

MEMORANDUM

TO: Parr/Fairfield Hydro Relicensing Fisheries and Instream Flow TWC
FROM: Shane Boring and Milton Quattlebaum
DATE: April 29, 2014
RE: Robust Redhorse Spawning Areas

An assessment of spawning habitat for robust redhorse (*Moxostoma robustum*) was requested by stakeholders during the study scoping phase of relicensing. Stakeholders agreed that a qualitative assessment of the Instream Flow Incremental Methodology (IFIM) study reach downstream of Parr Shoals Dam would be conducted concurrently with the mesohabitat assessment and other field efforts during the fall of 2013 and winter of 2014. This memorandum summarizes the assessment results.

Methods

The reach of the Broad River extending from Parr Shoals through the Bookman Island complex was observed by biologists (Milton Quattlebaum (SCANA), Ron Ahle (South Carolina Department of Natural Resources), and Shane Boring (Kleinschmidt Associates)) in October and November 2013 during the mesohabitat assessment conducted in support of the proposed IFIM Study. A follow up visit was made by Quattlebaum and Scott Lamprecht (South Carolina Department of Natural Resources) in February 2014. During the assessment, the group utilized published habitat suitability criteria to identify areas along the river reach they believed were potential robust redhorse (RRH) spawning sites. According to Freeman and Freeman (2001), RRH spawning habitat is characterized as being mid-channel gravel bars dominated by medium to coarse gravel with less than 30% sand and minimal fine particles. Spawning sites are also characterized as containing gravel small enough to be moved for egg deposition, but large enough to offer interstitial space for the eggs. Water depths are typically between 1 and 3.6 feet, with an average water column velocity of 0.85 to 2.20 ft/s. Sites encountered during the assessment that appeared to display these characteristics were noted on the field datasheets, their locations were documented with Global Positioning System (GPS), and in some instances, the sites were photographed.

Results

Four potential RRH spawning sites were examined during the assessment. The upstream-most site is located in the tailrace of the Parr development powerhouse within IFIM Study Site 3 (Figure 1). Fisheries Technical Working Committee (TWC) members have noted that RRH activity is well documented at that site, including observed potential spawning behavior. Three new sites were located during the assessment: one just upstream of Haltiwanger Island and two in the Bookman Shoals complex (IFIM Study Site 10) in the vicinity of Hickory Island (Figure 2). Results of PHABSIM and 2-D modeling conducted as part of the IFIM study will develop weighted usable area (WUA) estimates of spawning habitat under various flow scenarios, which will be taken into consideration by the TWC in developing a downstream flow recommendation that is best for multiple species, including RRH spawning.

FIGURES



FIGURE 1 POTENTIAL ROBUST REDHORSE SPAWNING AREA DOWNSTREAM OF PARR DAM

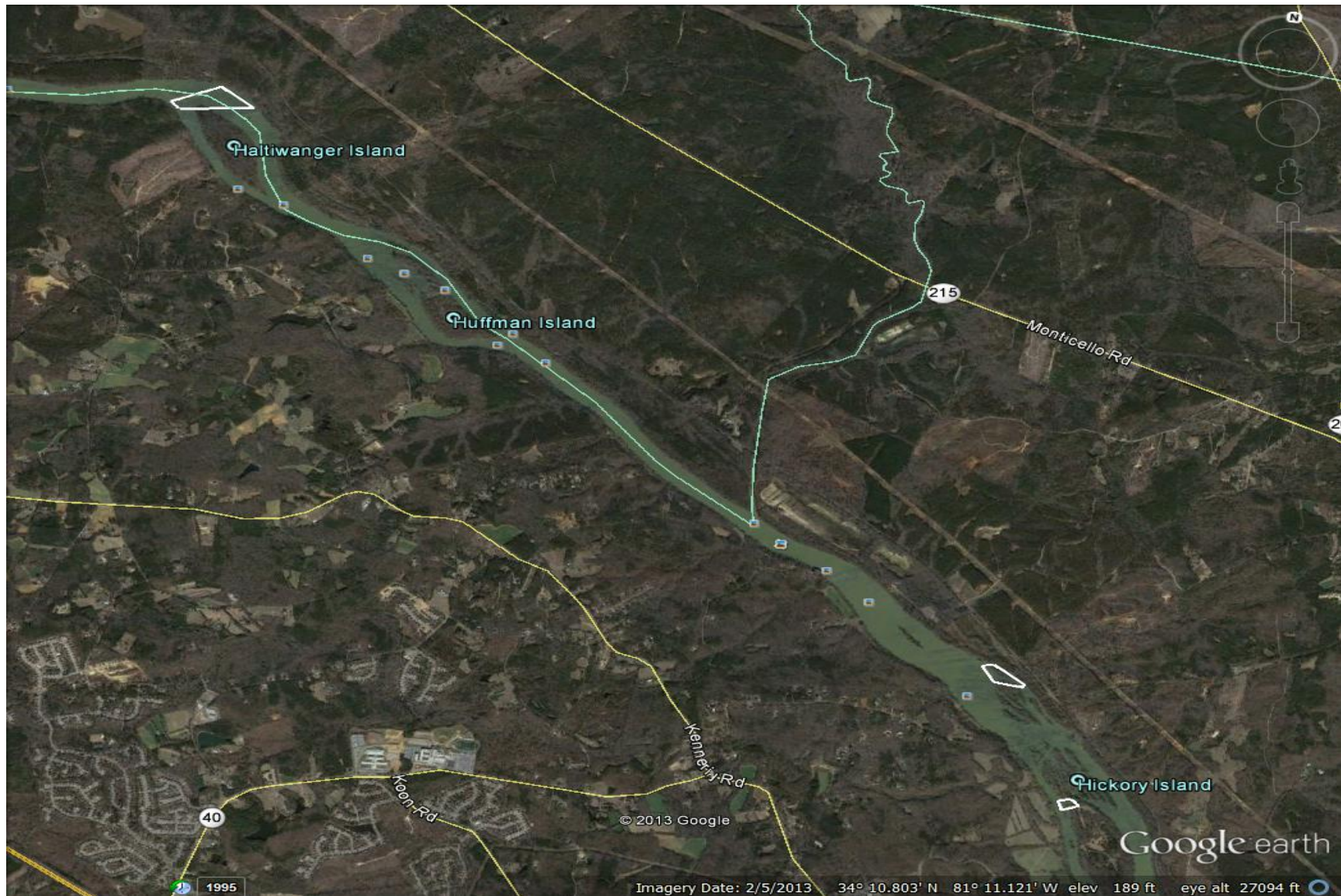


FIGURE 2 POTENTIAL ROBUST REDHORSE SPAWNING SITE AT HALTIWANGER ISLAND AND IN BOOKMAN SHOALS COMPLEX