

2009 REGIONAL MARK COMMITTEE MEETING
(33rd Annual Meeting)

Hosted by: Metlakatla Indian Community and Alaska Dept Fish & Game
City Council chambers, Metlakatla, Alaska
May 12 and 13, 2009

Meeting Notes

Highlight- specific Mark Committee assignments
Highlight- items referred back to Data Standards

See also link: [HMark Meeting 2009 RMPC Information Webpage](#)

MAY 12: TUESDAY: ~9:00 AM

1. General business items (George Nandor, PSMFC)

A. Welcome and introductions

B. 2010 meeting is to be in Idaho: site and date to be determined; 2011 meeting is intended to be hosted in Canada (BC).

- Boise is in consideration for 2010 meeting, potentially to be held in April
- Canada will consider hosting in Victoria for 2011- passport will be required

C. Future of the Mark Committee meetings – discussion: budget cuts, meeting dates, etc.

- Missing representatives at this meeting from California, Oregon, Washington, and USFWS due to travel restrictions caused by budget concerns problems. This year's location and cost of travel combined with restrictions by each agency may have contributed to their inability to attend this year.
- Agendas in the last few years have not been as full as in past years. May want to look into video conferencing/ tele-conferencing for future meetings, but meeting face-to-face has a lot of value. Rotating meetings amongst the states has boosted attendance. Annual coordination meetings are essential to the process.
- There have been more PSC meetings lately, which have been viewed as a higher priority. This may also have contributed to the recent decrease in attendance at Mark meetings
- In the future, the Mark Committee agrees that the Mark meetings should be held at locations that are relatively easy to get to and do not place an additional travel burden on attendees
- Consensus from the Mark Committee is that the annual meetings should continue, with special attention paid to minimizing future travel costs and logistical issues.

2. Regional Mark Processing Center operations and announcements

A. Presentation: a brief history of the Mark Meetings, RMPC and coast-wide data exchange formats (George Nandor)

- Initial meeting was in 1976 and initiated the development of the first database. The history of the development of the RMIS database has now been documented through the 2009 updates. The chronology of the database will be included in the meeting minutes. – APPENDIX B
- All meetings were in the winter months in Portland through 1990.
- In 1991, meetings began rotating amongst other locations and shifted to April/May for better travel weather.
- The full list of meeting locations will be updated and added to the minutes each year. – APPENDIX C
- There is some conflict with holding meetings in May when many agencies are involved in their tagging programs, so it may be worth re-visiting the time of year in which future meetings are held
- There are a lot of PSC meetings in December, January and February, so Mark meetings should not be held during that time. Also, the data hasn't usually been reported by that time.
- Consensus is that holding the annual meetings in April (taking note of spring break timeframes) is the best option.

B. Update on conversion to new Version 4.1 PSC Data Exchange format (George Nandor)

- Went over the validation changes for each field in which changes were made in the new version.
- These changes resulted from the June 2008 Data Standards Workgroup meeting held in Portland
- Conditional requirements have been bolded in the document to highlight them. It is also suggested that in the 'Reqd' column of the spec document we add a 'COND' option where necessary to further highlight the conditional nature of the requirement
- New spec document is available on the RMPC website as of May 1, 2009
- Can still accept 4.0 data- have the translation protocols in place to make it compatible with 4.1

C. RMPC web site – latest developments (Dan Webb, PSMFC)

- All presentations from this (and previous) meeting are available on the RMPC website
- Reviewed documents that are housed on the RMPC website- locations schema is very outdated. Would like Data Standards to review and update it (see below, section D).

