



Conference Call Minutes

Aquatic Settlement Work Group

To: Aquatic SWG Parties

Date: July 13, 2022

From: John Ferguson, Chair, Anchor QEA, LLC

Re: Final Minutes of the June 8, 2022, Aquatic SWG Conference Call

The Aquatic Settlement Work Group (SWG) met by conference call on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:40 a.m. Attendees are listed in Attachment A of these conference call minutes.

I. Summary of Action Items

1. The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CTCR) will edit the updated *Statement of Agreement Regarding Wells Reservoir White Sturgeon Supplementation 2023-2026* (distributed June 3, 2022) for Douglas PUD review, and Douglas PUD will review the edits and provide additional edits, if needed, and distribute a revised Statement of Agreement (SOA) for discussion during the Aquatic SWG conference call on July 13, 2022 (Item VI-3). *(Note: Jason McLellan provided CTCR edits on June 21, 2022.)*
2. The CTCR will discuss internally Douglas PUD's plans for 2022 Pacific Lamprey translocation, including collection for the *Wells Dam 2022 Adult Lamprey Approach and Passage Study* (2022 Adult Pacific Lamprey Study) during the first 4-week trapping effort at Priest Rapids Dam, and potentially the second 4-week trapping effort pending coordination with the CTCR (Item VI-5). *(Note: Jason McLellan confirmed the CTCR supports that trapped Pacific Lamprey are to first be used to meet the sample size for the Douglas PUD 2022 Adult Pacific Lamprey Study [i.e., 510 fish] and once the sample size is achieved the remainder be translocated to the Okanogan River Basin in coordination with the CTCR, as distributed to the Aquatic SWG by McLellan following the Aquatic SWG conference call on June 8, 2022.)*
3. Douglas PUD will communicate to Chelan PUD plans for 2022 Pacific Lamprey translocation, including collection for the 2022 Adult Pacific Lamprey Study during the first 4-week trapping effort at Priest Rapids Dam, and potentially the second 4-week trapping effort pending discussions with the CTCR (Item VI-5). *(Note: John Rohrback provided this information to Bill Towey [Chelan PUD] on June 9, 2022.)*
4. Once the CTCR provides feedback on Douglas PUD's plans for 2022 Pacific Lamprey translocation (Action Item No. 3), Douglas PUD will coordinate with the Yakama Nation (YN) and Blue Leaf Environmental/LGL Limited (LGL) to solidify a start date for collection and

tagging, and will report back to the Aquatic SWG before the Aquatic SWG conference call on July 13, 2022 (Item VI-5). (Note: This coordination occurred, and John Rohrback provided an update on June 22, 2022, which was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris that same day.)

5. The Aquatic SWG meeting on July 13, 2022, will be held by conference call (Item VII-1).

II. Summary of Decisions

1. There were no decision items approved during today's conference call.

III. Agreements

1. There were no agreements discussed during today's conference call.

IV. Review Items

1. The updated *Statement of Agreement Regarding Wells Reservoir White Sturgeon Supplementation 2023-2026* was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris on June 3, 2022. The CTCR provided edits on June 21, 2022. Douglas PUD provided edits on July 12, 2022 (Item VI-3).

V. Documents Finalized

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

VI. Summary of Discussions

1. Welcome, Review Agenda, Meeting Minutes Approval, and Review of Action Items (John Ferguson):

John Ferguson welcomed the Aquatic SWG members (Attachment A). Ferguson asked for any additions or changes to the agenda. The following revisions were requested:

- Ferguson added Priest Rapids Fish Forum (PRFF), Rocky Reach Fish Forum (RRFF), and Aquatic SWG Pacific Lamprey Translocation Coordination – July 2022.
- Andrew Gingerich added Wells Dam bypass barrier removal.
- Ralph Lampman added an environmental DNA (eDNA) and bile acid sampling update.

The revised draft May 11, 2022, conference call minutes were reviewed. Kristi Geris said all edits and comments received from members of the Aquatic SWG were incorporated into the revised minutes. She also added distribution of the updated *Statement of Agreement Regarding Wells Reservoir White Sturgeon Supplementation 2023-2026*. Aquatic SWG members present approved the May 11, 2022, conference call minutes, as revised.

