

Fish Passage Technology (Whooshh System) - Briefing

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Summary

Meeting dates: June 12, 2015 Commission Meeting

Agenda item: Fish Passage Technology (Whooshh System) - Briefing

Presenter(s): Eric Kinne, Region 5 Hatchery Reform Coordinator, (Fish Program)
Vincent Bryan III, CEO Whooshh Innovations, and Todd Deligan, Vice
President Fish Transport, Whooshh Innovations

Background summary:

Whooshh Innovation was founded in 2007 to create a novel means by which delicate objects can be transported gently and efficiently over distance. The initial application focused upon the improved harvest of specialty crops such as apples, citrus, and stone-fruits.

In 2010, Whooshh began exploring the worldwide potential to transport live migratory species within its patented technology. By 2014, several studies had been completed validating the efficacy of the fish transport system and the first commercialized systems were sold and deployed. The aforementioned studies were conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey's Columbia River Research Lab, the Yakama Nations' Fisheries department, and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (funded by and through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy).

One of the 2014 systems sold was a 120' mobile system purchased by the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife for use at their Washougal River weir operation. This weir operates as part of WDFW's Washougal fall Chinook Hatchery program. The weir is used to collect hatchery and natural origin fish for broodstock. The weir is also used for controlling hatchery fish on the spawning grounds. The Washougal system operated from early September through mid/late October and transported approximately 10,000 live fall Tule Chinook – 4,000 broodstock and 6,000 surplus in 2014. The Whooshh system allowed the Department to collect more Tules in a shorter period of time with less stress on both fish and staff than in any previous year of weir operation.

In 2015, Whooshh is developing additional functionality for its systems including full volitional entry for hands-free transport and scanning applications for visually determining dimensions, sex, species, and hatchery v. wild distinctions.

Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

NA

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

NA

Action requested:

NA

Draft motion language:

NA

Justification for Commission action:

NA

Communications Plan:

NA

Commission Request to Department
"Blue Sheet"

Date of Request: 21/March/2015

Title of Request: a new fish passage technology, the Whooshh System

Commissioner: Mahnken

Priority Level (put one check in each row):

Importance: [] High [X] Medium [] Low

Urgency: [] High [] Medium [] Low

Request Due Date: June Commission meeting

Knowledge or Action Being Requested (narrative). Describe what you want to know. Be specific. *a small entrepreneurial company in Bellevue WA, known as Whooshh Innovations has been developing more efficient ways to move fish over dams and barriers regardless of the height to be lifted or the weight of the object to be transported. In 2014, WDFW purchased a 120' portable whooshh system for use at the department's Washougal hatchery, and moved more than 10000 hatchery bound bound fall chinook.*

Output Requested (e.g., telephone call, memo, material from files, new report, presentation, other):

The commission requests a presentation by whooshh staff and those WDFW staff involved in the Washougal study (Eric Kinne & Greg Haldy?); to include: information on cost, labor savings; survival of transported fish; ~~and~~ work on new volitional entry system that will bypass any human handling of "whooshled" fish altogether; and other newly-developed aspects of this interesting new technology.

Presentation

For Commission Executive Assistant Use	
Date Assigned: _____ [At Debrief]	Assigned To: _____ [Program]

revised 8/07/12 -eg