Clearwater River Spring Run Chinook Salmon

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Clearwater Fish Hatchery and Satellites



Clearwater Hatchery



Powell Satellite Facility



Crooked River Satellite Facility

Completed 1989 Adult Trapping – no holding Acclimation Raceways 15 km upstream Water Source –Crooked River



Red River Satellite Facility

Built in 1976, updated in 1986 Adult Trapping /Spawning Acclimation Pond Water Source –S.F. Red River



Program Background Goals and Objectives

- Mitigation Goals
 - Adult Return- 11,900 above Lower Granite (47,600 down river harvest)
 - Modeled Smolt Release- 1.4 million (0.87 SAR- post downriver harvest)
 - Red River (700,000),
 - Crooked River (335,000)
 - Powell (335,000)
 - Current smolt release of 2.3 million full term smolts and 0.3 million parr
 - Includes releases at Clear Creek, and Lower and upper Selway River

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Management Objectives

- Restore and maintain natural populations in the Clearwater River
- Meet LSRCP adult mitigation objectives
- Restore and maintain recreational and tribal fisheries
- Minimize impact of hatchery program on the natural population

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• M & E Objectives

- Monitor production, productivity and life history characteristics of hatchery and natural populations
- Evaluate broodstock and rearing strategies to increase adult returns
- Cooperative effort between state, tribal and federal managers.

Program Background Clearwater River Natural Populations

- Lewiston Dam 1927 (4 mi us of mouth)- virtual elimination of natural populations
 - Passage improvements in the 40s and 60s, removed in 1973
- Reintroduction efforts began in the 50s and ramped up in the 70s (spring Chinook)
 - Primarily Rapid River stock but included Dworshak, Kooskia, Carson and Cowlitz
- Natural populations of spring Chinook salmon in the Clearwater River not part of the Snake River spring/summer ESU.

Program Background

Hatchery Broodstock and Release Strategy

Broodstock History/Strategy

- Initially Rapid River spring Chinook
- Since mid-90s maintained S.F. Clearwater and Powell locally adapted stocks
 - Have back filled between these two and have used Rapid River
- De facto integration/supplementation until 1995 (mass marking began BY91)
- 1995-2010 segregated brood with supplementation research
- Since 2002 all broodstock has been segregated
- Supplementation releases in Selway River

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Current Release Strategy

- 2,300,000 full term smolts and 300,000 parr
- Reared on Dworshak Reservoir water and released directly or with brief acclimation.

Hatchery Production and Survival Data

- Broodstock Performance
- In-hatchery survival
- Juvenile releases and survival
- Adult production and productivity



Hatchery Production and Survival Data Broodstock Performance



Brood Year

Hatchery Production and Survival Data In-Hatchery Survival



Brood Year

Hatchery Production and Survival Data Juvenile Releases



Hatchery Production and Survival Data Juvenile Survival to LGD (Powell)



Hatchery Production and Survival Data Juvenile Survival to LGD (South Fork Clearwater)



Brood Year

Hatchery Production and Survival Data Chinook Salmon – Total Adults Produced



Hatchery Production and Survival Data Chinook Salmon – Lower Granite Dam



Hatchery Production and Survival Data Smolt to Adult Survival (SAS)



Brood Year

Hatchery Production and Survival Data Smolt to Adult Return (SAR)



Brood Year

Brood Year

Life History Trends and comparison to natural population

- Run Timing
- Age Composition
- Length at Age
- Spawn Timing
- Fecundity





Life History Adult Run Timing



Life History Age Composition (Powell)



Life History Age Composition (South Fork Clearwater)



Life History Age Composition (South Fork Clearwater)



Life History Length at Age (Powell)

Hatchery Males



Life History Length at Age (South Fork Clearwater)



Life History Length at Age (South Fork Clearwater)



Life History Spawn Timing



Life History Fecundity



Brood Year

Harvest and Escapement

- Catch and Effort
- Harvest Opportunity
- Strays
- Disposition of Escapement



Harvest- by Return Year



Harvest- by Return Year







Escapement Disposition of fish at weir

- Collaboration between Idaho and tribes to determine beneficial use of escapement
 - Broodstock needs and spawning escapement above weir
 - Maximize harvest opportunity
 - Subsistence use
 - Outplants for natural spawning

Disease / Pathology

- BKD has been an issue in the past but has been significantly reduced
- Minor issues with Ich early on (none since 2000)
- Sunburn- an emerging issue??
- No significant reoccurring disease issues

Program Summary

- Consistent high survival during hatchery culture
- Poor survival of subyearling releases
- Highly variable post-release survival
- Upswing in post release survival since 1996
- Have never met Project Area mitigation goal
- No distinct trends in life history characteristics
- Synchrony between hatchery- and natural-origin fish
- Since 2000 significant rebuilding of recreational and tribal fisheries
- Low observed stray rates
- Disease has not been a significant issue

M&E Outlook

 Continued monitoring of hatchery production and productivity measures

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- PIT Tagging

- Estimating adult survival
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- Parental Based Tagging (PBT)

- Catch contribution
- Stock Identification
- Heritability/ Family Effects

M&E Outlook Natural Population Monitoring

Continue above/below weir monitoring

M&E Outlook Natural Population Monitoring

- Continue above/below weir monitoring
- Redd counts/ carcass surveys
- Juvenile Trapping and PIT Tagging
- In-stream PIT arrays
- Representative PIT tagging adults at Lower Granite Dam
- Genetic Stock ID at Lower Granite

Moving Forward

- The Clearwater Fish Hatchery program will focus on meeting LSRCP mitigation objectives
 - Have initiated development of summer run program in SF Clearwater and Selway rivers
 - Expand harvest opportunity
 - Improved survival ??
- Continue to mitigate for lost sport and tribal fishing opportunity
- Continued coordination between state and tribal and federal managers

Questions?

Put it all Together

Smolt to Adult Survival Rate