Action items from the Aquatic SWG conference call on May 11, 2022, are as follows
(Note: The following italicized item numbers correspond to agenda items from the May 11, 2022, meeting):

- *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).*

Laura Heironimus said this web link is included in the printable poster, which she already sent to John Rohrback for posting, but she will also forward this to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Aquatic SWG. (Note: Heironimus forwarded the flyer to Geris, which she distributed to the Aquatic SWG.)

- *WDFW will distribute a printable poster containing the quick response code to access the WDFW Fish and Shellfish Carcass Reporting Form, to post at local public river access areas (Item VI-1).*

Laura Heironimus already sent this poster to John Rohrback for posting, but she will also forward this to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Aquatic SWG. Rohrback said he also already provided this poster to Douglas PUD staff to post at boat ramps in the Wells Project.

- *Anchor QEA, LLC, will distribute the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Aquatic SWG representation designation 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).*

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.

- *Douglas PUD will draft an SOA that supports White Sturgeon spontaneous autopolyploidy (SAP) screening for the Wells White Sturgeon Supplementation Program, aligns with the current White Sturgeon stocking SOA (325 fish and expires in 2026), and acknowledges the PRFF and RRF 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).*

Andrew Gingerich provided this draft SOA, as discussed, on June 3, 2022, which Kristi Geris distributed to the Aquatic SWG that same day.

- *The 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).*

Because the CTCR's Coulter counter malfunctioned, SAP screening of BY 2021 Wells White Sturgeon was not carried out. BY 2021 White Sturgeon were released on May 25, 2022.

2. Coronavirus Disease 2019 Updates (John Ferguson):

John Ferguson asked if Aquatic SWG members had any new updates to share regarding coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). No new updates were shared. Ferguson and Andrew Gingerich suggested removing this as a recurring agenda item. Patrick Verhey indicated cases were surging in the region based on recent data and he is aware of several folks from their office that were infected, so the virus is still active in the local environment. Ferguson agreed and suggested that folks be careful and mask up. If Aquatic SWG members have updates on COVID-19 in the future, please add this to the agenda for the upcoming meeting.

3. White Sturgeon Spontaneous Autopolyploidy Screening SOA (Andrew Gingerich):

Andrew Gingerich said the updated *Statement of Agreement Regarding Wells Reservoir White Sturgeon Supplementation 2023-2026* was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris on June 3, 2022. Gingerich said, as discussed last month, the current Aquatic SWG-approved White Sturgeon SOA¹ was used as a framework for this updated SOA. Updates in the updated SOA are highlighted in yellow. The CTCR provided comments on June 6, 2022, which were distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Geris that same day. WDFW provided comments on June 7, 2022, which were distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Geris prior to the Aquatic SWG conference call on June 8, 2022. Gingerich said Douglas PUD has not yet fully reviewed these comments and is okay with deferring approval of the SOA to provide more time for review.

Jason McLellan said the CTCR appreciate Douglas PUD taking the first cut at this, and he offered to review CTCR comments. His first comment is regarding a sentence in the third paragraph of the *Statement*, as follows—

Unreleased counts will not subtract from release number goals or require makeup releases during the SOA period.

McLellan said he does not agree with this statement. Based on data to date, this should not be an issue, and he suggested striking the sentence. Gingerich said Douglas PUD's preference would be to revise the statement. If Douglas PUD needs to euthanize fish and there are no surplus fish on station, he does not want testing to count against the mitigation requirement. McLellan said there is no need for this statement because it is unlikely the rate of SAP will be $\pm 10\%$.² The CTCR do not believe screening a few extra fish is an onerous request. If there is a supply issue, it will be handled the same as in the past, on a case-by-case basis (e.g., BY 2018³). Gingerich said these are good points, but he would still like the

¹ Titled, *Wells Reservoir White Sturgeon Supplementation 2023-2026*, approved on March 9, 2022.

² This SOA proposes releasing 325 ($\pm 10\%$) White Sturgeon into the Wells Reservoir.

