

**Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group**  
**Agenda Item Information**  
**September 9-10, 2008**

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Agenda Item

Humpback Chub Comprehensive Plan and Recovery Implementation Plan Updates

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Action Requested

√ Information item only; we will answer questions but no action is requested.

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Presenters

Glen Knowles (Chair, TWG Ad Hoc Group for HBC Comprehensive Plan Development) Fish and Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Sam Spiller (Co-Chair, AMWG Ad Hoc Group for HBC Policy and Associated Implementation Concerns and FWS Lead, Grand Canyon HBC Recovery Implementation Plan), Lower Colorado River Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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Previous Action Taken

**Humpback Chub Comprehensive Plan:**

√ By AMWG:

AMWG approved the following two motions in March 2005:

Motion: The AMWG also directs the creation of a humpback chub implementation plan Ad Hoc Group. This Ad Hoc Group will:

1. Determine which actions identified in the humpback chub comprehensive plan can be accomplished under the AMP.
2. Explore the various options for completing actions that do not fall under the authorities of the AMP.

(Co-Chairs: Sam Spiller, Nikolai Lash, Randy Seaholm)

Motion: The AMWG directs the TWG to further develop the humpback chub comprehensive plan, as follows:

1. Describe linkages, sequences, and feedback loops among projects.
2. Identify priorities and a timeline for completion of each action within the comprehensive plan.
3. Spell out specific steps and criteria for any actions that would be needed if a crisis occurs (e.g., severe population decline).
4. Continue to include active participation by GCMRC staff and any additional expertise.
5. Incorporate comments from the Science Advisors. The TWG will include a response to comments document in their final draft.

(Chair: Glen Knowles)

**Recovery Implementation Program:**

√ By AMWG:

AMWG unanimously approved the following motion (drafted by the Humpback Chub Recovery Consultation Ad Hoc Group (Chaired by Sam Spiller with Co-leads Rod Kuharich and Larry Stevens) in December 2006:

Because the lack of a recovery program for the humpback chub is impeding the progress of the GCDAMP, AMWG recommends that the Secretary of the Interior charge the Fish and Wildlife Service to lead the development of a Lower Colorado River fish recovery implementation program (LCRRIP) to include the humpback chub in Marble and Grand Canyons by the end of 2008.

√ Other: In response to the December 2006 AMWG motion on the Lower Colorado River fish recovery implementation program, Deputy Interior Secretary Lynn Scarlett, on May 21, 2007, wrote the following in a memorandum to the AMWG:

“The department recognizes the importance of efforts that will assist in the conservation of the endangered humpback chub, and agrees with the need for achieving recovery of Humpback chub throughout its geographic range. The Department also recognizes that while GCDAMP efforts undertaken pursuant to AMWG recommendations, such as the non-native removal efforts since 2002, have contributed to the stabilization of the Humpback chub population in the Grand Canyon, further efforts beyond that of the GCDAMP are desirable. The principal reason for this is that recovery of the Humpback chub exceeds the limited authority and role of the GCDAMP, which pursuant to its charter, serves as an advisory committee on the operation of Glen Canyon Dam, and related actions.

“Consistent with the goal of the AMWG recommendation, and based on input from the DOI Policy Group, the Department has instructed the Fish and Wildlife Service to take the lead in developing a recovery implementation program for the Humpback chub population in Grand Canyon. We believe that this effort should be prioritized and we anticipate considering similar efforts for other endangered Colorado River fish after an appropriate effort to assist in recovery of the Humpback chub program has been developed. The recovery implementation program is not intended to displace the GCDAMP or the Lower Colorado River Multispecies Conservation Program, but rather complement the efforts of these programs in areas of endeavor beyond their scope or authority. We have asked that by September 2007, the Fish and Wildlife Service provide feedback to the AMWG on a timeline, scope, and development of an outreach program to potentially involved stakeholders, the GCDAMP and LCRMSCP, and will have reported their findings back to the DOI Policy Group. The Service also will identify any information needs to develop the recovery implementation program that they believe should be addressed through the Long-term Experimental Plan EIS process.”

