



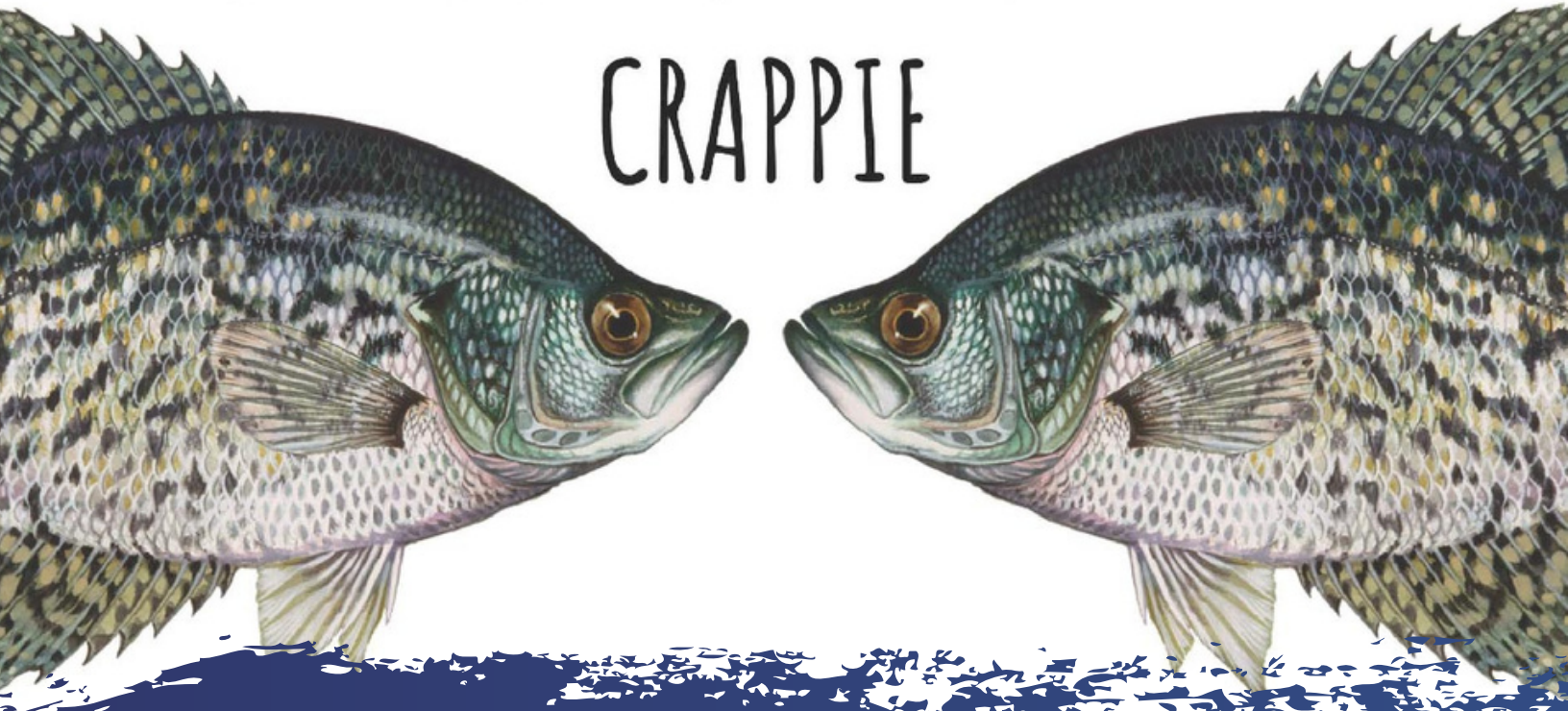
LOWER SNAKE RIVER COMPENSATION PLAN

FISH FOR THE FUTURE



MATT HOW GRAPHIC - USFWS

HOPE YOUR HOLIDAYS AREN'T CRAPPIE



A FISHY SEASON'S GREETINGS

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN LSRCP

DECEMBER 2022

Lower Snake River Compensation Plan

FISH FOR THE FUTURE



COORDINATOR'S CORNER

It was great seeing many of you in Boise this past month for the Chinook Symposium. A huge thank-you to all the presenters and Rod Engle for organizing the event with Erik Merrill from the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.