D. Status of CWT data files (Dan Webb)- PowerPoint presentation (will be available on the RMPC website)

- All presentations from this (and previous) meeting are available on the RMPC website
- Can't create a snapshot of the breakdown between escapement/ non-escapement recovery data from previous years because it is not available. May be worth making a note on the file explaining the changes and the appearance of missing data.
- Important to make sure that the description fields are utilized for incomplete data

- Agencies are labeling data as 'Complete' in Descriptions when it is almost certainly not complete. Data Standards needs to determine what "Complete" means- agencies don't even know if their data is complete or not
- The charts provide the analysts with good information- all they can do is look at the trends and point out where there may be an anomaly
- Will re-visit the issue of posting these charts to the RMPC website after adding in the 2010 data and reviewing it at the 2010 Mark Meeting
- No 2008 recoveries/ escapement for CDFG due to closed fishery (200 recovered CWTs were from Whiting fishery by-catch)
- CDFO has not reported Escapement for the past 6 years. They need to hire new staff to deal with programming and data backlog
- All NIFC non-escapement data for Puget Sound fisheries is reported by WDFW
- January 31 deadline is an unrealistic due date for recoveries. Most are able to provide data by May.
- Data Standards needs to determine when agencies will be able to start delivering in 4.1
- RMPC can still accept 4.0 versions- still have a record origin field to identify what version the data is submitted under (not querable). However, record-origin is available in the field selection window of the query result screen for csv and html output formats.
- Still no way to tell if the data in RMIS is complete or not
- Identified problems with Data Descriptions: inconsistent line numbers, extra special characters, length of file name (some of these issues have been resolved with 4.1)
- The Mark Committee agreed that the location schema is outdated and requests that Data Standards review and update the Location Schema at their next meeting.
- Data Standards should address problems that users are having with embedded and trailing blanks in location codes
- All Mark Committee members are tasked with reviewing the 2001 Regional Agreement document, paying specific attention to the Marking Variance table on page 6

E. Other RMPC Updates (George Nandor)

- PSMFC computer center
 - New Fiber Optic internet connection installed in May, 2008
 - Purchased and installed new RMIS database server in June, 2008
- Developments in Idaho tagging program
 - PSMFC asked to operate IDFG Tagging & Marking Program
 - new PSMFC employees
 - 3 weeks into it so far
- Final results of Columbia River Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG) process- PowerPoint presentation (will be available on the RMPC website)
 - Report to Congress
 - System-wide Review
 - Major recommendations
 - Manage hatchery broodstocks programs as either integrated with, or segregated from, natural populations
 - Promote local adaptation
 - Minimize adverse ecological interactions
 - Minimize effects of hatchery facilities

- Maximize survival of hatchery fish
 - For more info see the HSRG document library at: <http://hatcheryreform.us>
- New agency contacts for requesting information on a tagging code (changes need to be made on the RMPC website)
 - NIFC- Ken Phillipson
 - IDFG- Carl Stiefel
 - New email for Ron Josephson: ron.josephson@alaska.gov
 - New email for Brenda Ridgeway: Brenda.Ridgeway@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
 - Nez Perce- Mike Tuell (will be assigned new agency code by NMT)
 - Yakama- Bill Bosch (agency code 19)

F. Update on RMIS spatial data enhancement project (Jim Longwill, PSMFC)
(some map files will be available on the RMPC website)

Update on current progress with the PSC Domain/Region/Basin analysis project -- including RMPC efforts to verify the geographic integrity of CWT data elements. Example maps and spreadsheets were shown:

- While working on moving from text description to maps they discovered a number of unmapped geographic areas and now are working to incorporate those unmapped areas into existing basins and tying in corresponding location codes
- Goal is to facilitate better data selection in RMIS and to build meaningful maps from that data
- Columbia River/ Oregon/ Washington domains are in the Final draft stages
- Jim hopes to have the remaining domains at the Final draft stage by year's end
- The project is currently only focused on release sites- would like to eventually include recovery sites as well

Mark Committee Feedback:

- Boundaries of basins need to follow hydrologic unit boundaries
- Important to make sure that the end product serves the user's needs- Canada wants to make sure there is no added value to the information they submit without their review first.
- The Mark Committee advised Jim that he should not create the boundaries based on how much or how little data is present in the area, or based on political boundaries. He should create the boundaries based solely on recognized hydrologic units. At a later time the political boundaries could become an added layer.
- Should consider having a Data Standards workshop on issues of location codes, mapping units, etc.

