**AGENDA**

Columbia River Pinnipeds: Review of 2015 and Plans for 2016

November 2, 2015 (10:00-16:00)

CRITFC Office, 700 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 1200

Portland, Oregon 97232

Sign-in with receptionist on 12th floor

Meeting in the Celilo Room on the 5th floor

Conference line: 1-503-326-7668

**Objective:** The objective of this meeting is to have the agencies that are engaged in the pinniped issue review data from 2015 and discuss plans for 2016.

**Brief introductions of all participants**

1. **Observation Program – January through May (USACE)**
	1. Brief update from FFU on 2015 data.
2. **Pinnipeds at Bonneville – August through December (USACE)**
	1. Stellers have been arriving at BON in August and are primarily consuming salmonids in the tailrace, not sturgeon as in the past. We are tracking the number of pinnipeds present during August through December. In 2015, we have observed a maximum of 28 SSL in one day. It is mainly repeat animals.
3. **Observation Program – Plans for 2016 (USACE)**
	1. The Corps plans to adjust observation effort in 2016 for the early part of the season.
		1. This stems from the lack of predation activity during January and February during the last two field seasons.
	2. The Corps will use a sampling design stratified by week.
	3. Two observers in January and February.
	4. Six observers in March, April and May (spring Chinook run).
		1. Observations will still cover all daylight hours, Monday through Friday. Observers will spend 50% of their work hours on predation observation and the other 50% will be dedicated to point counts, individual pinniped identification, and tracking predation by individual pinnipeds.
4. **Removal Program (ODFW & WDFW)**
	1. Brief update from the states.
	2. What is the general plan for 2016?
	3. Will the States pursue a CSL removal program after this authorization expires in 2016?
5. **Branding and Tagging (ODFW & WDFW)**
	1. Brief update from the states.
	2. What is the general plan for 2016?
	3. Will there be any SSL branding in 2016?
	4. Would it be possible to brand small SSL that are encountered while trapping CSL?
	5. Are there any other marking methods that can be used?
6. **Individual Identification of Pinnipeds at BON (USACE)**
	1. The Corps tracks individual pinnipeds based on brands and unique natural markings.
	2. This has been increasing difficult due to the large numbers of animals present in 2015.
	3. We present data on annual abundance of CSL and SSL, although it is a minimum abundance because it is based on our ability to identify animals as individuals.
	4. Branding is the best way to identify and track pinnipeds both within and across seasons.
	5. The lack of branding on SSL has curtailed our ability to track them.
		1. Is this concerning to the other agencies involved?
7. **Hazing (USDA & CRITFC)**
	1. Dam-based hazing will be the same as years past. March-May, 7 days/wk, 8 hrs/day.
	2. Brief update from CRITFC on boat-based hazing.
	3. Will there be boat-based hazing in 2016? How many days per week?
	4. Is USDA permitted to use rubber slugs instead of rubber buckshot? Rubber slugs are a common black bear deterrent.
	5. Any new hazing methods?
	6. Should pinnipeds be hazed off of Tower Island when the traps are not deployed? For example, SSL can be hazed off of Tower Island in March before the traps are set out.
8. **Bonneville Dam Security (USACE)**
	1. Protestors now know that CSL are transported through the navlock into the forbay for removal purposes.
	2. Protestors now know the location of the building where CSL are brought to be euthanized.
	3. Is the current security configuration adequate?
9. **Bonneville Project Support**
	1. Is the dock downstream of the navigation lock sufficient for those using it?
	2. Does anyone foresee a need for crane support in 2016?
10. **Pinnipeds above Bonneville (CRITFC, ODFW & WDFW)**
	1. Brief update from CRITFC.
	2. Brief update from the States.
	3. Any plan of action beyond what is being done now?
	4. Should a trap regularly be left in the forebay when not being used in the tailrace?
11. **Presentation from Zac Schakner (UCLA)**
	1. Title: Social transmission drives CSL foraging of endangered salmon: assessing the impact of lethal removal using epidemiological models
12. **California Sea Lion Accelerometer Tag Data (ODFW and CRITFC)**
	1. Present preliminary data from 2015 (Bryan Wright).
	2. Plans for 2016?
13. **Willamette River Pinnipeds (ODFW)**
	1. Brief update from ODFW.
	2. Plan for 2016?
14. **Supplementation of USACE Observation Program**
	1. Are other agencies willing to supplement the Corps’ observation program? For example, a person with a quality camera could take pictures to document the presence of branded pinnipeds. These pictures could be handed over to FFU for processing.
	2. ODFW mentioned that game cameras could be mounted to observe the traps.
15. **Update on Legal Issues (Group)**
	1. H.R. 564: Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act was referred to committee on January 27, 2015.
	2. Other legal issues?