³ BY 2018 White Sturgeon suffered high mortality ultimately resulting in a shortfall of the 325-fish target, which was addressed by stocking additional BY 2019 White Sturgeon, as agreed upon by the Aquatic SWG.

opportunity to think about the realm of possibilities. Another consideration is that there is a second program on station now (Chelan PUD), and hatchery staff have requested to surplus fish earlier once there is confidence in the numbers and losses have declined. If this happens, fish are not quite large enough for SAP screening and staff will not know how many extra fish to rear. McLellan recalled that the hatchery typically holds onto 25 to 50 extra fish, anyway, to make sure mitigation targets are met. He asked about Douglas PUD's reluctance and said it comes across as not trusting the Aquatic SWG. Gingerich assured McLellan this is not about trust and there is a high probability there will be no issues. However, given the uncertainty, there may be a situation where 20% to 30% of the fish on station test positive, which puts Douglas PUD in a situation of not meeting the FERC obligation, and he is trying to find a way to provide more certainty regarding meeting the FERC obligation. McLellan said even if 20% tested positive, which would be high based on the data, this is only 32 fish. In past situations where losses were 80%, the Aquatic SWG agreed to make up the shortfall in subsequent years, and this was done with relative ease. Additionally, 32 fish falls within the range the hatchery already holds onto for insurance. McLellan said he may be making a big deal out of nothing, but it just seems this is an unnecessary statement. Gingerich said he also may be making a big deal out of nothing, but just needs more time to think about this. McLellan agreed and said the CTCR would be open to considering alternative language.

Gingerich said, regarding McLellan's edits to the next sentence in the third paragraph of the *Statement*—

Continued SAP testing ~~necessity after BY 2025~~ will be evaluated by the Aquatic SWG, after BY2025 releases within the context of taking into consideration available information about natural SAP rates in the wild, and the facility's likelihood to exacerbate endemic rates found in increase rates within the entire Wells population above that expected for wild populations, and the risks associated with the occurrence of SAP.

These are things Douglas PUD and the Aquatic SWG would likely do anyway, so he is unsure this language is needed in the SOA.

Douglas PUD is concerned about the proposed deletion of the final sentence in the third paragraph of the *Statement*—

If endemic rates are not available by the completion of the SOA and SAP rates have not been found to be more than 5% of the hatchery population SAP testing will be discontinued until endemic rates are available.

Without this sentence, there is no mechanism for an off-ramp. He acknowledged the uncertainties in the available scientific information, which makes this difficult, but deleting this sentence makes it even more unclear about what situation needs to occur so that Douglas PUD no longer needs to screen fish. McLellan said this is not what this SOA is about. The purpose of this SOA is to state that Douglas PUD will screen fish for the duration of the SOA. This last sentence in the *Statement* is asking the Aquatic SWG to agree to something outside of this SOA timeframe. He understands Douglas PUD's concern, but it needs to be clear that this is an agreement to do something for the duration of the SOA, and then discuss a path forward. The CTCR have a big issue with this last sentence.

Patrick Verhey agreed with McLellan, and noted the last sentence in the second paragraph of the *Statement*—

Aquatic SWG members can request reconsideration of this SOA at any time during the supplementation period.

Verhey said Laura Heironimus is drafting a White Sturgeon Management Plan to inform agencies of the State's position on White Sturgeon SAP, which is to implement an adaptive management approach to address the issue. Verhey agreed the last sentence in the third paragraph of the *Statement* is not needed. Regarding falling short of the supplementation goal, if this occurs, another SOA can be developed supporting making up the shortcoming in subsequent years. Heironimus agreed with Verhey's and McLellan's comments.

John Ferguson summarized that the third paragraph of the *Statement* could be reduced to three sentences: 1) test BY 2022 to BY 2025 fish; 2) positive fish will be euthanized; and 3) it is anticipated that production numbers will be met.

The Aquatic SWG reviewed edits to the *Background* of the SOA.

Heironimus said her edits included clarification that the *Guidance for Evaluating Spontaneous Autopolyploidy in White Sturgeon Supplementation Programs* (White Sturgeon SAP Guidance Document) was developed by multiple members of the PRFF and RRF, not just WDFW. Secondly, she suggested deleting the statement about co-managers working to understand the rate of SAP in wild populations because there is no guarantee there will be funding to do this work and she does not believe this is relevant to the SOA.

Gingerich said he disagrees. If there is no commitment from the co-managers to make progress on understanding the natural rate of SAP in wild populations, he does not see off-ramps or a likelihood to end screening. He understands funding constraints. However, as mentioned last month, Douglas PUD needs to understand what the off-ramps will be. Right

now, he is hearing "do not worry about the off-ramps," and he does not know how to take this back to policy staff. There is no comfort in a default that says, no more information will be collected and therefore continue screening indefinitely.