3. Status of 2009-10 funding for the Regional Mark Processing Center (George Nandor)

Three funding sources for the RMPC:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funding is stable again
- NOAA Fisheries funding is now a question – Anadromous Fish Fund was not included in the 2009 Budget recently passed by Congress and signed by the President. PSMFC has asked NOAA for additional funding for the RMPC.
 - Pacific Coast Salmon Restoration Funding (PCSRF) was also cut from the 2009 Federal Budget

- BPA funding was restored to 2008 level. 15% cut restored.

4. Update on mass marking, selective fisheries, & agency tagging levels for 2009 (George Nandor)

Agency Updates:

- Canada
 - No significant changes to 2009 mass marking (marking Coho, not marking Chinook)
 - No significant changes to 2009 mark selective fisheries- MSF and SSF off Vancouver Island is coming to an end; may be a MSF off the west coast of Vancouver Island
 - Increased 2009 tagging levels; production targets haven't changed but will be tagging 500,000 more Chinook and 120,000 more Coho
- Alaska- PowerPoint Presentation
 - Only CWT Coho and Chinook
 - Pinks and Chum use otolith marking
- Washington
 - Did not receive an update from WDFW
- Oregon
 - Decrease in NOAA grants resulted in cuts in CWT groups of 2008 coastal Chinook and Coho last year
 - Planning a statewide increase in tagged fish for 2009
 - 3.3 million total additional mass marked Chinook and Coho for 2009
- California
 - 25% tagging of Central Valley Fall Chinook (third year of 25% marking and tagging)
 - Klamath and Trinity working towards 25% tagging rate
 - No other changes to report
 - Trend towards increased marking and tagging statewide
- NWIFC
 - Mass marking all Coho (7 million) and Chinook (12 million)
 - Tagging levels remain unchanged (4 million total Chinook, Coho, and Steelhead)
 - No mark selective fisheries
- CRITFC
 - Yakama and Klickitat levels unchanged; Nez Perce may increase somewhat
- IDFG
 - Mass marking all Steelhead and Chinook, levels unchanged
 - Opened fishery on upper Salmon River last year; planning on having fisheries on all major drainages this year
- MIC
 - No mass marking, no selective fisheries, tagging levels unchanged
- USFWS

- No significant changes to 2009 marking
- Regarding the USFWS California office: mass marking is under consideration at Coleman NFH which would involve a possible increase in Chinook marking of about 7 to 8 million in the near future.

5. Nez Perce tribe has need for new tag coordinator code & new agency code(s) (Marianne McClure; Mike Tuell /NEZP)

Designate Nez Perce tribe as Reporting Agency (as 'NEZP') independent from Columbia R Inter Tribal Fish Commission ('CRFC') agency. I.e. NEZP will now report Release, Recovery, and possibly Catch Sample data directly to the RMPC. Discuss the Nez Perce production program. Note:

- NEZP has been setup in Dec, 2008 w/ Mike Tuell preparing data; NEZP will have its own data-providing account for FTP upload to the RMPC;
 - NEZP will continue to refer to CRFC as the representative for RMC committee issues;
 - Location Codes: NEZP is to utilize Location codes for: Idaho St (IDFG); Washington St (WDFW), and Oregon St (ODFW) as needed. If any new location codes are needed for future reporting, NEZP will work with the given state and RMPC to have the code(s) added to the database.
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- Nez Perce and Mike Tuell will be assigned a new Agency code (TBD by NMT) and a new tagging coordinator code 16
 - CRFC and Warm Springs will retain Agency code 61 and tagging coordinator code 15
 - Yakama and Bill Bosch will retain agency code 19 and tagging coordinator code 11
 - Can tie agency code changes to the releasing agency internally in RMIS- will be as if they had resubmitted their data
 - Marianne will check to see if they can resubmit their data with the updated codes rather than having RMPC do it on their behalf

Adjourn: ~5:00 PM

Artist Village open for shopping (Native art and crafts) in the evening.

