sturgeon mortalities (Item VI-1).
2. WDFW will distribute a printable poster containing the quick response (QR) code to access the WDFW Fish and Shellfish Carcass Reporting Form, to post at local public river access areas (Item VI-1).
3. Anchor QEA, LLC (Anchor QEA) will distribute the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Aquatic SWG representation letter, update the Aquatic SWG email distribution lists, and coordinate Aquatic SWG extranet access for the new USFWS Aquatic SWG Technical and Policy representatives (Item VI-2). *(Note: the letter was distributed, and email lists were updated following the Aquatic SWG conference call on May 11, 2022, and granting extranet access is in process.)*
4. Douglas PUD will draft a Statement of Agreement that supports White Sturgeon spontaneous autopolyploidy (SAP) screening for the Wells White Sturgeon Supplementation Program and aligns with the current White Sturgeon stocking SOA (325 fish and expires in 2026)<sup>1</sup>, and acknowledges the Priest Rapids Fish Forum (PRFF) and Rocky Reach Fish Forum (RRFF) document titled, *Guidance for Evaluating Spontaneous Autopolyploidy in White Sturgeon Supplementation Programs* (White Sturgeon SAP Guidance Document), for review and further discussion (Item VI-6).

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<sup>1</sup> Titled, *Wells Reservoir White Sturgeon Supplementation 2023-2026*, approved by the Aquatic SWG on March 9, 2022.

5. The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CTCR) and Douglas PUD will coordinate on next steps regarding White Sturgeon SAP screening of brood year (BY) 2021 Wells White Sturgeon prior to release in June 2022 (Item VI-6).
6. The Aquatic SWG meeting on June 8, 2022, will be held by conference call (Item VII-1).

## II. Summary of Decisions

1. Aquatic SWG members present approved the *Annual Report Calendar Year 2021 Activities Under the Aquatic Settlement Agreement* (2021 Aquatic Settlement Agreement Annual Report), as revised, and appended *2021 Annual Report White Sturgeon Management Plan* (2021 White Sturgeon Management Plan Annual Report), as revised, *2021 Bull Trout Management Plan and Incidental Take Annual Report*, as revised, *2021 Annual Report Water Quality Management Plan* (2021 Water Quality Management Plan Annual Report) and appended *2021 Water Temperature Annual Report*, *Pacific Lamprey Management Plan 2021 Annual Report* (2021 Pacific Lamprey Management Plan Annual Report), as revised, *Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan 2021 Annual Report* (2021 Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan Annual Report), as revised, and *Resident Fish Management Plan 2021 Annual Report* (2021 Resident Fish Management Plan Annual Report), as revised. USFWS abstained because the newly designated USFWS Aquatic SWG Technical Representative (RD Nelle) had not reviewed these reports nor had the former representative provided comments (Item VI-4).
2. Aquatic SWG members present approved the study plan, *Wells Reservoir White Sturgeon Reproduction Assessment* (2022 White Sturgeon Reproduction Assessment Study Plan), as revised (Item VI-5).

## III. Agreements

1. Aquatic SWG members present supported the CTCR offer to conduct White Sturgeon SAP screening of BY 2021 Wells White Sturgeon prior to release in June 2022, then release all fish regardless of ploidy, but have Douglas PUD remove any 12N fish (i.e., 12 copies of each chromosome or irregular fish) from the BY 2021 releases that are subsequently encountered during White Sturgeon monitoring and evaluation sampling conducted in the Wells Reservoir (Item VI-6).

## IV. Review Items

1. There are no items that are currently available for review.

## **V. Documents Finalized**

1. There are no documents that have been recently finalized.

### Attachment A – List of Attendees

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Organization</b>
John Ferguson	Aquatic SWG Chairman	Anchor QEA, LLC
Kristi Geris	Administration/Technical Support	Anchor QEA, LLC
Andrew Gingerich	Aquatic SWG Technical Representative	Douglas PUD
Chas Kyger	Aquatic SWG Technical Alternate	Douglas PUD
John Rohrback	Aquatic SWG Technical Support	Douglas PUD
RD Nelle	Aquatic SWG Technical Representative	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Breean Zimmerman	Aquatic SWG Technical Representative	Washington State Department of Ecology
Patrick Verhey	Aquatic SWG Technical Representative	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Laura Heironimus	Aquatic SWG Technical Alternate	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ralph Lampman	Aquatic SWG Technical Representative	Yakama Nation
Jason McLellan*	Aquatic SWG Technical Representative	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Notes:

\* Left the conference call after Item VI-7.