

Columbia River Basin Lamprey Technical Workgroup
-Statement of Purpose-
3/10/04

Introduction

Lampreys are widely distributed in the Pacific Northwest, particularly the Columbia River basin. Until recently, conserving native lampreys was not a management priority, despite their commercial, ecological, economic, and cultural values. Biological and ecological information for these species is limited and few studies have been conducted within the Columbia River basin. Current information suggests that lamprey populations are declining, and in January 2003, four species of lamprey (*Lampetra tridentata*, *L. richardsoni*, *L. ayresi*, and *L. hubbsi*) were petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

The Northwest Power Act directs the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council) to develop a program to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife of the Columbia River basin that have been affected by construction and operation of hydroelectric dams. Through the fish and wildlife program, the Council makes funding recommendations to Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) for projects to implement the program. As part of a 1995 Council action, the Columbia River Basin Pacific Lamprey Technical Workgroup was established to serve and guide coordination activities for new and existing lamprey projects funded, or proposed for funding, through BPA.

Currently, the need for guided and coordinated lamprey research extends beyond the scope of the existing workgroup. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) encourages the coordination of lamprey research through the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA), whose mission is coordinating and promoting effective protection and restoration of fish, wildlife, and their habitat in the Columbia River basin. This effort will be accomplished by re-instating the Lamprey Technical Workgroup to function under the authority of CBFWA. The Columbia River Basin Lamprey Technical Workgroup (Workgroup) will serve as a subcommittee of the Anadromous Fish Committee of CBFWA. The Service will coordinate Workgroup activities by organizing meetings and workshops to facilitate Workgroup function.

Purpose

The purpose of the Workgroup is to provide technical review, guidance, and recommendations for activities related to lamprey conservation and restoration. The Workgroup will accomplish this by:

1. Identifying and prioritizing critical uncertainties regarding lamprey conservation;
 - a. Members of the Workgroup will maintain a prioritized list of lamprey research, monitoring, evaluation, and restoration needs. The Workgroup will provide a written summary of the prioritization process that integrates existing projects, new proposals, and research needs (requests for

proposals). This will ensure that research is proceeding in a systematic and logical progression that will benefit the rehabilitation of lamprey in a coordinated and cost effective way.

- b. The Workgroup will update the Columbia River Lamprey Program Summary, as needed.
2. Providing a forum for discussion regarding lamprey-related concerns;
 - a. Members of the Workgroup will host a workshop every-other year to allow lamprey researchers to present their data for dissemination and review purposes.
 - b. Members of the Workgroup will meet twice per year, and more frequently as needed.
 3. Disseminating technical information;
 - a. The Workgroup will act as a focal point for disseminating and evaluating technical information and providing guidance on lamprey issues (i.e. providing guidance for subbasin planning).
 - b. Members of the Workgroup will establish a website dedicated to Workgroup activities that can be used to identify, locate, and track lamprey-related projects.

Workgroup Composition

Members serving on the Workgroup should include scientists having lamprey technical expertise from the federal, state, and tribal governments, academia, and the private sector. Additionally, the Workgroup will include support staff such as contract officers, members of CBFWA, and the Council, as well as a liaison from the Oregon Coastal Lamprey Interest Group.

Funding

The Service, whose mission is to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats, will contribute ¼ FTE to support the coordination of the Workgroup and workshop. Members of the Workgroup will use existing budgetary infrastructure to support their participation. For members with Bonneville Power Administration contracts, costs incurred during participation in these meetings may be charged to existing travel budgets. CBFWA member's travel is reimbursable through their CBFWA membership.