MAY 13: WEDNESDAY: Reconvene at ~8:00 AM

6. Update on PSC Data Standards Work Group Meeting (June, 2008) (Kathy Fraser, CDFO)

- Minutes from the meeting are available (see RMPC site: <http://www.rmpec.org/psc-data-standards-minutes.html>)
- Dealt with version 4.1 specs
 - Revisiting pending changes
 - Removed some changes
 - Finalized some changes
- Dealt with data quality issues
- Clarified the definitions of visual vs electronic detection methods and how detection methods should be reported
- Addressed recommendations of CWT Expert Panel
- Can now report body tags in the database
- No date set for a future meeting

7. Update on status of PSC Data Sharing Committee meeting (Norma Jean Sands, NOAA)

- Hadn't met since 2006, and hadn't produced an annual report to the commissioners since 2001. There is a report from the 2009 Data Sharing meeting that is in progress at this time.
- Catch/Effort file recommendations
 - Now identifies the catch, the effort, and whether or not it is a selective fishery (regulation component)
 - Currently only populated by WDFW; Data Sharing will work with technical committees to begin populating the file
- Catch/Sample file recommendations
 - Report all catches for Chinook and Coho
 - Other species would be reported as samples are taken
- Fisheries Regulations file recommendations
 - Data Sharing will work to determine the minimum number of regulations and what types of regulations the commissioners would like to see included in a database, and will work with Data Standards on coding issues
- Reviewed issues raised by PSC Expert Panel
 - By November 2009 they want to be able to begin analysis of all 2008 data
 - Analysts would like variance estimates on catch and escapement, which could be easily accomplished by adding a column for covariance. This item will be addressed at the next Data Standards meeting.
 - Discussed the use of the description file, and are encouraging agencies to make use of it to describe what they are submitting. RMPC will develop a draft of guidelines for the description file and send it out for comments.
- Reviewed issues raised by Data Standards meeting

- Want to make sure that non-clipped fish/ poor-clipped fish are still recorded and submitted to the database. Data Standards will come up with a method for recording this information
- Clarified how to report shed tags

8. Update on Selective Fisheries Evaluation Committee activities (Ron Olson, NWIFC)- PowerPoint presentation (will be available on the RMPC website)

- Annual SFEC reports are available on PSC website (<http://www.psc.org>)
- Tasked with annually reviewing and reporting on mass marking proposals and MSF programs
- Provided updates on mass marking totals and mark selective fisheries for Chinook and Coho, a summary of sampling methodologies, and projected sampling encounters
- Believe that it may no longer be necessary to mouth-wand Chinook; will begin studies this fall to determine conclusively if this is the case. It was noted that if wands don't have a silver cap on them, they can be returned to NMT to be brought up to the new standards
- Agencies are not submitting post-season results of mark selective fisheries to PSC
- Need to address double index tagging and review where DITs should be required and where alternatives can be used, expansion of coast-wide electronic tag detection, and issues surrounding the use of blank wire

9. Any special marking requests? (George Nandor)

- **Requests already approved by the Mark Committee for 2009:**

- Received & broadcast Fri, March 9, 2009 by the RMPC; from CDFO / K. Fraser; Snootli Cr Chum / Adipose fin:
 - a) Number of fish: 200,000
 - b) Species and Run: Chum- summer run
 - c) Brood year: 2008
 - d) Stock(s): Snootli Creek
 - e) Hatchery(ies): Snootli Creek Hatchery
 - f) Geographic area(s): British Columbia- Central Coast
 - g) Release date: end of March 25 to early April, 2009
 - h) Duration of this marking program: 1 week

See further notes from: *Roberta Cook/CDFO*; Roberta.Cook@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

- Received & broadcast Fri, March 9, 2009 by the RMPC; from CDFO / K. Fraser; Cultus Cr Sockeye / agency-only wire:
 - a) Number of fish: 55,000
 - b) Species and Run: sockeye, fall run
 - c) Brood year: 2008
 - d) Stock(s): Cultus Lake
 - e) Hatchery(ies): Inch Creek Hatchery Sockeye Satellite
 - f) Geographic area(s): British Columbia- Lower Fraser
 - g) Release date: April, 2010
 - h) Duration of this marking program: 6 days

See further notes from: *Roberta Cook/CDFO*; Roberta.Cook@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

- Received & broadcast Fri, July 11, 2008 by the RMPC; from USFWS / D. Zajac;

Regarding proposed use of "agency" only wire at the Kooskia National Fish hatchery in Idaho. Application of these tags should not impact the coastwide CWT program. We are a bit late on our request as you will notice that the proposed tagging date is July 24. See also: Howard Burge /USFWS-Idaho at 208.476.7242.

