



Nez Perce Tribe

Department of Fisheries Resources Management



Administration • Enforcement • Habitat/Watershed • Harvest • Production • Research • Resident Fish
RESEARCH DIVISION

P.O. Box 365 • Lapwai, Idaho 83540

Phone: (208) 843-7145 • Fax: (208) 843-9184

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To: Mr. Scott Marshall, USFWS
Cc: D. Johnson, J. Hesse, E. Larson, B. Johnson, D. Statler, B. Young, J. Harbeck, B. Michaels, A. Spalding (NPT); T. Froscher, M. Anderson (USFWS)
From: Jason Vogel, Nez Perce Tribe
Subject: Nez Perce Tribe LSRCF Quarterly Activity Report for October - December 2006

Project Administration (Activities listed below attended and completed by Jason Vogel unless denoted otherwise)

- Attended and completed Natural Resources Leadership Project #4 put on by Progress Associates sponsored by Michigan State University December 4-8; White Cloud, MI
- Attended DFRM Ad Hoc meetings with the purpose of developing the DFRM Strategic Management Plan. Meeting Dates October 3, 19, 31, November 9, 16, 30
- All research staff attended Research Division Retreat on December 12, 2006 and all fisheries staff attended Department of Fisheries Resources Management Retreat December 13-14, 2006
- Staff attended Northeast Oregon Pre- Annual Operation Plan on December 19, 2006
- Brian Michaels and Jason Vogel attended an expert panel workshop sponsored by Save our Salmon in Portland on December 8-9, 2006
- Completed final and received final signatures and approvals for LSRCF M&E, O&M, and Harvest Fiscal Year 2007 Contract
- Finalized and received final subcontract signatures for land lease with McClaran Ranch Inc. for implementation of juvenile and adult steelhead and Chinook studies on the Imnaha River and tributaries

Field Activities and Data Collections

Fall trapping on the Imnaha River began October 4, 2006 and ended on November 29, 2006. LSRCP and SMP personnel fished the trap for 1261.5 hours during October through November. A storm event occurred on November 7th and 8th raised the river to 738 cfs which caused a log to hit and sink the 7 foot screw trap. Crews dropped back the trap, replaced a bent A frame, and patched a hole in the cone. The trap was not fishing for 40.5 hours during this period. For the two months fished, we caught 4,060 (PIT-tagged 3,951) natural Chinook and 202 (PIT-tagged 1) natural steelhead. Table 1 has the daily catch and tagging of target species from October through November. Table 2 illustrates the sample size (n), average fork length, weight, and condition factor (K) with standard deviation for all the target species.

There were a total of 64 natural Chinook mortalities (9 were trap efficiency recap trapping mortalities and three of these were eaten by bull trout) associated with screw trapping during the fall quarter. One natural Chinook mortality was associated with tagging, one with handling, and two were DOA (Dead On Arrival) and the rest were trapping mortalities. Thirty nine of these natural Chinook mortalities occurred on October 30th when the cone was plugged with debris.

The incidental catch during the fall quarter totaled 1,884 fish. It was comprised of five families of fish: Salmonidae (86.0 %), Castomidae (8.7 %), Cyprinidae (4.0 %), Centrarchidae (1.3 %), and Petromyzotidae (0.1 %). The catch of Salmonidae comprised of 796 rainbow trout, 573 mountain whitefish, 180 juvenile bull trout, 50 adult bull trout, 18 unmeasured bull trout, 2 adult natural jack fall Chinook, and 1 adult hatchery jack fall Chinook. The juvenile rainbow trout were resident fish biased on morphological characteristics and are not a subset of the natural steelhead catch. Juvenile bull trout were classified as fish less than a fork length of 300 mm and adult bull trout are more than 300 mm. A total of 147 unidentified sucker species, 15 bridge lip suckers, and 2 large scale suckers accounted for the catch of Castomidae. Fifty nine northern pike minnow, 15 redbreast shiner, and 3 chiselmouths represented the Cyprinidae family. One Pacific lamprey ammocoete comprised the catch of the Petromyzotidae family.

Table 1. Fall quarter summary of target catch at the Imnaha River rkm 7 smolt trap (October 4 through November 29).

END DATE	Hours Fished	Fish Caught		Fish Tagged	
		Natural Chinook	Natural Steelhead	Natural Chinook	Natural Steelhead
10/05/06	13.00	0	0	0	0
10/06/06	24.00	0	0	0	0
10/07/06	24.00	0	0	0	0
10/08/06	24.00	0	0	0	0
10/09/06	24.00	0	0	0	0
10/10/06	24.00	7	0	6	0
10/11/06	24.00	2	0	2	0
10/12/06	27.00	17	7	17	0
10/13/06	23.00	27	8	26	0
10/14/06	25.00	61	5	60	0
10/15/06	23.00	17	2	16	0
10/16/06	24.00	45	6	45	0

Nez Perce Tribe Hatchery Evaluations, Harvest, and O&M 4th Quarter Progress Report

