

Humpback Chub Comprehensive Plan

Presented by Shane Capron
Chair, Technical Work Group

Road Map

- AMWG motions
- History of plan development
- TWG Motion
- The plan
- Science Advisor comments
- Summary/next steps



AMWG Motion (2003)

AMWG meet in special session on or about April 1, 2003, to consider actions to implement a comprehensive research and management program for the humpback chub, and in the interim an ad hoc committee of AMWG, TWG, GCMRC, and science advisors develop recommendations and report to AMWG at the special session.

The AMWG created the Humpback Chub Ad Hoc Group (HBC AHG)

AMWG Motion (2005)

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.

AMWG Motion (2005)

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.



HBC Ad Hoc

Charge: Develop a comprehensive research and management plan for humpback chub for TWG and AMWG review.

Members:

Bill Davis, Norm Henderson, Mark Steffen, Larry Stevens, Dennis Kubly, Bill Persons, Rick Johnson, Steve Mietz, Shane Capron, Kerry Christensen, Matthew Anderson, Pam Sponholtz

Resigned: Glen Knowles, Gary Burton

Milestones

- ✓ March 12, 2007 – Submitted draft plan to Science Advisors
- ✓ July 3, 2007 – Received Science Advisor review
- ✓ July 20, 2007 – Ad hoc reviewed SA 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
- ✓ May 2008 - April 17, 2009 – Ad hoc revised the plan, responded to comments and agreed on a final draft to send to TWG
- ✓ July 1, 2009 – TWG reviewed the plan and SA comments and responses and forwarded to AMWG (14/1/3)

TWG Motion (July 1, 2009)

14/1/3

In response to AMWG's March 2-3, 2005 motion, the TWG forwards to AMWG the following documents:

- (a) Comprehensive Plan for the Management and Conservation of Humpback Chub (*Gila cypha*) in the Lower Colorado River Basin,
- (b) Science Advisor comments, and
- (c) responses to the comments by the Humpback Chub ad hoc group.

TWG has reviewed the plan and finds that it is scientifically and technically credible and recommends that AMWG review the plan and forward it to the Implementation Plan ad hoc.

Purpose and Scope of the Plan

- Compile information on the status of the Grand Canyon population of humpback chub
- Summarize the threats to this population
- Define a comprehensive strategy to improve the status and to minimize threats
- Provides linkages, sequences, and feedback loops among projects, and steps for actions needed in crisis



The Plan

Abstract

Preface

1.0 Introduction: background, purpose, conservation programs

2.0 Status of humpback chub in the Colorado River basin

3.0 Threats to humpback chub in Grand Canyon

4.0 Strategy for improving conditions for humpback chub in the Lower Colorado River basin

5.0 Strategy for Implementation

6.0 Discussion

7.0 Conclusions

Appendix B – project synopses

Appendix D – project ranking

Projects

1. Humpback Chub Genetics Management Plan
2. Humpback Chub Refuge Creation
3. Glen Canyon Dam Operations
4. **Glen Canyon Dam Selective Withdrawal Structure**
5. **Sediment Augmentation**
6. Aquatic Food Base Monitoring and Research
7. **Young Humpback Chub Habitat Enhancement in the Little Colorado River and other Grand Canyon Tributaries**
8. Fate of Young Humpback Chub in the Colorado River in Grand Canyon (Near-shore Ecology Study)
9. Nonnative Control
10. Effects of Scientific Work and Recreational Activities on Humpback Chub
11. Monitoring and Control of Humpback Chub Diseases and Parasites
12. Translocation of Native fishes in Grand Canyon
13. Monitor Humpback Chub Population Dynamics, Distribution, and Habitat
14. **Planning Documents to Assist Conservation of Humpback Chub**



Science Advisor Comments/Responses

- June 2007 Science Advisor Review (attached to the plan)
- TWG/Ad hoc responses in February 17, 2009 document attached
- Generally improved focus, clarity, added discussion sections, updated to include recent biological opinions and conservation measures
- Response to SA comments highlights the need for a RIP to oversee the integration of recovery efforts

Summary

- Much of the activities are currently being implemented
- A key attribute to such a plan is the ability to review our efforts to reduce threats, answer critical questions – No Shelf Art
- LCR basin planning documents, threat reductions for catastrophic events outside of river corridor
- The comprehensive plan could form the foundation for future RIP plans/ discussions
- Support for a RIP?