February 21, 2018

PSMFC Office – Portland

StreamNet Steering Committee Agenda and Meeting Notes

**Attendees:**

Chris Wheaton/Mike Banach/Greg Wilke (PSMFC), Evan Brown (IDFG), Cedric Cooney/Jake Chambers/Nadine Craft (ODFW), Mari Williams (NMFS), Brodie Cox (WDFW), David Liberty/Tabitha Whitefoot (CRITFC), Jen Bayer (PNAMP), Dawn Anderson (MFWP), Bill Bosch (YIN), Tom Pansky/ Scott Donahue (BPA), George Batten (Sitka/CCT), Doug Threloff (USFWS)

Possible New Indicators and Mandatory Fields and Pilot Project – Assisting with High Priority Project Data

Scott Donahue led the discussion.

Indicators/Mandatory fields

Scott gave a Clarification – the presentation that was "qualified as ‘thinking out loud"’ for the purposes of this group discussion and was not an official request from of BPA. He commented that null values being filled to the degree possible is helpful; explain the “why” if not filled where possible. He commented that pHOS should be mandatory if available, and commented that both NOSAEJ and NOSAIJ should be mandatory.

Evan -- It's hard to get some of the values. LOTS of work. There are some bits of information that are important and available, even though other info is not yet available. This includes the confidence limits.

Scott asked likelihood of getting more of these bits of info without it causing lots of expense and time.

Cedric agreed with Evan, and added that a lot of the people who provide the data are not funded by BPA. They are not holding back anything that is available.

Brodie agreed.

Explanation for why nulls exist: Jen asked, is there a way to document why nulls exist? Mari chimed in that this is a ton of work to document the nulls and interferes with getting more useful data and maintaining established data flows. Chris suggested that maybe BPA could narrow this request to make it manageable. Maybe they need to know why SOME of the fields are needed for SOME of the populations (maybe the 18 priority populations?), but not everything everywhere? A limited request could be more doable. But Cedric again pointed out that this would interfere with additional data acquisition.

Bill Bosch asked about defensible methods and peer review of processes and analysis of the data. Chris talked about how the CAX hasn’t gone through any questioning of the methods used – the project has relied on the expertise of the agencies, who stand behind their methods and analysis. Jen mentioned that PNAMP tries to help with this, including through workshops such as the steelhead NOSA workshop happening tomorrow. Jen also pointed out Dan Rawding’s efforts with an ISTM review (<https://www.pnamp.org/project/3151>). Evan said this database has more information and metadata than any dataset he's ever seen. There have been many calls about methods, and all questions have been answered. Chris added that doing data quality checks and evaluating quality of methods is not the role of a data management project.

Additional indicators suggestions from BPA: Just thoughts, not an official request. -- Escapement in addition to NOSA (need to clarify “escapement” definition). Age data as its own category not dependent on other data types. Is BPA looking for age at return to have its own DES? There are pretty complicated methods for some areas. Juvenile output: discussion of those fields at this time -- already answered likelihood and feasibility of delivering those data types today.

Pilot Project

Skipped. Did not discuss.

Further development of these priorities and the potential pilot project will be needed before proceeding. BPA will discuss internally and report back to us.

Automating Trend/Related Data via API

Greg led discussion. StreamNet tech meeting in December discussed data submission of trends via the API rather than the traditional way. Trends are much more complex data tables than are CA data. We decided to continue submissions using the current data structure, not flattened. Pro: this would be less work for all of us (both submitters and at PSMFC). Con: this doesn't fit really well how the API works. But this would only really affect new SN partners, and we didn't think this was likely.

Validation rules made, currently testing them. Should be able to let everyone test at least Trend & EscData by end of February.

Continue development and implementation of data sharing via API

Updating Cost Share Information

Chris led the discussion.

BPA is asking for cost share again in this year's annual report. Chris, as new guy, didn't get it done the past couple years. He pointed out variety of cost-share information in Pisces apparent duplication, big variation in amount of detail, etc. Point was not to be too critical but to make people aware of the relatively low level of precision needed in estimates.

Tom Pansky says BPA would like "just enough but not too much". He's more of a lumper than a splitter, but he's not picky how this gets done.

Evan is pleading "new guy", and will talk with Lance to see how he should do this.

Cedric was happy it had gone away. (Brodie concurred.) Asked if the request was to fill in back to 2014, or just the current year. Chris said yes, but need to get final answer from BPA. Tom said yes, it's best to fill in the years we didn't do this. But do this in 5 minutes, not an hour. Also, the computer system wants it that way. Cedric points out that cost share is going up since SN budget has stayed flat. Tom said bottom line is one number per fiscal year for the computer system.