McLellan said he can add language to the *Background* that the CTCR are committed to evaluating rates of abnormal ploidy within hatchery and in wild populations that are a source for fish for the Douglas PUD program. Gingerich said this will be helpful. McLellan said, second, Douglas PUD also has the opportunity to evaluate this independent of the co-managers. Douglas PUD handles wild fish and can have those screened. This is still additional information. The CTCR will edit the updated *Statement of Agreement Regarding Wells Reservoir White Sturgeon Supplementation 2023-2026* (distributed June 3, 2022) for Douglas PUD review, and Douglas PUD will review the edits and provide additional edits, if needed, and distribute a revised SOA for discussion during the Aquatic SWG conference call on July 13, 2022. (Note: McLellan provided CTCR edits on June 21, 2022.)

Heironimus said White Sturgeon SAP will be addressed in the State's White Sturgeon Management Plan, which will contribute to further evaluating White Sturgeon SAP; however, she cannot commit that WDFW will have funding to conduct field work or lab studies. WDFW may be able to incorporate language in the *Background* to be clear about this. However, she still does not believe this is relevant for this SOA. Whatever information is in-hand in 2025 is what will be used to update this SOA at that time.

McLellan said there are other groups doing work on White Sturgeon SAP rates and risks, but he is not sure this includes looking at expected rates in nature in wild populations. That said, this body of work is ongoing and the body of information from this work in 4 years will be greater than what is available now.

Gingerich said he understands these comments. However, is there a situation or result that could show up in the next 4 years where testing is no longer required? If so, what would this be? McLellan said, if in Lake Roosevelt a substantial proportion of the known wild fish were screened and the rate is close to what has been observed in wild-caught larvae, one could make a strong argument there is no need to screen and remove abnormal ploidy fish. John Rohrback asked to define "close," because he thinks this rate is close now (of approximately 1,300 BY 2021 White Sturgeon, only one was a 12N fish). There are not many instances of abnormal ploidy wild-caught larvae. McLellan said, at this point it would have to be zero. If the rate in adults is not zero, then he suspects the number would probably be less than 1% or close to this value. Again, he thinks this is a discussion that occurs after conducting this 4-year evaluation and does not belong in this specific SOA.

Gingerich said one should understand Douglas PUD's discomfort with not having an off-ramp. He asked about including language along the lines of McLellan's example. If the background in adults is some value and the rate in wild-caught larvae is close, this would be an example where screening is no longer required. McLellan said he does not see where this fits in this SOA. The Aquatic SWG is agreeing to screen 325 fish during the term of this SOA. If more information is obtained, this will be considered at the end of the SOA. McLellan said he is surprised at the reticence of a risk-reducing measure for a 4-year period. There is nothing locking in Douglas PUD after this. He does not understand the strong reaction. Gingerich said when he and McLellan spoke last time, they discussed not doing things that are unnecessary. This should be more about technical value and setting precedence to do things at the technically viable level. McLellan thought he was clear that he thinks this is a reasonable request for the next few years until there are more data, and at that point, a reevaluation of the data might suggest screening is unnecessary. Gingerich said Douglas PUD needs more time to think about this, along with the additional language provided by the CTCR.

4. Brood Year 2021 White Sturgeon Release Update (Andrew Gingerich):

Andrew Gingerich summarized a BY 2021 White Sturgeon Release Update (Attachment B), which was provided by Chas Kyger on May 7, 2022, and distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris that same day.

Gingerich said BY 2021 White Sturgeon are the last releases of the 200-gram threshold (per the last White Sturgeon SOA⁴). The histogram in Attachment B shows the weight distribution of BY 2021. These fish are not as large as last year, but are close to the year before, as shown in Table 1 in the updated *Statement of Agreement Regarding Wells Reservoir White Sturgeon Supplementation 2023-2026*—

⁴ Titled, *Wells Reservoir White Sturgeon Supplementation 2018-2022*, approved by the Aquatic SWG on January 11, 2017, and distributed on January 12, 2017.

Table 1. Number and average weight of White Sturgeon at release in the Wells Reservoir BY2013- BY2021.

BROOD YEAR	RELEASE YEAR	2022 AGE	NUMBER RELEASED	WEIGHT AT RELEASE (G)
2013	2014	9	5044	166.5 (0.8)
2014	2015	8	5009	97.6 (0.5)
2015	2016	7	5289	147.0 (0.8)
2016	2017	6	5131	118.4 (0.7)
2017	2018	5	337	281.0 (2.9)
2018	2019	4	99	364.7 (13)
2019	2020	3	570	495.7 (4.9)
2020	2021	2	338	916.7 (10.8)
2021	2022	1	333	488.1 (5.6)

Gingerich said BY 2021 fish are a little smaller due to water heater issues, but the fish are still large and healthy. Length and weight measurements were collected within 1 or 2 days of release. Fish were released at Bridgeport Marina Park in coordination with the Bridgeport High School Advanced Placement Biology Class, as part of the Douglas PUD White Sturgeon Outreach Program.

