

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

January 6, 2009 from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM  
Mayfield office, Silver Creek, Washington

**Members Present**

Michelle Day	NMFS
Brett Swift	American Rivers
Pat Frazier	WDFW
Brad Caldwell	WDOE

**Other Attendees**

Ed Meyer	NMFS
Rich Turner	NMFS
John Serl	WDFW
Andy Appleby	WDFW
Kevin Malone	Meridian Environmental
John Barr	John Barr Consulting, HSRG
Debbie Young	Tacoma Power
Tom Martin	Tacoma Power
Bill Iyall*	Tacoma Power
Tom Santee	Insight Northwest
Ray Beamsderfer	Cramer Fish Sciences, LCFRB
Lyn Wiltse	PDSA Consulting – facilitator

\*Joined meeting at noon

**2009 FTC Meeting Dates (first TUESDAY of each month!)**

February 3, 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 will facilitate our next meeting on February 3, 2009.

**Approval of Meeting Summary**

The November 4, 2008 meeting summary was approved with clarifying edits.  
The December 2, 2008 meeting summary was approved without changes.

**Review Action Items from November 4, 2008 FTC meeting  
Creel Data Actions**

- Julie will update the table to include the latest data from Lake Scanewa for the December meeting.
  - Wolf will send out the data via email.

- Mark will talk with Pat about continuing funding these creel surveys.

#### **FHMP Update Process Actions**

- John – Continue work on the revised FHMP according to feedback received from FTC members and the criteria listed above.
  - In progress.

#### **Mayfield by-pass facility Action**

- Steve F will work with Julie to create a section in the operations manual that includes lessons learned here.
  - Neither Steve F nor Julie was present to discuss this item.

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#### **Review Action Items from December 2, 2008 FTC meeting**

##### **FHMP Update Schedule**

- A technical team was formed to assist incorporating AHA modeling into the FHMP update. FTC members can designate a technical representative. The team's first meeting was held in (December). NMFS, WDFW, and Tacoma were in attendance. Another meeting will be set up in January.

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#### **Agenda Item: Lower Columbia River Fish Recovery Plan**

##### **Presenters: Ray Beamsderfer**

Ray gave us a PowerPoint presentation that explained the background, purpose, and activities of the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board. There will be an opportunity to inform the revised recovery plan which is due out later this year.

The vision for the recovery plan is to provide a phased approach to achieve healthy and harvestable populations in a way that works for both fish and people.

Ray walked us through the population planning ranges and a recovery scenario for chum. He also reviewed with us a chart depicting the current status and planned objective for Cowlitz fall Chinook, spring Chinook, chum, winter steelhead, and coho.

The recovery strategy spans all the entire salmon life cycle and balances support for each of the 4 H's (Habitat, Hatcheries, Hydro, and Harvest). He explained that the plan is not prescriptive. It relies heavily on a monitoring and evaluation component and will be continually revised over time.

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#### **Agenda Item: Report on December 2, 2008 Public Meeting**

##### **Presenter: Tom Santee**

Tom briefly reviewed the response to the December 2 public meeting held in Morton immediately after the FTC meeting. FTC members Michelle, Mark, and Pat were in attendance.

Tom felt that the meeting went pretty well. The facility seemed to work well. The 4:00 PM start time, though troublesome for some, yielded the best turnout so far, with about 40 in attendance. The format of this meeting was Q&A vs. a prepared presentation as done in the past. At this meeting a "Parking Lot" list was created for some suggested actions that required additional research. Tom distributed a list of the questions that were posed at the meeting along with copies of an article and an editorial about the meeting that appeared in the East Lewis County Journal to the FTC.

Tom observed that there is still room to improve the "co" part of the communication that occurs during these quarterly meetings. In the spirit of being open and transparent we will work to create more of an atmosphere of dialogue at future meetings.

**Action Items:**

- Tom S will post answers to key questions raised at the meeting on the Cowlitz website. He will solicit input from FTC members to do this. He will try to incorporate items listed in Parking Lot during the December 2, 2008 Public Meeting. He will specify who has what jurisdiction.
- Tom S will bring ideas for the next public meeting to our March meeting.
- Pat will answer outstanding website questions.