Chris will provide a template for submission, and ask that partners provide cost share data to backfill for missing years and get us up to date. Please remember that relatively low levels of precision are required!

StreamNet Library Update & Discussion

David Liberty and Tabitha Whitefoot from CRITFC lead the conversation.

The StreamNet Library went through a change in management at the beginning of the year. Plan to take Library in new directions. CRITFC wants input from team members for what Library should do in the future. Did a short survey within CRITFC, comparing where they are to where they want to be, including ISRP input from 2014. ISRP suggestions included access point for all partners, better search interface, changing the name to better reflect what the Library has and does, publishing more parts of the NPCC fish/wildlife program, archive services.

Library has been in 2 different places -- storage in old building. Those materials will be moved to current location, which has already begun.

CRITFC wants to work with other area libraries to reduce duplication of efforts.

CRITFC survey results included: digitize the documents more; figure out what to have as physical documents, what as only digital. They will send their survey out wider.

They will be working with the USACOE to get some of their relevant documents.

ISRP suggested an adaptive management strategy. Trying to figure out how that would apply to them as an institution rather than as a project.

Cedric asked if Library has a retention policy. Answer: they are going to work on a new policy: no multiple copies; no irrelevant items.

Jen offered to use PNAMP email list for the Library survey. David said they will take her up on that! Though Cedric says ODFW people feel "surveyed-out". David Liberty says its 10 questions and 3 minutes. Cedric said to add that information and they will get a better response.

Partner Updates

WDFW

Lost Bob Woodard. Trying to figure out how to fill in behind him. Trying to fill Bob's position, but at a higher technical level -- not only transferring data to SN, but also helping to automate processes state-wide. This person will still be involved closely with StreamNet as Bob was.

Brodie has been very busy with a state-wide fishing regulations system. Answering lots of questions. Doing outreach to biologists in upper Columbia region to help them with technology.

Michelle has been doing some test data transfers to CA via the API.

ODFW

Information management system -- put together funding request to legislature.

Preparing spawning survey system for the coming year. Plan to enter NE Oregon GRTS surveys into that.

Fish distribution data submission will happen in March. Significant changes are addition of lamprey and cutthroat trout. Minor changes to redband trout and bull trout.

Responded to BPA's juvenile outmigrant request.

ODFW library used to exist. A lot of material still with agency. ODFW has not changed direction, and wants to digitize as much of that as possible and make it available via the clearinghouse. All 39,000 are now findable on the datahouse, though few are digitized yet.

Question about property disposal: can they dispose of something mid-year, with notice, or do they need to wait for the once-a-year event? Tom says any time is fine. Just be sure to ask around their agency first if anyone wants it, then ask at BPA. If nobody wants it then they can dispose of it. To document disposal, work with Tom through Chris. Chris says BPA has been very responsive, so if there were problems in the past those seem to not be problems any more.

MFWP

Hired a new SN person: Ryan Alger (previously with Wisconsin DNR) as data/GIS person. Learning about the data and GIS systems, doing a few data requests, working on Yellowstone cutthroat data, working on a Yellowstone Story Map.

Working over the past year to upgrade GIS infrastructure to 10.5.

Also updating our Open Data site.

Much of our fisheries data is available through Open Data and as a result we’ve been getting fewer requests, which is helpful.

Work continues on our internal database (FIS) and related web query system FishMT. The MFISH system for all intents and purposes is dead and I need to provide an updated link and blurb for FishMT.

Still working on the fish distribution tool. The infrastructure upgrade to 10.5 required changes to the tool.

Tom asked that Dawn send link to Yellowstone story map to Nancy Leonard.

Evan asked if they would be using the ICP web site for YCT updates. Dawn said no, there are discussions with the Native Species Coordinators in MT and ID to use for WCT.

USFWS

Doug has served as the Regional Data Manager in the USFWS Portland Regional Office 13 months, and has spent that time reviewing how national fish hatchery data are stored. He has developed a white paper with his findings and it contains recommendations designed to enhance the management of NFH data. The white paper has been sent to the USFWS Pacific Region Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program Assistant Regional Director (Roy Elicker) for consideration/approval. One recommendation is to adopt the Fish Inventory System (FINS) for storing NFH fish culture data. If adopted, it would still take several years to get data into FINS. Data into FINS should help with transfers to StreamNet.

IDFG

GIS job announcement to replace Bart went out today.

Have been working on moving StreamNet data from Access to SQL Server for data flow purposes.