Lastly, the CTCR offered, pro-bono, to screen fish for SAP alongside Douglas PUD while collecting final lengths and weights. On Sunday, May 22, 2022, Douglas PUD was notified by CTCR staff that the testing equipment was not functioning; therefore, fish screening did not take place. The previous plan was to screen the fish and remove positive fish post-release. Jason McLellan added that the CTCR notified Douglas PUD that the pump on the Coulter counter broke on Friday, May 20, 2022; receiving a replacement part would take 1 week; and the repair would be complete after Memorial Day (May 30, 2022). Ultimately, the CTCR sampled Chelan PUD's fish but not Douglas PUD's fish. Gingerich asked if all Chelan PUD fish have been screened. McLellan said yes. Out of a little more than 1,300 fish, there was one 12N fish.

Gingerich said he believes Chelan PUD fish will be stocked this week, and Wells Fish Hatchery staff will begin cleaning the facility and addressing the water heater issue.

John Ferguson asked if BY 2022 White Surgeon larval collection has been scheduled. McLellan said the river temperature at the U.S./Canada border is 10°C, which is 2 to 3 weeks behind schedule compared to an average year. Catch and delivery of larvae will probably be a little later this year. Also of note, Lake Roosevelt is not at full pool, and this year is the highest flow year since July 1997, which will present sampling challenges. He has not sampled at this river flow and elevation before. The log boom already blew out, so there will also be debris to deal with. One good aspect of conditions this year is that there might be natural recruitment.

5. Priest Rapids Fish Forum, Rocky Reach Fish Forum, and Aquatic SWG Pacific Lamprey Translocation Coordination – July 2022 (John Ferguson):

John Ferguson recalled that last year, the Aquatic SWG participated in a joint meeting with the PRFF and RRF on July 7, 2021, to discuss upcoming translocation and how to coordinate these efforts. There was agreement that fish collected during the first 4 weeks of trapping would go to Douglas PUD translocation above Wells Dam. After this, the plan was to convene a phone call to figure out whether the next 4 weeks of trapping go upstream or are released at Kirby Billingsley Hydro Park in East Wenatchee, Washington. At that time, there was also general agreement to convene another coordination call before translocation this year.

Ralph Lampman said one thing discussed within the PRFF is, this coordination was largely a request from Chelan PUD to be included in these discussions and decisions. Steve Hemstrom (former Chelan PUD Representative) was the main advocate for this. Bill Towey is the new Chelan PUD Representative, and Lampman is not certain where Towey stands on this topic. Convening a coordination call may depend on how much Chelan PUD wants to be involved.

Ferguson asked when the next fish forum meeting is scheduled to occur. Lampman said the PRFF and RRF both meet on July 6, 2022. Ferguson suggested raising this question then, ahead of the Aquatic SWG meeting on July 13, 2022, which could possibly include a joint portion if there is interest. Lampman said Tracy Hillman (PRFF and RRF Chairman) was going to contact Anchor QEA to discuss the need for a joint meeting. Ferguson said he has not yet heard from Hillman on this topic.

Patrick Verhey said his impression is that Grant PUD is not interested in a joint meeting because this is more of an Aquatic SWG topic, and possibly RRF topic, considering that Chelan PUD expressed concerns in the past. It seems if Chelan PUD wants to convene a joint meeting and the Aquatic SWG agrees, then these two forums should move forward with this without Grant PUD. Otherwise, there can be a discussion within the Aquatic SWG, if there are concerns about stocking. It sounds like the plan is for 4 weeks to go to Douglas PUD and the remaining goes to the CTCR for stocking. Does anyone have concerns with this?

Lampman said he prefers to have enough fish for the 2022 Adult Pacific Lamprey Study. If more study fish are needed beyond 4 weeks of trapping, he wants to hear from the CTCR on this. Verhey agreed the study has priority over translocation.