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Relevant Science

√ The following describes the relevant research or monitoring on this subject:

See the SCORE report at <http://www.gcmrc.gov/products/score/2005/score.htm>.

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Background Information

**Humpback Chub Comprehensive Plan:**

The report at the AMWG meeting will include a progress report from the TWG Ad Hoc Group, chaired by Glen Knowles of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), tasked with revising the Humpback Chub Comprehensive Plan. FWS will provide the expected dates for approval by the TWG and review by the Science Advisors. In addition, expected dates for delivery of the plan to the Ad Hoc Group for HBC Policy and Associated Implementation Concerns will be provided. This Ad Hoc Group will make a recommendation to the AMWG with regard to which parts of that plan should be part of the AMP and which should not. Those elements of the plan that are determined not to be a part of the AMP may be considered in a future HBC Recovery Implementation Program.

**Recovery Implementation Program:** The FWS will report on timeline, scope, and development of an outreach program, and identified information needed to develop a Humpback Chub RIP. The report is entitled “Recovery Implementation Program (RIP) for the Humpback Chub (*Gila cypha*) in the Grand Canyon: Report on analysis and recommendations to support stakeholder driven outreach program and identification of information needs.” The report constitutes feedback to the AMWG as directed by the Deputy Secretary. Once the Secretary’s Designee feels that the AMWG has had sufficient time to review and provide comments on the report, the FWS will forward the findings to the DOI Policy Group in cooperation with the Designee. The FWS is updating the report in response to new information, such as the March high flow and steady flows tests and other information.



Glen Knowles and Sam Spiller  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
September 10, 2008 AMWG Meeting

# HUMPBACK CHUB UPDATES



# Humpback Chub Comprehensive Plan Update

## Recent work 2007-2008:

- ♦ **March 12, 2007** – Submitted draft plan to Science Advisors
- ♦ **July 3, 2007** – Received Science Advisor review
- ♦ **July 20, 2007** – Ad hoc reviewed Science Advisors comments, created response outline
- ♦ **December 12, 2007** – Biological opinion on Lower Basin Shortage Criteria
- ♦ **February 27, 2008** – Biological Opinion on Glen Canyon Dam Operations, High Flow Test and Fall Steady Flows 2008-2012
- ♦ **March 5, 2008** – High Flow Test
- ♦ **May 13, 2008** – Ad Hoc Conference Call, new changes, timeline for completion
  - ♦ Need to incorporate and explain Biological Opinion Conservation Measures, Recovery Goals and GCDAMP

# Humpback Chub Comprehensive Plan Update

## Schedule:

- ◆ **October 2008** – Provide Plan and Response to Science Advisor Comments to TWG.
- ◆ **Fall 2008** – Provide to AMWG Implementation Ad Hoc Group (Sam Spiller/Nikolai Ramsey/ Randy Seaholm) for review /creation of report of plan projects funding “IN or OUT” report (AMP or a Recovery Program).
- ◆ Sam’s group will work to identify funding sources for project that are out, recommendations for a GCRP.
- ◆ **December 2008** – Present Plan and Report to AMWG.

# Humpback Chub

## Recovery Program Update

- ◆ **December 6, 2007 AMWG Meeting motion** -AMWG recommends that the Secretary of the Interior charge the FWS (Fish and Wildlife Service) to lead the development of a Lower Colorado River fish recovery implementation program... include humpback chub in Marble and Grand Canyons by 2008.
- ◆ **May 21, 2007 Deputy Secretary Lynn Scarlett Memo** - FWS will, by September 2007: Provide feedback to AMWG on a timeline, scope, and development of an outreach program to potentially involved stakeholders, report findings to DOI Policy Group and identify information needs to develop RP through the LTEP EIS.

# Humpback Chub

## Recovery Program Update

- ◆ **September 25, 2007:** Submitted “Recovery Implementation Program for Humpback Chub in Grand Canyon: Report on analysis and recommendations to support stakeholder driven outreach program and identification of information needs” to Sec. Designee Brenda Burman.
- ◆ **August 26, 2008:** In response to request from Brenda Burman, submitted updated report to include information on high flow test and 5-year flow experiment to Regional Director Dr. Benjamin Tuggle for review and submittal to Sec. Designee.