Improving QA/QC of data. Showing agency biologists how to link to the data via Access, Excel, etc.

Chris has been very busy getting up to speed on P4 software from PTAGIS. This is critical for CA because that's where outmigrant data come from.

PNAMP

Steelhead NOSA methods workshop tomorrow in Portland. Also available via web meeting. Presenters from IDFG, ODFW, WDFW, and Nez Perce Tribe. PowerPoint presentations will be made available after the workshop.

PNAMP doing training with BPA around the region for PISCES and MR.org.

RHIP project (water quality) doing a "metadata survey". Closing this week, and informing a 3/22/18 workshop.

CCT

George reported. He is new guy at Sitka (started in November) working for CCT. CCT data available at OkanoganMonitoring.org. Has been asked by John Arterburn to automate data capture from spreadsheets to OM.org.

StreamNet is a new thing for George and just learning.

NMFS

Data have been sent to Seattle for SPS, but Puget Sound is still putting their data together. She appreciates how much easier her work has become since CA now exists, and thanked everyone.

BPA

Jeff Lane is now Tom's new supervisor. He made it clear that the data group is to serve the policy group, which is appropriate.

Tom noticed that all Tier 1 populations have data, so good job everyone.

There's a NPCC-led group looking at screw traps. Mike will get an email from Eric Lietzinger (?) about screw traps in Oregon, to compare to our facilities list. (Mike will work with Van and Jon Bowers on this.)

Cedric asked about replacement of PISCES with a web-based system. Tom confirmed this is the case.

Jen mentioned the new strategic plan.

Cedric asked Tom if cost share could be postponed to after annual report is done. Answer was yes.

PSMFC

Requested annual and BiOp report input.

Updating “Trends” Supporting Council Websites

Chris led this conversation. He recently spoke with Nancy about their needs for their dashboards. She would like to be moving toward using CA population estimates rather than the stacked trends currently being used, but resources limited.

Dawn said in the past they cold-called MFWP biologists. Asked how they get data now. Chris said they currently go to StreamNet web site first, then if anything is missing then they call the state/tribe biologists. Is there a better way, Dawn asked? Yes, said, Chris -- get the list of trends of interest and make sure those data make it into StreamNet. Note that we should make sure that the most current data is in Stream Net when we exchange data.

They may be assuming that data is “missing” if there isn’t a trend count annually. At least for some not all trends are annual or can be completed annually. QW should still go to the data steward (conveniently listed on the StreamNet website) first before contacting a biologist directly.

Tom pointed out that if we can get automated systems that people buy into, then this issue goes away on its own.

Cedric requested that Chris ask QW to contact SN before the state biologists because the state biologists get annoyed. Brodie agreed.

Chris said it would be better if the state StreamNet reps contacted QW themselves with an alternative way to get data if it is not on the StreamNet site. Chris will send out a spreadsheet with the trends of interest (done 2/22). StreamNet reps will look at list for their agencies and take proactive steps to contact QW. (Addresses: Neil Ward <neil.ward@qwconsult.com>; binh.quan <binh.quan@qwconsult.com>; Nancy Leonard (nleonard@NWCouncil.org)

Status of CA/StreamNet Priorities for FY 18

Chris led this discussion. Showed summary of CA data submissions as of 10/1/17. There were no comments. Shared the priority list, urged everyone to submit priority data.

Tom says the priority populations will likely be changing due to a judge's new decision that is expected soon. Tom suspects we will get an idea what the new priorities are before the judge actually rules. Cedric asked if some populations may come off the list, or just new ones added. Tom said he doesn't know.

Chris urged that the priority list be updated so folks could focus limited resources on BPA priorities. Also encouraged everyone to maximize data flow for currently identified priorities this year.

Hatchery Data Update & Discussion

Mike led this discussion.

Mike provided an overview of the hatchery data received in multiple sample data sets. Discussed similarities and differences in data. As mentioned earlier, Hatchery data is not a BPA priority. But WDFW and IDFG people have asked to have this as part of effort to serve the NPCC 5-year plan process in the past. Need to determine what if any next steps we take with this project. Brodie and Evan, will confirm with the people in their agencies (Dan Rawding for WDFW, Paul Kline for IDFG) what they feel we should be doing on this, if anything.

Tom said he's not sure where things are inside BPA. It sounds like a conversation needed in the SNEC. Chris said he's not sure what rock to bring to who.

As of this time we will plan to spend no more time on hatchery work unless we hear otherwise. But we will revisit if one or more partners want to do so.