END DATE	Hours Fished	Fish Caught		Fish Tagged	
		Natural Chinook	Natural Steelhead	Natural Chinook	Natural Steelhead
10/17/06	24.25	46	30	46	0
10/18/06	23.75	63	12	61	0
10/19/06	16.50	88	10	87	0
10/20/06	23.00	103	5	101	0
10/21/06	21.00	137	10	135	0
10/22/06	26.50	118	21	118	0
10/23/06	24.00	108	28	107	0
10/24/06	23.00	56	18	56	0
10/25/06	22.50	113	7	110	0
10/26/06	25.75	87	0	85	0
10/27/06	23.75	62	0	62	0
10/28/06	24.00	85	0	85	0
10/29/06	23.75	62	0	60	0
10/30/06	24.75	110	0	69	0
10/31/06	23.50	20	0	20	0
11/01/06	24.00	9	0	9	0
11/02/06	24.00	10	4	10	0
11/03/06	24.00	16	6	16	0
11/04/06	24.50	5	2	5	0
11/05/06	23.00	2	2	2	0
11/06/06	24.50	7	1	7	0
11/07/06	22.00	286	8	281	0
11/08/06	17.50	338	5	314	0
11/09/06	0.00	0	0	0	0
11/10/06	0.00	0	0	0	0
11/11/06	26.50	269	0	268	0
11/12/06	22.00	147	1	146	0
11/13/06	19.00	145	1	141	0
11/14/06	24.00	150	0	148	0
11/15/06	23.00	156	0	156	0
11/16/06	25.00	154	0	153	0
11/17/06	24.00	194	0	189	0
11/18/06	24.00	149	0	149	0
11/19/06	24.00	73	0	73	0
11/20/06	24.50	214	0	214	0
11/21/06	23.00	135	0	133	0
11/22/06	23.50	45	0	45	0
11/23/06	24.00	56	0	53	0
11/24/06	23.00	27	0	27	0
11/25/06	23.50	6	1	5	0
11/26/06	24.50	5	0	5	0
11/27/06	23.50	21	0	21	0
11/28/06	24.50	5	1	5	1
11/29/06	23.50	2	1	2	0
Totals	1261.50	4060	202	3951	1

Table 2. Biological characteristics of target catch during October 4 through November 29, 2006 of fish captured in the Imnaha rotary screw trap.

	Natural Chinook	Natural Steelhead
Fork Length (n)	4021	190
Avg Fork Length (mm)	82.7	188.1
Max Fork Length (mm)	119	278
Min Fork Length (mm)	48	88
StdDev Fork Length (mm)	10.4	24.9
Weight (n)	3970	188
Avg Weight (g)	6.6	74.0
Max Weight (g)	20.2	168.1
Min Weight (g)	1.4	6.5
StdDev Weight (g)	2.5	28.3
K (n)	3966	188
Avg K	1.13	1.06
Max K	1.79	1.65
Min K	0.58	0.55
StdDev K	0.11	0.11

Progress and Future Activities

Reports

- Currently working on a Lower Snake River Compensation Plan Hatchery Evaluation Studies Annual Project Report 1996-2005. This report will include adult activities in Upper Big Creek and in South Fork Salmon River (with associated tributaries) for a 10 year period, (Authors: Jason Vogel, Paul Kucera, Mike Blenden, and Jay Hesse)
- Neal Espinosa and Brian Michaels have been working on the SMP 2005 BPA annual report. This report should be completed, including internal review, by March 1st

Planned Activities

- Attend final Northeast Oregon Annual Operation Plan meeting January 9, 2007 in LaGrande Oregon
- Attend Clearwater Pre Annual Operation Plan meeting January 17, 2007 in Orofino, Idaho and final meeting on February 5, 2007
- Attend Salmon River Annual Operation Plan meeting in early February in Boise or Jerome Idaho.
- The LSRCP and SMP crews will attend a tour of the Granite Dam smolt monitoring facility on Jan. 31, 2007. This tour opportunity has been provided through the Nez Perce Tribe Juvenile Tech Team (Jason Vogel is Chair)

- Coordination Meeting with LSRCP and SMP scheduled January 31-Feb 1, 2007
- The Enterprise LSRCP and SMP crews will begin spring trapping on March 1, 2007 on the Imnaha River
- The Enterprise and SMP crews will begin adult steelhead trapping and marking program on Lightning and Cow Creeks (tributaries of Imnaha River) in early March 2007
- Installation of the resistivity weir on Lightning Creek and this will include a site visit from Instream Fisheries Research Inc. to install new style panels in the stream for better detection and more resilient to higher water flows
- The LSRCP staffs (Neal, Cameron and Mike) have prepared a poster for the Oregon and Idaho AFS meetings and Annual LSRCP meeting in spring of 2007
- Continue with data summary and analysis of LSRCP data for inclusion in annual reports
- Continue to participate in the development of Nez Perce Tribe Department of Fisheries Resources Management strategic management plan process
- Continue to coordinate the NPT Juvenile Technical Team
- Complete process for approval to use the Separation by Code system in the Snake and Columbia River Dams
- Submit/finalize subcontract agreement with Instream Fisheries Research Inc. for services related to the adult steelhead resistivity weir on Lightning Creek, a tributary to the Imnaha River
- NPT Operations & Maintenance will transport excess adults from Little Sheep Trap for outplanting into Big Sheep Creek