The presentations were excellent and reviewed a ton of information we've learned over the past decade of rearing and releasing Chinook smolts into the Snake River. We've had some successes, but still short of that 58,700 into the project area.

The good news is that the program has been adapting and changing over the past decade and current smolt release numbers and SARs look pretty good in most of our basins. That isn't the case for the Salmon Basin, where we are still woefully (16,000+) short of our adult mitigation targets.

We did ask all of you to think about what the next decade looks like. To summarize, you asked for adequate resources to meet the Chinook targets. Seems like a reasonable ask to me. You also asked to identify the top research needs for the program so we could keep addressing those. You'll see LSRCP stand up a committee to work on that task before the spring LSRCP meeting (Date and location still TBD).

On a personal note, my daughters got out on some quail hunting and I got an invite to ice climb at the Chinook Symposium hockey game night out. Quail hunting was a success - but I decided to be a spectator at southern Idaho ice climbing - maybe next time!

Stay safe and have fun out there!

-Nate

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2023...

The best is yet to come....
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EMY, LAVA (THE DOG) AND HARLEY WIESE

CHINOOK SYMPOSIUM

AFTER-HOURS STEELHEADS HOCKEY GAME SHENANIGANS

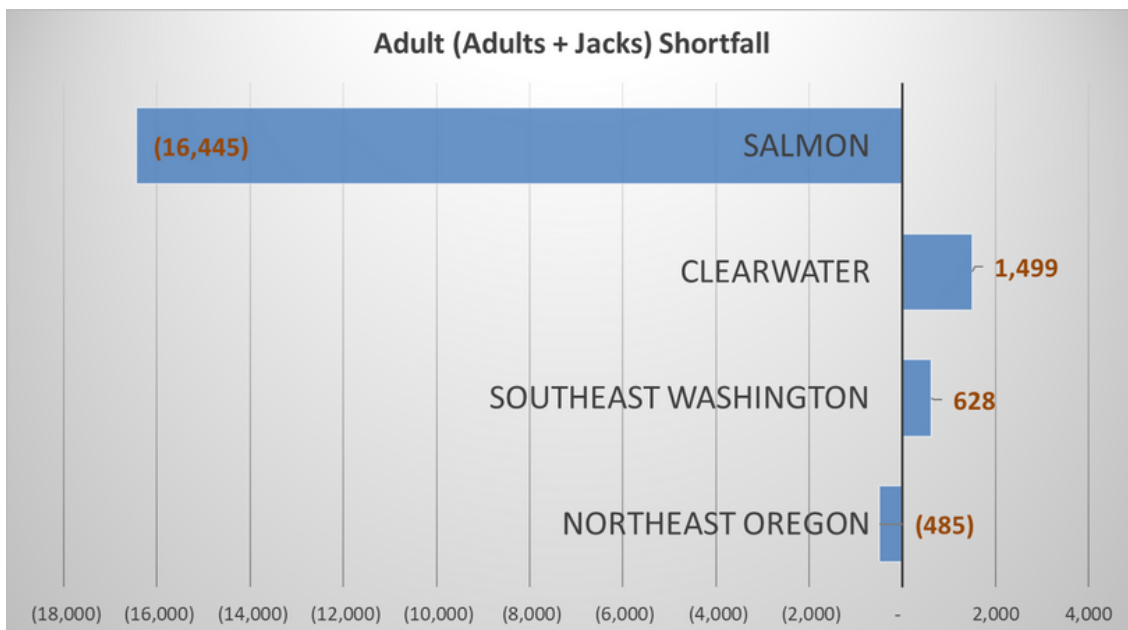
LSRCP Chinook Symposium

The LSRCP Chinook symposium was a great meeting. We had approximately 60 in-person attendees and another 60 attendees intermittently online. Of course, there were some technology glitches here and there. And, for those that attended the after-hours Steelheads Hockey game, they won 4 to 1 meaning every fan got a free Jumbo Jack cheese burger. Woohoo!

