

**FTC Cowlitz Hydroelectric Project
FERC NO. 2016
Fisheries Technical Committee
Final Meeting Summary**

February 3, 2009 from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Mayfield office, Silver Creek, Washington

Members Present

Michelle Day	NMFS
Tim Romanski	USFWS
Brett Swift	American Rivers
Pat Frazier	WDFW
Mark LaRiviere	Tacoma Power

Other Attendees

Ed Meyer	NMFS
Rich Turner	NMFS
John Serl	WDFW
John Barr	John Barr Consulting, HSRG
Debbie Young	Tacoma Power
Tom Martin	Tacoma Power
Wolf Dammers	WDFW
Tom Santee	Insight Northwest

2009 FTC Meeting Dates (first Tuesday of each month)

March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 1, October 6, November 3, December 1

Default time: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM; Default location: Mayfield

Announcements

Tom Santee is substituting as facilitator for today's meeting.

The agenda item for FHMP Implementation Schedule is deferred to March 3.

The agenda item about using WDFW seining equipment to conduct a test is assigned as an action item for Steve Vigg.

Agenda Item: Upper Cowlitz & Tilton River Productivity Testing

Presenter: John Barr

John presented an overview of a draft document recommending that productivity testing begin this year for upper Cowlitz steelhead and for Tilton River fall Chinook and coho.

The need for productivity testing is described in the Settlement Agreement (SA) and the FHMP. Results from the testing will guide decisions for upstream fish passage measures.

Several members of the technical work group assisting with the FHMP update noted that productivity testing needed to begin last year in order to have results in time for decisions that are called for in year 14 of the license. Therefore, several of the members recommend starting the testing immediately, even though some of the “triggers” in the FHMP needed to be reached prior to the start of testing have not all been achieved.

The recommendation is described in the draft document: Population Productivity Testing for the Cowlitz River Hydroelectric Project, January 2009, prepared by Andy Appleby, John Barr, Mark LaRiviere, Kevin Malone and Rich Turner.

A two-hour discussion followed John’s summary. Meeting participants commented on what they viewed as potentially adverse consequences and benefits of implementing productivity testing and of delaying the start of productivity testing. A significant concern is that the testing eliminates sport fishing for those species in those systems during the minimum five years needed for testing. Other concerns included the indefinite time period that productivity testing will need to go on, and the fact that some triggers are not currently met. A major concern for not implementing the testing now is that the FHMP deadline for upstream passage decision is already impossible to meet, and those decisions will be delayed years’ longer.

The participants also discussed the meaning of language article 3 of the SA: Upstream Fish Passage, Barrier, Mayfield and Mossyrock. There are different interpretations about flexibility.

There was not consensus among the FTC members present to accept the recommendation to begin productivity testing immediately. Instead the members agreed to place this item on the June 2, 2009 FTC meeting agenda for further consideration. Prior to that meeting the following action items will be done.

Action Items:

- Pat will work with Tacoma Power to develop testing and decision-making criteria to be in place when productivity testing begins. Draft criteria will be presented at the March 3 FTC meeting. (Pat F)
- Tacoma Power will prepare an analysis of the language and dates in Section 3 of the SA, and report on what dates are reasonably attainable. (Tom Martin)
- All FTC members identify any information they need to be ready for a decision in June, and to bring their information request to the March 3 meeting. (All)

Agenda Item: Approval of use of All H Analyzer Model in FHMP Update process
Presenter: Mark LaRiviere

Mark said the FTC members had not yet concurred on using the All H Analyzer Model with the FHMP update process because some members wanted to know more about assumptions built into the model. He said this information was shared and wanted to obtain an official consensus.

Brett said she supported using the AHA model with the understanding that there are a number of consequential uncertainties in model inputs and outputs, and that these uncertainties need to be kept in mind when the outputs are used to help inform decision making. As a result, Brett feels the modeling runs done by the Technical Group will need to consider those uncertainties.

The FTC members concurred to use the All H Analyzer Model.