- Received via email from Ken Johnson for McKenzie River
 - Continuation of last year's variance request
 - George emailed a copy of the proposal for review and approval by the Mark Committee on 5/20/09.
- Other requests?
 - Feather River Hatchery in California is discussing mass marking and tagging 100% of fall Chinook (75% would be tagged using agency-only wire). Have been told they need to submit a variance request form to the Mark Committee (form available on the RMPC website).

10. Northwest Marine Technology (Geraldine Vander Haegen, NMT)

- Product updates:
 - Working with Great Lakes, New York tagging programs
 - Working on adapting AutoFish trailer for Lake Trout
 - Finishing up final trailer for the IDFG tagging program
 - California added a new trailer for the Klamath Basin
 - Installed new sorters and detectors at Cowlitz Hatchery
 - WDFW has 6 R8000, 2 R9500, and 1 R10 detectors that they need to find new homes for- available to anyone who may need them- may need to upgrade them and purchase new accessories. Contact Lynn Anderson if interested.
 - Building new adult fish counters for use in pond management. Will be tested this fall at Spring Creek and Deschutes River Hatcheries.
- Questions & Answers:
 - Working on re-building the VI Alpha Tags. Need to field test them- contact Geraldine if you know of anyone that could assist with these tests
 - Open offer for NMT to come and provide training on-site
 - Wand upgrades are still available; they are being upgraded to higher detection range- cost involved only if the wand can't be upgraded
 - George has an extra wand available if anyone needs it- contact him if interested

11. Otolith Marking- added to the agenda (Ron Josephson, ADFG)- PowerPoint presentation (will be available on the RMPC website)

Adjourn: ~12:00 Noon

Tour of the Metlakatla Fish Processing Plant, Fish Hatchery and Health Clinic (Steve Leask, MIC)

6:00 PM Dinner at the Longhouse with the 4th Generation Native Dance Group (Hosted by NMT)

Appendix A
2009 Mark Meeting Attendees

Name	Agency	Mailing Address/ Telephone/E-mail Address
Allen, Stan	PSMFC	205 SE Spokane St., Suite 100, Portland, OR 97202-6413 Tel: (503) 595-3114 E-mail: Stan_Allen@psmfc.org
Fraser, Kathy *	CDFO	Pacific Biol. Station, Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 5K6 Tel: (250) 756-7371 E-mail: kathryn.fraser@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Frawley, Tim	ADFG	10107 Bentwood Place, Juneau, AK 99801 Tel: (907) 465-4092 E-mail: tim.frawley@alaska.gov
Josephson, Ron *	ADFG	ADFG Tag Lab, P.O Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802-5526 Tel: (907) 465-4088 E-mail: ron_josephson@fishgame.state.ak.us
Leask, Steve *	MIC	Box 8, Metlakatla, AK 99926 Tel: E-mail: stevel@uptalaska.net
Leth, Brian *	IDFG	Tel: (208) 465-8404 E-mail: brian.leth@idfg.idaho.gov
Longwill, Jim	PSMFC	205 SE Spokane St., Suite 100, Portland, OR 97202-6413 Tel: (503) 595-3146 E-mail: longwill@psmfc.org
McClure, Marianne *	CRITFC	729 NE Oregon St., Suite 200, Portland, OR 97232 Tel: (503) 731-1254 E-mail: mccm@critfc.org
Nandor, George*	PSMFC	205 SE Spokane St., Suite 100, Portland, OR 97202-6413 Tel: (503) 595-3144 E-mail: George_Nandor@psmfc.org
Olson, Ron *	NWIFC	6730 Martin Way NE, Olympia, WA 98516-5540 Tel: (360) 528-4335 E-mail: rolson@nwifc.org
Perry, Brian	NWIFC	
Roberts, Amy	PSMFC	205 SE Spokane St., Suite 100, Portland, OR 97202-6413 Tel: (503) 595-3451 E-mail: Amy_Roberts@psmfc.org
Sands, Norma Jean	NMFS	Tel: (206) 860-5607 E-mail: normasands@noaa.gov
Vander-Haegen, Geraldine	NMT	955 Malin Ln SW, Suite B, Tumwater, WA 98501 Tel: (360) 596-9400 E-mail: Geraldine.vanderhaegen@nmt.us
Webb, Dan	PSMFC	205 SE Spokane St., Suite 100, Portland, OR 97202-6413 Tel: (503) 595-3147 E-mail: dan@psmfc.org
Yundt, Steve	USFWS	1387 S. Vinnell Way, Ste. 387, Boise, ID 83703 Tel: E-mail: steve.yundt@fws.gov