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**Agenda Item: Use of All H Analyzer Model (AHA) for Fisheries & Hatchery Management Plan (FHMP) Solutions**

**Presenter: Andy Appleby**

Andy demonstrated a specific application of the All H Analyzer. He walked us through the input parameters and various scenarios for achieving self-sustaining populations of upper Cowlitz coho.

**Action Item:**

- Mark L will set up the schedule for the next technical meetings.
- 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.
- Mark will publish the dates and agendas of these technical meetings.

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**Agenda Item: Testing for Self-Sustainability for Steelhead and Coho in the Tilton River and for Steelhead in the Upper Cowlitz River**

**Presenter: Andy Appleby**

There was lively discussion around where we are with respect to triggers set out in the FHMP and whether we should begin productivity testing for steelhead and coho in the Tilton and for steelhead in the Upper Cowlitz. Andy suggested that it might make sense to do testing since we are getting hundreds of natural origin coho back in the Tilton. We will all consider this and make a decision on this at our next meeting. We will consider a plan for the productivity testing before the end of 2009.

**Action Items:**

- All will be prepared to discuss this at the February FTC meeting.
  - Mark will prepare a version of the schedule that works backwards from deadlines for discussion at our February FTC meeting.
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**Agenda Item: Downstream Team Update****Presenter: Tom Martin**

Tom explained that the 30% Conceptual Design Plan has been distributed to the FTC and the Downstream Team. Comments on the plan have been received and the consultants are working on addressing them.

The team has provided design information to Lewis County PUD for the weir box (29' X 9' X 12') and the flow deflector that will be tested in the upcoming collection season. Bill reported that bids will go out in the next two weeks for construction of these items. They are planning to have the equipment installed and be operational by April 15, 2009.

Marc Wicke has received the draft of the 2008 evaluation report from USGS and is awaiting their 2009 draft study plan. They will be distributed to the FTC as soon as they have finalized.

Downstream team to re-evaluate completion schedule for 60% tasks at the next downstream team meeting on February 17. Tom M to email FTC with report on an adjusted schedule following that meeting.

**Action Items:**

- Tom will work with Bill to post the comments on the 30% Design Plan on the FTC website.
  - Bill will distribute the plan for the weir box by January 7, 2009.
  - Tom will file an extension request with FERC for a schedule modification.
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**Meeting Evaluation****Well Done:**

- Finished early
- Good discussions

**Do Differently:**

- Better describe agenda items
- Send out recommendations in advance for prior review?
- Move approval of meeting summaries to end of the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

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## **Meeting Handouts**

- Agenda for January 6, 2009 FTC meeting
- November 4, 2008 Draft FTC meeting summary with Brett's comments
- Draft December 2, 2008 FTC meeting summary
- December 10, 2008 Lewis County Journal article and editorial about the December 2, 2008 public meeting
- List of questions generated at December 2, 2008 Public Meeting
- PowerPoint presentation: Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board Salmon Recovery Planning: Cowlitz River examples

## **Topics for February 3 FTC Meeting**

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

Review the FHMP implementation Schedule – working backward from deadlines (9:10 – 9:20)

Sustainability Testing – modify SA schedule? (9:20 – 10:20)

- Tilton River: steelhead & coho
- Upper Cowlitz River: steelhead

Break (10:20 – 10:30)

Approval of Use of the All H Analyzer model (10:30 – 10:45)

- All species

AHA Technical Team Update (10:45 – 11:30)

Working Lunch (11:30 – 12:00)

Downstream Team Update (12:00 – 12:15)

Use WDFW seining equipment to conduct a test? (12:15 – 12:30)

Update Status of Action Items (12:30 – 12:50)

Other Issues? (12:50 – 1:15)

Approval of January 6 meeting summaries (1:15 – 1:25)

Meeting Evaluation and set March 3, 2009 meeting agenda (1:25 – 1:45)