Agenda Item: FTC/NMFS coordination when fish passage is affected
Presenter: Michelle Day

Michelle reported that NMFS representatives were upset they were not informed of the schedule to shut down the fish ladder at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery and not given opportunity to review plans for the temporary trap design. She said their staff may have been able to provide ideas to make the temporary trap more effective. She added that while this is a very important concern to NMFS, she believes it should be an issue for the FTC as a whole.

Mark and Debbie responded that the fish ladder closure is part of the overall hatchery remodel plan reviewed by the FTC a couple years ago. The hatchery remodel schedule was designed around the time when there are few fish returning to the ladder. They acknowledged that designs for the temporary trap were on an expedited schedule and it was an oversight not to share them with NMFS.

Michelle said she is concerned about being kept informed about anything affecting fish passage on the Cowlitz River; particularly when they are planned in advance. Debbie promised to keep NMFS better informed.

During the discussion it was suggested that an operations and construction update relating to fisheries projects be presented by Tacoma Power at each FTC meeting.

Action Item:

- Mark will ensure an operations and construction update is on the March 3 agenda. (Complete)

Agenda Item: Downstream Team Update
Presenter: Tom Martin

Tom reported that USGS proposals for evaluation of a screen and weir at CFD and for evaluating a floating collector at Riffe Lake are received and will be on the FTC site this week. Comments are invited.

Tacoma Power expanded its contract with WDFW for pathology services relating to understanding pathology of downstream migrants.

These studies are expensive. About \$750,000 will be spent on tags and labor.

Comments received on the 30% conceptual design report were sent to the downstream team.

The team's next meeting is Feb. 17 in Tacoma. The team is working on the 60% design. The request to FERC to extend the final reporting date to the end of August 2010 is nearly final.

Prototypes for this year at CFD are moving ahead. The damper screen is being built by Tacoma Power. The weir box is out for bids. However, a contract won't be awarded until the FERC Dam Safety Office gives approval. A bid package for pumps and other auxiliary items is being put together.

Approval of Meeting Summary

The January 6, 2009 meeting summary was approved with clarifying edits.

Review Action Items from January 6, 2009 FTC meeting

Public Meetings/Communications

- Tom S will post answers to key questions raised at the meeting on the Cowlitz website. He will work with Tom and Pat to do this.
 - Tom received the parking lot list from Mark today. He will draft a Q&A by Feb. 18.
- Tom S will bring ideas for the next public meeting to our March meeting.
 - Complete
- Pat will answer outstanding website questions.
 - Complete

Use of the All H Analyzer Model

- Mark L will set up the schedule for the next technical meetings.
 - Complete
- The technical team will continue to meet and will recommended a model approach for all species. They will bring a comprehensive proposal to the FTC for review. The aim is to have this discussion at our June FTC meeting.
 - Complete
- Mark will publish the dates and agendas of these technical meetings.

- Ongoing

Productivity Testing

- All will be prepared to discuss this at the February FTC meeting.
 - Complete
- Mark will prepare a version of the schedule that works backwards from deadlines for discussion at our February FTC meeting.
 - Revised for March meeting

Downstream Team

- Tom will work with Bill to post the comments on the 30% Design Plan on the FTC website.
 - Complete
- Bill will distribute send the plan for the weir box by January 7, 2009.
 - Complete this week
- Tom will file request with FERC for a schedule modification.
 - Nearly complete

Meeting Evaluation

Well Done:

- Finished early
- Good discussions

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Meeting Handouts

- Agenda for February 3, 2009 FTC meeting
- Draft January 6, 2009 FTC meeting summary
- Population Productivity Testing for the Cowlitz River Hydroelectric Project: Draft January 2009
- Appendix 1: Settlement Agreement Article 3: Upstream Fish Passage: Barrier, Mayfield and Mossyrock

Topics for March 3 FTC Meeting

Welcome / Review Agenda / Check-In (9:00 – 9:10)

Review FHMP Update implementation schedule

Construction and operations update

Productivity testing

 Development of testing and decision-making criteria

 Identifying FTC member information needs

AHA Technical Team update

Public meeting and communications update

Lunch

Downstream Team update

Upper basin juvenile supplementation/Hall Creek rearing pond
Update Status of Action Items
Approval of February 3 meeting summary
Meeting Evaluation and set April 7, 2009 meeting agenda