APPENDIX B

HISTORY OF THE RMIS DATABASE

History of the Regional Mark Information System (RMIS) Database at PSMFC

Regional Mark Processing Center (RMPC)

4/20/2009

Year	DB Software	DB Name	DB Version	Computer System
1977	PICK	RMPC CWT DB	¹ Pacific Grove, CA	Hosted on ODFW's 'mainframe' MicroData system
1981	PICK	RMPC CWT DB	² Silver Cr Falls, OR	Hosted on ODFW's 'mainframe' Evolution system
1984	PICK	RMPC CWT DB	1.0	ADDS Mentor 6 MHz (Zilog80) mini-computer
1988	PICK	RMPC CWT DB	1.1	DEC MicroVAX II
1989	PICK	RMPC CWT DB	1.2	DEC MicroVAX II
1990	PICK	RMPC CWT DB	2.0	DEC MicroVAX II
1992	Ingres	RMPC CWT DB	3.0	Sequent S-27 computer
1994	Ingres 6.4	RMIS	3.1	Sequent S-81 computer
1998	Open Ingres	RMIS	3.2	Sun SPARCserver 1000e & external disk array
2002	Oracle 9i, 10g	RMIS	4.0	Dell PE6650 1.5 GHz Server & external disk array
2009	Oracle 11g	RMIS	4.1	Dell PE2900 3.33 GHz dual core processors (2)

¹ Pacific Grove, CA: 1st Coastwide CWT Conference - Established standardized CWT data formats for exchange

² Silver Creek Falls, OR (1980): 2nd Coastwide CWT Conference - Expanded standardized CWT data formats for exchange

RMPC Program Managers

1977 - 1979 Grahame King
 1979 - 2006 Ken Johnson
 2006 - present George Nandor

RMPC Database Programmers

1988 - present Jim Longwill
 2000 - present Dan Webb

APPENDIX C

HISTORY OF MARK MEETING LOCATIONS

History of Mark Meeting Locations

<u>Year</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State/Prov.</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State/Prov.</u>
1976	December	Portland	OR	1994	February	Olympia	WA
1978	February	Portland	OR	1995	February	Portland	OR
1979	January	Portland	OR	1996	February	San Francisco	CA
1980	January	Portland	OR	1997	April	Juneau	AK
1981	March	Portland	OR	1998	April	Lewiston	ID
1982	January	Portland	OR	1999	April	Vancouver	BC
1983	January	Portland	OR	2000	April	Silverdale	WA
1984	February	Portland	OR	2001	April	Newport	OR
1985	February	Portland	OR	2002	April	Pacific Grove	CA
1986	February	Portland	OR	2003	April	Sitka	AK
1987	February	Portland	OR	2004	May	Lewiston	ID
1988	February	Portland	OR	2005	April	Tofino	BC
1989	February	Portland	OR	2006	April	Port Angeles	WA
1990	February	Portland	OR	2007	April	Warm Springs	OR
1991	February	Seattle	WA	2008	April	Pacific Grove	CA
1992	February	Vancouver	BC	2009	May	Metlakatla	AK
1993	February	Portland	OR				