The symposium reviewed the past 10 years of LSRCP performance towards meeting the 58,700 Chinook mitigation target into the project area. Long story short, the program has struggled over the past decade. The bright news is that work in the Clearwater basin and Southeast Washington have set those basins up to meet goals in the future - fingers crossed there. Unfortunately, the Salmon basin and Northeast Oregon have a combined expected shortfall of almost 17,000 adults.

The Symposium concluded with a half day discussing the next 10 years for LSRCP. Overall, LSRCP cooperators would like to see the program put adequate resources towards meeting adult Chinook targets.

<https://www.fws.gov/media/2022-isrp-review-materials>



YOU COUNT JACKS??

SAWTOOTH RACEWAYS

Chinook Jacks in the LSRCP Total

If you made it to day 3 of the Chinook Symposium, there was some spirited discussion on including Chinook jacks in the LSRCP "adult" mitigation totals. Certainly, most of us don't consider jacks as true adult Chinook.

Thanks to some after-meeting sleuthing by Brian Leth, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, I think we've found at least an answer this question: Does LSRCP count jacks towards its adult mitigation targets?

As review, the LSRCP spring/summer Chinook target of 58,700 adults was derived from adult counts at McNary Dam from 1954 to 1974. The highest number of spring and summer Chinook was counted in 1957 at 222,089 salmon. The 1957 number included jacks which were 13.5% of the total that particular year.

The highest conversion rate from McNary to Ice Harbor was 55% (1962-1967). So for mitigation purposes, the highest number of returns was multiplied by the highest conversion (222,100 x 55%) for a total of 122,000.

An estimated 48% of those 122,000 would be lost by construction and operations of the four Lower Snake River Dams. So, 122,000 salmon x 48% = 58,700 total LSRCP mitigation goal for spring/summer Chinook.

So, thanks Brian for the sleuthing and, yes, LSRCP does count jacks for the purposes of the adult return goals. However, keeping jacks within reason is important to meeting our recovery obligations.

If you want to do your own sleuthing, here's a couple of documents to review:

<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Special%20Report.PDF>

<https://usace.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16021coll3/id/20/>



MCCALL HOLDING PONDS IN PROGRESS

MCCALL HOLDING PONDS

McCall Adult Holding Ponds

The McCall adult holding pond project is steaming ahead despite wintery conditions in central Idaho. The project is on-track for a June 2023 completion thanks to a Glycol loop heater that both melts snow and keeps the project warm enough for concrete pouring.

The project has hit some significant contract modifications (+20% cost), but so far all the changes haven't affected the schedule of the project. Hopefully the completion of these ponds will ensure the South Fork Salmon river stock adults have cool water this summer before spawning.



MARK ROBERTSON RETIREMENT



KAY AND MARK ROBERTSON - WITH A ROD ENGLE PHOTO BOMB

Mark Robertson, Permit Coordinator, LSRCP

Just a quick note to those of you I've worked with closely or only on the periphery. I'm headed out the door at the end of the year (yep, just a few days from now) after a fruitful and satisfying career with the government. My wife has been practicing this "retirement gig" for the past 5 years, so she needs a partner to do nothing with, even if it takes all day to do it. It's been interesting, educational, and uplifting working with all of you -- uplifting because most of the times, we are working toward the same goals, even if we take different approaches in doing so. And while it sometimes feels like red-tape and politics keeps us from making the strides we'd like to see, incremental positive change can still help us reach our objectives; take solace in those incremental positive changes. Take care, keep doing what you are doing (while always looking for ways to do it just a smidge better), and remember that you are the voices that the critters and habitat don't have....it's our responsibility to speak for them.

The world is small and getting smaller each and every day, so I hope to bump into the likes of you as our many roads start to cross outside of the work environment. Please pass this on to folks I may have missed, and I hope you have a fantastic holiday season.

Mark Robertson
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