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PMFC Ad-Hoc Committee
for Documentation of CWT Studies
March 15, 1984; Olympia, Washington

MEETING MINUTES



I. Meeting Objectives

The Ad-hoc CWT Documentation Committee was organized by the Mark Committee during the 1984 Mark Meeting (February 15, 1984) and given specific responsibility to develop a regional documentary data base for all CWT studies. Lee Blankenship, as chairman, convened the first meeting on March 15, 1984 in Olympia, Washington. In attendance were:

Lee Blankenship, Chairman, WDF
Richard Comstock, USFWS
Ken Hall, ODFW
Ken Johnson, PMFC
Louis Lapi, CDFO
Dick O'Connor, WDF
Michael Paiya, USFWS

The objectives of the meeting were to 1) identify objectives for a regional documentary data base for CWT studies, and 2) define minimum needs for that data base.

II. Meeting Results

A. Review of Current Status

O'Connor (WDF), Hall (ODFW), Comstock (USFWS), and Lapi (CDFO) each described in some detail their respective agency's efforts to establish a documentary data base for their own CWT release studies. Deficiencies were noted, in conjunction with planning for future improvement.

The level of detail and amount of information collected varied significantly between the four agencies. Part of this difference reflected the objectives and mission of the agencies. The USFWS, for example, is primarily oriented towards evaluating and improving its' hatchery operations, and is thus developing a very detailed data base involving all aspects of rearing from egg take to release. In contrast, CDFO, ODFW, and WDF as management agencies are developing more limited data bases that are oriented towards evaluating survival and production. In spite of the four different approaches, the primary objective of each was to provide the necessary information to better evaluate CWT release studies.

B. Recommendations Regarding a Regional CWT Documentary Data Base

The Committee unanimously agreed that all agencies should be required through the Mark Committee to develop an "in-house" documentary data base for all agency CWT releases and that the data be readily available.

It was also agreed that these respective data bases need not be standardized and provided to PMFC because of the unique conditions existing for each agency. However, key elements of each tag release's history should be summarized and provided to PMFC at the same time that the other CWT release data are provided. These key data items include:

- 1) Tag Code
- 2) Study Purpose
- 3) Stock
- 4) Was the rearing and release as planned?

- i.e. a "yes", "no", or "uncertain" answer would provide others with an indication whether or not the tag code could be used as representative (e.g. green, red or amber light).

- 5) Name of Principal Investigator

It was envisioned that these documentary data will be stored on the PMFC computer and thus available for distribution to other agencies via magnetic tape. In addition, agencies will be asked to indicate who is the "in-house keeper of the data base" in order that users who have additional questions can go directly to the data manager or principle investigator responsible for the given tag codes of interest.

The Committee also decided that the stock name and the nature of the tagging study would be included in the PMFC CWT Release Report in order to give researchers and managers a better idea just what each tag was used for. This approach will permit a user to rapidly eliminate non-pertinent codes without having to check each one out individually.

New codes, adopted from British Columbia, will be used to facilitate reporting general study objectives in the limited space available in the present "PROD" column (far right side) of the CWT Release Report. These codes are as follows:

M = Marker or Index Stock
P = Production
E = Experimental
B = Both Production and Experimental
W = Wild

The present usage of "H" to indicate production studies will be discontinued. In addition, the column heading will be renamed "STUDY" or "STUDY TYPE" to reflect the expanded nature of the field.

Johnson accepted responsibility to revise the PMFC reporting format and computer files for CWT release data in order to accommodate the new documentary data items in the data base. It is intended that these changes be implemented for the 1985 release report (i.e. release through 1984).

C. Future Plans

The Committee agreed to meet again in October, 1984. At that time, final recommendations will be developed for presentation to the Mark Committee in February, 1985.