

JOINT COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE



2019 Webinar Series



PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

Richard Visser (left) has been a lifelong resident of the Yakima Basin. He and his wife have five children that enjoys boating and fishing on the Columbia River and in the Strait of Jaun De Fuca. Richard has degrees in accounting, geography, biology, with a master's in resource management. He started working as a fishery biologist in the early 1990s and since then has worked for Battel Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, the Yakama Nation, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, USFWS, and the Bureau of Reclamation as the project manager for the Cle Elum Fish Passage project as well as other fish and wildlife projects.

Pat Monk (right) works in the Yakima Basin as a fisheries biologist. After receiving an M.S. from the University of Idaho, he was employed by Yakima Basin irrigation districts to assist with environmental issues, then spent a decade with the USFWS leading bull trout recovery efforts, and most recently with Reclamation as the Yakima Field Office biologist.

WEBINAR INFORMATION

Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2019

Time: 12:00p PM EDT

Duration: 60 Minutes

Webinar Platform: Microsoft Skype

(call in number will be provided to registrants)

Please RSVP and direct questions or comments to Erin McCombs at fisheriesengineeringsscience@

FISH PASSAGE IN THE YAKIMA RIVER BASIN

Richard Visser and Pat Monk

Bureau of Reclamation

Yakima, Washington

The Yakima River Basin in south central Washington state is a diverse watershed that originates in the Cascade Mountain Range and extends eastward into dry fertile lowlands that support productive agricultural crops. The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) operates the Yakima Project, which is a series of storage dams, reservoirs, diversion dams, and canals that are managed to provide water for fish, agriculture, and power production among other things. Several fish species in the Yakima River Basin are federally listed as threatened or endangered. The Yakima Basin Integrated Plan is a cooperative effort to improve water supplies, fish populations, and ecological conditions with participation by the Yakama Nation, Reclamation, Washington State, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Marine Fisheries Service, irrigation districts, and other community members.

Sockeye and other salmon were historically present in lake Cle Elum but were extirpated in the early 20th Century when Cle Elum Dam was constructed. In 2009, following Reclamation's finding that fish passage at Cle Elum and other Yakima Basin reservoir dams was feasible, the Yakama Nation and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife initiated a reintroduction effort for sockeye salmon upstream of Cle Elum Dam. An interim fish passage structure was constructed on the dam spillway to evaluate the ability of juvenile sockeye to find a reservoir outlet near the lake surface. With evidence that fish could spawn, rear, and successfully migrate out of the lake, planning, design, and construction of fish passage facilities at Cle Elum Dam was initiated. Reclamation has implemented reservoir and water management actions to improve riverine conditions for all migratory fishes. This presentation will provide an overview of these efforts.

The Joint Committee on Fisheries Engineering and Science is hosting a free webinar series as part of its mission to engage scientists and engineers on topics related to fish passage. The Committee consists of members of the American Fisheries Society Bioengineering Section (AFS-BES) and the American Society of Civil Engineers Environmental and Water Resources Institute (ASCE-EWRI). It was established in January 2011 to foster communication between the two groups, provide opportunities for engineers and biologists to share relevant knowledge and learn from one another, and to collaborate on projects related to fish passage.