John Rohrback said Douglas PUD has an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with Grant PUD to collect fish for 4 weeks. All fish will be available for the study. He recalled the target sample sizes, as described in Table 2 of the 2022 Adult Pacific Lamprey Study—

Priority	Release Location	Tag Type		Subtotal
		Acoustic + PIT	PIT	
1	Rocky Reach Forebay	120		120
1	Daroga State Park	50		50
2	Rocky Reach Forebay		~240	~240
2	Daroga State Park		~100	~100
Total				510

The priority is to collect 170 fish that will be acoustic plus PIT-tagged. If 170 fish are not collected in 4 weeks, Douglas PUD hopes to achieve this through supplementation from Grant PUD's 4 weeks of trapping. If more than 170 fish are collected, these will go towards the PIT-only study fish. He believes there will be no problem collecting 170 fish. It is the target 340 PIT-only fish that are in question. Will Grant PUD's 4 weeks of trapping be released upstream of Wells Dam by the CTCR, or can these fish be used for the study, if needed?

Lampman said the YN would like to have the full number, including PIT-only fish, for the study. Andrew Gingerich said this is Douglas PUD's preference; however, making these decisions is difficult not being resource managers. If these plans conflict with CTCR ambitions, there may be a greater conversation needed. Otherwise, Douglas PUD plans to operate as proposed in the study plan.

Ferguson summarized that, per WDFW, Grant PUD does not want to get involved. The question for Towe is, does Chelan PUD have concerns about fish going above the Wenatchee River or not. The RRF will have these conversations on July 6, 2022, then the Aquatic SWG meets on July 13, 2022. Right now, there is a study plan, as approved by the Aquatic SWG, and a need to make sure everyone is on the same page for plans for 2022.

Verhey said it is also important to let Chelan PUD know about the CTCR's translocation plans to translocate fish above Wells Dam in the Okanogan River Basin. Ferguson asked if this is regarding the second 4-week period. Verhey said yes, Kirk Truscott (CTCR Anadromous

Division Program Manager) requested this during a PRFF meeting, but he cannot recall the number of fish requested. Jason McLellan said he can coordinate with Truscott to discuss Douglas PUD's plans for 2022 Pacific Lamprey translocation, including collection for the 2022 Adult Pacific Lamprey Study during the first 4-week trapping effort at Priest Rapids Dam, and potentially the second 4-week trapping effort pending coordination with the CTCR. *(Note: McLellan confirmed the CTCR supports that trapped Pacific Lamprey are to first be used to meet the sample size for the Douglas PUD 2022 Adult Pacific Lamprey Study [i.e., 510 fish] and once the sample size is achieved the remainder be translocated to the Okanogan River Basin in coordination with the CTCR, as distributed to the Aquatic SWG by McLellan following the Aquatic SWG conference call on June 8, 2022.)*

Gingerich said Douglas PUD will communicate their plans for 2022 Pacific Lamprey translocation to Chelan PUD, including collection for the 2022 Adult Pacific Lamprey Study during the first 4-week trapping effort at Priest Rapids Dam, and potentially the second 4-week trapping effort pending discussions with the CTCR. *(Note: Rohrback provided this information to Towey on June 9, 2022.)*

Lampman asked when the first week of trapping is scheduled to start. Rohrback said July 28, 2022, is the tentative start to acoustic tagging fish for release on July 29, 2022. Lampman said, so, trapping starts on Monday, July 25, 2022, then collection is on Thursday, July 28, 2022. This is late compared to past years in terms of starting. Typically, the peak migration is in early August and trapping should ideally start 4 weeks before the peak. There is a chance of missing the early fish, but this is somewhat of a guessing game.

Rohrback said July 25, 2022, was selected after reviewing past Douglas PUD translocation numbers, which suggested this date would provide the best chance of collecting 170 fish in a 4-week period. Douglas PUD has been coordinating with LGL about performing the surgeries (inserting acoustic tags), and the plan is to start on Thursday, July 28, 2022, and then perform surgeries every Thursday for the following 3 weeks. LGL is also aware that this date may move forward or back depending on the run numbers.

Lampman said timing depends on whether the goal is to maximize numbers of fish in a short period (in this case it makes sense to wait) or maximize numbers of fish overall (in which case it makes sense to start earlier). The YN prefers moving the start date 1 week earlier. Ultimately, this will benefit the CTCR if there is more coverage around the peak of the run.

