Notes for Summer Steelhead Work Group 15 February 2018

In attendance:

Craig Busack, NMFS
Ryan Couture, ODFW
Kevin Goodson, ODFW
Dave Jepson, ODFW
Marc Johnson, ODFW
Elise Kelly, ODFW
Lance Kruzic, NMFS
Jeremy Romer, ODFW
Andy Traylor, USACE
Ricardo Walker, USACE
Brian Wolfer, ODFW
Jeff Ziller, ODFW

1. Lance recapped the RPAs and completion status covered at the June meeting. He noted that there has been a wealth of information collected since 2008. A multitude of M&E has been conducted that has and will inform managers about the impacts of the summer steelhead program, including a plethora of genetic work.
2. Marc Johnson gave a presentation summarizing the past decade's worth of genetic studies. Much of Marc's particular work comes from sampling juvenile steelhead collected at Willamette Falls, and analyzing 15 microsatellite loci. This approach has illuminated many unknowns regarding the number of distinct genetic groups of *O. mykiss* present in the UWR, and the interactions between these groups in various geographical regions. Although the method of interrogating 15 microsatellite loci has answered many questions, it appears that when the data is utilized in the available software it cannot address the questions related to the time frame upon which hybridization occurs. When utilized with the available software, the current data outrun the predicative ability necessary to accurately address whether introgressive hybridization is happening currently (actively producing F1s) or a lingering, legacy signal (BC1s and/or BC2s).

   Marc reported that given the current constraints, results show low predictive confidence in identifying a hybrid as a particular type (F1, F2, BC1 or BC2). It may be possible to approach this question using a different method of genetic analysis (likely SNPs).

3. After a short break, Lance recapped the current coverage status for the summer steelhead program. Lance stated that the program is currently covered under BiOp, but a need exists for updating the HGMP to reflect latest information and current program. All of the agencies agreed in June, 2017 to update the HGMP to do this. NMFS would like ODFW and the USACE to formally submit an updated summer steelhead HGMP as soon as possible (by mid-March) for inclusion in the hatchery biological opinion currently being drafted by NMFS. This BiOp will cover the 4 spring Chinook HGMPs submitted last year, and if the steelhead HGMP is submitted soon, the BiOp will also be able to evaluate any recent changes to the Willamette summer steelhead program. Lance anticipated that the BiOp would be completed by June. NEPA scoping

and public review of the Chinook HGMPs occurred in January 2017. The draft EIS, covering Chinook and steelhead programs, is expected to be released for public comment this spring. If NMFS does not receive an updated steelhead HGMP from the co-managers soon, NMFS will evaluate the existing program, as they know it, in the BiOp with the Chinook programs.

4. In the submitted summer steelhead HGMP, Lance would like to see the summer steelhead-related RPAs tabulated with actions completed to address each. These RPAs are: 6.1.6 (Volitional release), 6.1.7 (Recycling), 6.1.8 (Production change), 6.1.9 (General management actions), and 9.5.2 (Monitoring and evaluation). A similar table was included in each of the spring Chinook HGMPs.
5. NMFS needs the HGMP submitted by mid-March. If NMFS does not receive the HGMP at that time, NMFS will evaluate the steelhead program as it currently exists in the BiOp currently being drafted. Much discussion occurred as to whether or not this timeframe would be possible. ODFW and the USACE agreed to set up several meetings to immediately identify any major issues with the current summer steelhead draft HGMP. If substantive issues do not exist or can be rectified by mid-March it may be possible to submit the proposed action to NMFS for consultation while editorial changes to the HGMP are finalized.