



## Wells Project Relicensing Phone Conversation Summary

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**Call to:** Molly Hallock

**Call From:** Bao Le

**Date:** 11/28/07

**Time:** 8:30-9:00am

**Subject:** Proposed modifications to the 2008 Wells Lamprey Passage Study

**Summary:** I spoke with Molly Hallock, non-game fish biologist for WDFW regarding our proposed changes to the 2008 Wells Project Pacific Lamprey Adult Passage Study. The three major issues discussed were:

- 1. Add an exclusion floor screen at each of the orifices directly below the overflow weir lamprey traps (4 total, 2 in each ladder). These exclusion screens should be benign to HCP plan species and should force lamprey higher into the water column where they can be captured via the overflow weir traps.**
- 2. The addition of the exclusion floor screen may introduce a trap delay for tagged lamprey, released in the tailrace and re-ascending the ladder.**
- 3. Shift the release location of the 10 adult tagged lamprey from the mid-ladder location (per the study plan) to the Collection Gallery area just inside of the entrance in the lower ladder. We would maintain a release of 30 adults in the tailrace similar to the 2007 assessment.**

**With regards to #1, Molly does have concerns about lamprey drop back completely out of the ladder due to the inability to pass via the orifice while exclusion screens are installed. However, in discussions about the other available options which are closing orifices completely or installing large guidance ramps within the fish ladder (largely untested) coupled with recommendations by Chris Peery, University of Idaho lamprey researcher that exclusion screens will likely not cause drop back and is the most appropriate option, Molly was in support of pursuing this modification.**

With regards to #2, Molly understands the fact that in order to increase lamprey trap efficiency (4 traps caught only 6 fish over 10 weeks of fishing), there may be a trap delay for tagged fish re-ascending the ladder. Given that our 2007 data suggests that from above the trap to the exit (See #3), passage times for tagged adult lamprey are consistent and reasonable suggesting no major impediments or delays, it would not be unreasonable to break the overall project passage time into two metrics, tailrace detection to trap and above trap to exit. Based on this information, the necessity to capture more lamprey at Wells Dam, and the few appropriate options, Molly acknowledged that a trap delay may be addressed through multiple metrics and that increasing trap efficiency and therefore the use of the exclusion screen is a high priority.

With regards to #3, the data from the 2007 study which suggested that the tagged adult lamprey released mid-ladder (immediately above the broodstock collection facilities) at Wells Dam appeared to negotiate this section of the ladder successfully. Molly was in support of shifting the in-ladder releases for 2008 (n=10) to the collection gallery area so that data could be collected on what appears to be a critical section of the ladder for lamprey passage.

Molly also concurred that it would be appropriate to continue to use Rocky Reach fish as a supplement to the Wells trapping effort and to capture, transport, tag and release Reach fish throughout the migration season as opposed to waiting until the end of the season (October) as was done in 2007. This would: 1) ensure sample size was met and 2) allow us to release fish during the peak migratory period as opposed to when some fish may be beginning to cease migratory type movements.

Molly will also follow-up with Carmen Andonaegui as to the details and results of this discussion.