Ferguson asked if changing the start date will require a modification to the ILA with Grant PUD. Rohrback said no, the ILA just says Douglas PUD will fund 4 weeks of trapping. Rohrback suggested that once the CTCR provides feedback on Douglas PUD's plans for 2022

Pacific Lamprey translocation, Douglas PUD will coordinate with the YN and LGL to solidify a start date for collection and tagging and will report back to the Aquatic SWG before the Aquatic SWG conference call on July 13, 2022. *(This coordination occurred, and Rohrback provided an update on June 22, 2022, which was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris that same day.)*

McLellan asked who funds the second 4-week period of trapping? Rohrback guessed Grant PUD, because it is Grant PUD's obligation to take fish to Kirby Billingsley Hydro Park. From there, it has either been Douglas PUD or the CTCR who take fish farther upriver. McLellan asked if Chelan PUD has an issue with this. Rohrback said there has been concern in the past about fish leap-frogging Chelan PUD projects and access to those tributaries (Wenatchee and Entiat rivers).

Lampman said when the peak reaches Bonneville Dam, it will take about 4 weeks for fish to reach Priest Rapids Dam. This will be a good time to start trapping, in general. Currently, there have been 1,200 adults counted at Bonneville Dam, so the run is starting. Additionally, the YN is willing to provide adults from the lower Columbia River to the CTCR to help bolster numbers in the Okanogan River Basin. The YN just provided some fish to the CTCR in mid-May for release. However, these fish were immature and may not spawn this year. McLellan asked about timing to receive fish from the lower Columbia River. Lampman said the YN will start collecting fish this week and collection will extend through September 2022, so providing fish could happen anytime within that period. Typically, the YN release fish in the Methow River Basin during August. When this occurs, additional fish can be handed off to the CTCR. Or, the YN can hold fish and pass them along next spring, as done this year.

6. Wells Dam Bypass Barrier Removal (Andrew Gingerich):

Andrew Gingerich said that this year, river flow at Wells Dam was below average in April and May. Snowpack in the Columbia River Basin, Canada, built up later and stayed longer than usual and river flow is now starting to pick up. Last week, on Thursday, June 2, 2022, the hydro forecast was 170,000 cubic feet per second (170 kcfs) and increasing. Therefore, Douglas PUD pulled the first set of bypass barriers from Spillway 8, per the 2022 Wells Bypass Operating Plan. The forecast is now 200 kcfs, plus side flow from the Okanogan and Methow rivers. Therefore, today, Douglas PUD is removing the second set of bypass barriers from Spillway 10. It is shaping up to be an interesting year because of these late precipitation events. The forecast is predicting above-average river flow in June, July, and into August.

7. Environmental DNA and Bile Acid Sampling Update (Ralph Lampman):

Ralph Lampman said he just received an email from Alicia Marrs (Coordinator for the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative). The funding for eDNA and bile acid sample processing,

which was supposed to be available now, did not come through. This was unexpected and sounds like a last-minute change. There is leftover funding for next year, and if the YN submits a proposal by next week, there is a good chance to secure that funding, which would be available in June 2023. The partners have already collected one full sample (summer and fall), and there were plans to collect another summer sample around the peak of the Pacific Lamprey run, including the YN collecting samples at Bonneville Dam here shortly. Lampman asked, however, does the Aquatic SWG support continuing collection of samples (summer and fall) to analyze when funding becomes available next year, or should collection be postponed until next year. For the Aquatic SWG, the downside of postponing is fall sampling for Wells Dam occurs in August and September, when discussions will be underway on future Pacific Lamprey studies and translocation. The YN prefers to continue with sample collection this summer so the samples can be analyzed as soon as funding is available (June 2023), and the results will be available for discussion on translocation moving forward.

John Ferguson asked if anyone is opposed to continuing sampling? Andrew Gingerich said Douglas PUD has no objections to this. Patrick Verhey said the same for WDFW. No other comments or objections were shared.

Lampman said he is also looking into a way to obtain a small amount of funding for sampling in fall 2022.

VII. Administration

1. Upcoming Meetings (John Ferguson):

The Aquatic SWG meeting on July 13, 2022, will be held by conference call.

Other upcoming meetings include August 10 and September 14, 2022 (location to be determined).

List of Attachments

Attachment A List of Attendees

Attachment B Brood Year 2021 White Sturgeon Release Update

Attachment A - Attendees

Name	Role	Organization
John Ferguson	Aquatic SWG Chairman	Anchor QEA, LLC
Kristi Geris	Administration/Technical Support	Anchor QEA, LLC
Andrew Gingerich	Aquatic SWG Technical Representative	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