

**Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group**  
**Agenda Item Information**  
**February 24-25, 2016**

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Agenda Item

Humpback Chub Recovery Team Update

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Action Requested

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

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Presenters

Rich Valdez, Senior Scientist, SWCA, Humpback Chub Recovery Team Leader

Tom Czaplá, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Agency Lead (by telephone)

Tom Chart, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Upper Basin Recovery Program Director, (by telephone)

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Previous Action Taken

N/A

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Relevant Science

See <http://www.coloradoriverrecovery.org/documents-publications/documents-publications.html>; <http://www.gcmrc.gov/publications/library.aspx> for relevant research and monitoring information.

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Summary of Presentation and Background Information

The Humpback Chub is an endangered fish species that occurs as five populations in the Upper Colorado River Basin and one population in the Grand Canyon of the lower basin. Three recovery and conservation programs operate in areas occupied by the species, including the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program, Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program, and Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program. Each of these programs consists of stakeholders that may be affected by recovery activities for the Humpback Chub. (See <http://www.coloradoriverrecovery.org>, <http://www.gcdamp.gov/>, and <http://www.lcrmscp.gov/> for more information.)

In an effort to identify activities necessary for species conservation, a new Humpback Chub Recovery Team was appointed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Regional Director Noreen Walsh in November 2015. The Team consists of a Team Leader (Rich Valdez), Agency Lead (Tom Czaplá), Science Subgroup, Implementation Subgroup, and Writing Subgroup, for a total of 22 Team members. The Team includes stakeholder representatives on the Implementation Subgroup as an addition to previous traditional Recovery Teams. The Team is expected to meet five times from November 2015 to December 2016, and a comprehensive Recovery Plan is expected to be delivered to the Regional Director for signature by July 2017.

The Recovery Team is delegated the responsibility of producing three reports: (1) Species Status Assessment, (2) Recovery Plan, and (3) Implementation Plan.

## Humpback Chub Recovery Team Update, continued

A Species Status Assessment (SSA) describes the species needs, current condition, and future condition and viability. It is a document that provides a single source for species' biological information used by the USFWS for making Endangered Species Act-related decisions, including listings, consultations, permitting, Habitat Conservation Plans, and recovery planning. A SSA might lead to a Species Status Review in which the USFWS might determine that reclassification is warranted. A SSA for the Humpback Chub is expected to be drafted by May 2016.

A Recovery Plan will be drafted as the Second Revision of the Humpback Chub Recovery Plan, originally signed in 1979 and revised in 1990. The Plan will contain site-specific management actions and objective measurable criteria for recovery. The Plan will describe Strategy, Goals, Objectives, and Criteria for each Recovery Unit, and is expected to be drafted by August 2016. The Recovery Units are the upper basin, including the Green River and upper Colorado River subbasins; and the lower basin, including the mainstem and its tributaries from Glen Canyon Dam downstream to Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

The Implementation Plan will describe how each management action from the Recovery Plan will be implemented, and is expected to be drafted by October 2016. Each action will be numbered and prioritized in a step-down outline that will specify total duration of the action, responsible parties, and estimates of time and cost.

This recovery planning process is significant to stakeholders throughout the Colorado River System because it spells out the actions, criteria, time, and costs necessary to recover the Humpback Chub. As the first document in the process, the Species Status Assessment will enable the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to evaluate the current and future condition of the species and determine if downlisting and delisting are possible. The Recovery Plan and Implementation Plan will describe the actions necessary for recovery and the associated time and costs.