

**Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group**  
**Agenda Item Information**  
**May 22-23, 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

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

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

√ By DOI:

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 reports of GCMRC 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008-present; see also references in literature cited sections for the following: Biological Assessment (Bureau of Reclamation [Reclamation], 2007), Environmental Assessment (Reclamation, 2008), and Biological Opinion (FWS, 2008).

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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, tasked with revising the Humpback Chub Comprehensive Plan. The TWG, at its December 2007 meeting, accepted the Douglas and Douglas Humpback Chub Genetics Report as scientifically and technically credible and forwarded comments to the HBC Ad Hoc Group for use in the final HBC Comprehensive Plan. Glen will provide a timeline for completion of the Comprehensive Plan, and identify those elements of the plan that have been included in previous budgets as well as those proposed for inclusion in the FY09 budget.

This report is essentially finished. When the final draft comprehensive plan is completed and reviewed by the TWG, the AMWG's Ad Hoc Group for HBC Policy and Associated Implementation Concerns 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 will be forwarded to the HBC Recovery Implementation Program with a request that it address them.

**Recovery Implementation Program:**

The report at the AMWG meeting will also include a progress report from Sam Spiller on the development of a RIP by FWS, which will recognize recent actions and commitments resulting from the High Flow Experiment, five years of fall steady flows, and other related actions and commitments. By memorandum to Secretary's Designee Brenda Burman on September 25, 2007, the FWS provided a report on timeline, scope, and development of an outreach program, and identified information needed to develop a Humpback Chub RIP that should be addressed through the LTEP process. 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 FWS advised the Secretary's Designee that the report constituted feedback to the AMWG as directed by the Deputy Secretary. Per request from the Secretary's Designee, the FWS is currently updating the report for her consideration to include the recent events including the March 2008 High Flow Experiment and the five-year commitment for fall steady flows. The FWS plans to have the revised report available for the August-September AMWG meeting.

# Humpback Chub Comprehensive Plan and Recovery Program Updates



AMWG Meeting, Phoenix, Arizona

May 22, 2008

# Humpback Chub

## Comprehensive Plan Update

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**March 2005 AMWG 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.**

# Humpback Chub Comprehensive Plan Update

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## 2007 -2008 Milestones:

- ◆ **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 and created response outline
- ◆ **December 12, 2007** – Biological opinion on Lower Basin Shortage Criteria
- ◆ **February 27, 2008** – Biological Opinion on Glen Canyon Dam Operations
- ◆ **March 5, 2008** – High Flow test
- ◆ **May 13, 2008** – Ad Hoc Conference Call, new changes, timeline for completion

# Humpback Chub Comprehensive Plan – Projects

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- 1 Humpback Chub Genetics Management Plan – 06
- 2 Humpback Chub Refuge Creation – Conservation Measure (CM)
- 3 Glen Canyon Dam Operations – 04-09 CM
- 4 Glen Canyon Dam Selective Withdraw Structure – 04-05
- 5 Sediment Augmentation – 04-05
- 6 Aquatic Food Base Monitoring and Research – 04-09
- 7 Young Humpback Chub Habitat Enhancement in the Little Colorado River and other Grand Canyon Tributaries
- 8 Fate of Young Humpback Chub – 09 CM
- 9 Control of Nonnative Aquatic Species – 04-09 CM
- 10 Effects of Scientific Work and Recreation on Humpback Chub – 07-08
- 11 Monitoring and Control of Humpback Chub Diseases/Parasites – 04-05 CM
- 12 Translocation of Native fishes in Grand Canyon – 04, 05, 09 CM
- 13 Monitor Humpback Chub Population/Distribution/Habitat – 04-09 CM
- 14 Planning Documents to Assist Conservation of Humpback Chub – CM

# AMWG Humpback Chub Comprehensive Plan

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## ■ Schedule for Completion:

- ❑ June/July 2008 – Provide presentation to TWG, with draft Plan and Response to SA Comments, for possible TWG discussion and action.
- ❑ July/August 2008 – Provide to AMWG Implementation Ad Hoc Group (Sam Spiller/Nikolai Ramsey/ Randy Seaholm) for review of draft Humpback Chub Comprehensive Plan and creation of report of plan projects appropriateness for funding via AMP vs via the Recovery Implementation Program - IN OR OUT?
- ❑ HBCIMP also will work to identify funding sources for project that are out, recommendations for a RIP.
- ❑ December 2008 – Present Plan and Report to AMWG.



# Humpback Chub

## Recovery Implementation Program

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**December 6, 2007**

### **AMWG Meeting**

“Because the lack of a recovery program for the humpback chub is impeding the progress of the GCDAMP (Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program), (the) 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 (RIP), to include the humpback chub in Marble and Grand Canyons, by the end of 2008.”

# Humpback Chub Recovery Implementation Program

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## May 21, 2007 – Deputy Secretary Lynn Scarlett Memo

FWS will, by September 2007:

- ➡ Provide feedback to the Glen Canyon AMWG on a timeline, scope, and development of an outreach program to potentially involved stakeholders, the Glen Canyon AMP and LCRMSCP, and report these findings back to the DOI Policy Group.
- ➡ Identify any information needs to develop the RIP that should be addressed through the Long-term Experimental Plan Environmental Impact Statement (LTEP EIS).

# Humpback Chub Recovery Implementation Program

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**September 25, 2007 – Submitted report to Secretary’s Designee for transmission to AMWG: Recovery Implementation Program for the Humpback Chub in Grand Canyon: Report on Analysis and recommendations to support stakeholder driven outreach program and identification of information needs**

**Summer 2008 – Report will be updated to reflect new information relative to the 2008 high flow test and 5-year flow experiment, and presented at August-September AMWG meeting.**

**Also Summer 2008 – Draft Revised Recovery Goals**