

## **West Coast GSI Collaboration Conference Call Summary**

2/28/2008 2:30 – 4:00 PM

Present: Jim Anderson, Michael Banks, Renee Bellinger, Scott Blankenship, Lisa Borgerson, Rick Brown, Barbara Emley, Jeff Feldner, Nancy Fitzpatrick, Kathy Fosmark, Carlos Garza, David Goldenberg, Allen Grover, Robert Kope, Pete Lawson, Michael Mohr, Mike O'Farrell, Eric Schindler and David Teel.

### **OVERVIEW**

Nineteen members of the West Coast GSI Collaboration met on 2/28/08 for a 1 ½ hour conference call to discuss project ideas for the West Coast GSI Salmon Collaboration given project low abundance of California Central Valley and Klamath stocks. Other topics included updates on ocean abundance projections, funding, and committee organization and structure. Interim Committee Chairs were appointed and Renee Bellinger will work as Coordinator for the Collaboration. Following the West Coast GSI Oversight Committee conference call was a discussion of 2008 at-sea research. Strategies to request sampling impacts from the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) at the March meeting were developed. Several members of the West Coast GSI Collaboration will sit in on the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) to answer questions and craft proposals. Proposing a range of options to the PFMC, from the most impacts we think we would want to the least, was selected as a reasonable strategy.

### **Ocean Abundance Projections (Allen Grover)**

Klamath River fall run met the management goals for 2007, however overall numbers were low and jack returns were the lowest on record. California Central Valley Chinook failed to meet management goals for 2007. The count of jacks in the Central Valley for 2007 was a record low; the lowest two years on records are now back-to-back. Central Valley fall and Klamath fall were projected to have a weak age-three classes. The age-four class of Central Valley fall was projected to be weak; however the Klamath fall was projected to be strong. It is likely that the 2008 season will be reduced from 2007.

### **Funding (Nancy & David)**

Funding from Klamath disaster relief for Oregon and California GSI can be used over five years. Oregon has \$800-900k available; Project CROOS used \$98k in 2007. Oregon needs to build a budget for Nancy to submit to Randy Fisher. The California Salmon Council has recommended to California Department of Fish and Game that they concur with the request that the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) set aside 1.5 million for GSI work to be conducted in 2008.

The Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program was received favorably and has a few more steps to go through before being awarded. The S-K grant timeline is 18 months.

### **Appropriations:**

Oregon received FY08 Appropriations for \$446,500. Nancy Fitzpatrick will check with Jennifer Wagner and Fritz Graham to determine the next step to receive the funds and the time over which it can be spent.

A “joint” appropriations request for \$7 million for FY09 was submitted to Washington, Oregon and California Legislators by Washington’s Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Oregon Salmon Commission, and the California Salmon Council.

**Action Item:** Nancy Fitzpatrick check with legislative staffers to determine next steps to receive FY08 appropriations for Oregon’s at-sea research.

### **Ideas for West Coast Salmon GSI Projects**

Given low returns for 2007 and potentially beyond, the West Coast Salmon GSI Collaboration discussed sampling strategies and alternative projects.

Worst to best-case scenarios for the 2008 fishing season were identified:

1. No fishing or sampling allowed
2. Some allocation for non-retention fishing
3. Limited sampling season with commercial/recreational fishing only (no EFP)
4. Limited sampling season with combination of non-retention sampling (EFP) plus sampling during commercial and recreational harvest.

Strategies to decrease impacts were discussed. Impact for hook-and-release is currently estimated at 30% mortality and it is not likely that we can decrease this number in terms of impact calculations. Three strategies were proposed to minimize mortality for fishes: landing with soft nets; use of resuscitation boxes; and using a cover for the measurement box while taking scales to minimize handling stress.

Project Ideas:

1. Developing data-logger technology
2. Focused Fishery – exploring Pt. Reyes line
3. Marking fish with tags indicating reward for return to study the distribution of stocks

### **Committees (Nancy/David)**

The importance of having Committee Chairs to ensure tasks are on target and to communicate progress with the Coordinator was identified. Volunteers to act as Interim chairs were charged with keeping things moving until the Committees can convene and elect a chair.

Concerns were expressed over Committees being “too large”. It was decided that an individual’s participation may vary depending on the relevance of a topic being discussed. The Committee Chair would provide key updates to the committee members.

Interim Committee Chairs:

Genetics – Carlos Garza  
Applications to Fisheries Management – Pete Lawson  
Communications – Nancy Fitzpatrick and David Goldenberg  
2008 at-sea sampling and methodology committee – Gil Sylvia

## **Coordinator (Nancy)**

Renee Bellinger has been hired as the Collaboration Coordinator. She will work with Committee Chairs to develop agendas for meetings and to communicate committee progress to the West Coast GSI Collaboration. David Goldenberg contacted Randy Fisher, PSMFC, who is in agreement that the Coordinator position can be funded with disaster funds. The Oregon Salmon Commission will transfer funds to Oregon State University's Agriculture Research Foundation to fund this position.

## **Next Meeting (San Francisco):**

Tuesday April 15<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am to 4:00 pm (exact end time and location TBD)

### West Coast GSI Salmon Collaboration Meeting

Two Committees will meet on Monday, April 14th from 1:00 – 5:00.

1. 2008 At-sea Sampling Methodology Committee  
Purpose: to develop sampling methodologies applicable to the 2008 fishing season and to prepare a draft sampling methodology strategy to present to the Collaboration on 4/15.
2. Communications Committee  
Purpose: develop strategy to communicate to the benefactors of the project. Present draft strategy to the Collaboration on 4/15.

A block of rooms in a San Francisco Hotel (close to the airport) is being negotiated; Renee will update the group when more information is available.

## **2008 At-Sea Projects "Sampling Alternatives" to Present at March PFMC Meeting**

The West Coast GSI Collaboration Conference call was followed by a discussion of sampling alternatives to present at the March Council Meeting.

Fishermen will be meeting on 3/5 and 3/6 in California and Oregon respectively. Duncan MacLean, Jeff Feldner, and Nancy Fitzpatrick will lead discussions to determine the amount of impacts fishermen would be willing to allocate to GSI work. Duncan will get numbers together to guide discussion at the PFMC meeting (March 9-15). Duncan, Jeff, Pete and Jim will sit in on the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) to answer questions and to craft proposals. Preparing a formal presentation was discussed and it was decided that it would probably not be necessary.

SAS Agenda (update from Jim Anderson, 3/3/08)

Duncan MacLean spoke with Chuck Tracy regarding the SAS agenda. Chuck said that they can place GSI sampling on the agenda on Monday, 3/10/2008, just after lunch. Jim Anderson will be present at the SAS committee meeting in the AM.

Proposing a range of options, from the most impacts we think we would want to the least, was the recommended strategy agreed upon by the group.

Closed – hook and release

We will need an EFP to sample areas during closed times

Sampling where we have already sampled was identified as a priority.

The 2008 At-sea Sampling Methodology Committee agreed that sampling in 2008 would not commence until at least May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Submitted respectfully by Renee Bellinger