

FTC Cowlitz Hydroelectric Project
FERC NO. 2016
Fisheries Technical Committee
Final Meeting Summary
May 5, 2009 from 9:00 AM – 2:15 PM
Mayfield Office, Silver Creek, Washington

Members Present

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| Michelle Day | NMFS |
| Brett Swift | American Rivers |
| Brad Caldwell | WA Dept of Ecology |
| Pat Frazier | WDFW |
| Mark LaRiviere | Tacoma Power |

Other Attendees

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| Ed Meyer | NMFS |
| Rich Turner | NMFS |
| John Serl | WDFW |
| Wolf Dammers | WDFW |
| Debbie Young | Tacoma Power |
| Tom Santee | Insight Northwest |
| Marc Wicke | Tacoma Power |

2009 FTC Meeting Dates (first Tuesday of each month)

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

Announcement

Tom Santee will facilitate the May 5 FTC meeting.

Agenda Item: Revised FHMP Update implementation schedule

Presenter: Mark LaRiviere

Mark handed out an updated timeline for the FHMP Update. He noted the time frames for several items are getting compressed although he believes the plan still can be submitted to FERC by the March 1, 2010 submittal date.

Pat asked if the public review period could be moved up from starting October 7 to early in September; possibly the same as when the first public workshop is held. This extends the time to more than the 30 days currently scheduled for public review. Everyone agreed to this change although it was noted that FTC members might not reach consensus on the plan update prior to the workshops or public review. This will be pointed out to the public during the review period.

The FTC may need to hold a second meeting in August to work through the draft update. No additional meeting is scheduled at this time.

Action Item:

- FTC members are to look into their September schedules for dates they are available for public workshops. The workshop schedule will be set at the June FTC meeting.

Agenda Item: Productivity Testing Discussion

Presenter: Pat Frazier

Pat said he was unable to complete the document describing WDF&W's recommendation for productivity testing for discussion at today's meeting. He said his agency will recommend moving forward with productivity testing but did not say in what locations and for what species although Tilton River steelhead was mentioned as one likely population. Pat said he will provide a WDFW written plan prior to the June FTC meeting for discussion at that meeting. Pat believes an FTC decision can be made at that meeting.

Brett proposed a legal team meeting be held this summer to review Article 3 of the Settlement Agreement because of differing interpretations and issues regarding triggers and target dates. Debbie and Brett will work on what legal questions should be reviewed by the legal team. FTC members agreed with holding off on setting up the legal team meeting until WDFW's plan is received at the end of May.

Action Item:

- Pat completes and distributes WDFW's productivity testing plan for discussion and possible action at the June meeting.
- Debbie and Brett work on strategy for legal team meeting this summer.

Agenda Item: Genetic Subcommittee Report

Presenter: Mark LaRiviere

Mark reported on the April 13 Genetics Subcommittee conference call and distributed a written report posted to the FTC site on April 29. Denise Hawkins of USFWS is a new subcommittee member.

The subcommittee approved a summary statement to accompany the 2009 progress report of the lower Cowlitz River steelhead genetic study conducted by WDFW. The following four paragraphs of the first page of the handout is this summary:

The March 2009 report provides an initial genetic characterization of lower Cowlitz River steelhead assumed to be natural spawners in 2008. The report is a first year

progress report and continued sampling in 2009 will result in a second year progress report. A total of 30 d steelhead adults were sampled from three lower river sub-basins in 2008. Four of these were marked, hatchery-origin fish. All three Cowlitz Hatchery steelhead stocks sampled in 2008 were included in the genetic analysis. The small sample size for natural spawners allowed only some preliminary conclusions. See the hypothesis/findings below.

In general, steelhead adults from lower Cowlitz River tributaries were distinct from the hatchery steelhead stocks; however, genetic influence from the early winter-run hatchery stock was evident. Also, the lower Cowlitz tributary steelhead adults were generally distinct from other lower Columbia River natural steelhead populations. Cowlitz River hatchery steelhead stocks were distinct from each other.

The upper Cowlitz River basin late winter-run steelhead sampled at the barrier dam/separator in 2005 did not show any significant genetic divergence from the hatchery late winter-run stock sampled in 2008. The genetic similarity suggests that the late winter hatchery stock transported to the upper watershed is producing returning adults.

The adult sampling work of this study is the first phase. Results from the adult sampling phase will determine if we conduct the second phase – sampling lower Cowlitz River juveniles.

The subcommittee also discussed sampling results to date of Mayfield Lake downstream migrant Chinook juveniles. Two of the three years resulted in 95% of the sampled juveniles are fall Chinook. Mark said sampling will continue one more year and then the recommendation is to discontinue the sampling program. Resampling may be considered again in three years. After next year's study Ann Marshall of WDFW will be asked to present a report at an FTC meeting.

Agenda Item: AHA Technical Team Update

Presenter: Mark LaRiviere

Mark reported the AHA technical team is finished with spring Chinook and will work on coho at its next meeting. They hope to have two meetings in May so they can go over all the species. John Barr will give an update at the June FTC meeting. It will be a broad brush rather than species-by-species report and will discuss different hatchery objectives such as using the hatchery for conservation only, what would it look like to manage to HSRG standards and focusing on recovery of listed species. The FTC will have flexibility to mix and match different objectives.

Agenda Item: Public Communications Update

Presenter: Tom Santee

Tom handed out a report on cowlitzfish.net site traffic during April 2009. He noted the site has the most activity on Mondays probably due to the weekly posting of the Cowlitz fish report. He said he is working with a journalism school intern and the person who designed the site to revamp its approach to make it more valuable to visitors and to the FTC. Among the possible changes is to allow visitors to post comments following the postings Tom puts on the site so there is more opportunity for dialogue. Tom does not plan to have open forums at this time, however, as that is available at other places.

FTC members discussed when to schedule the next public meeting. It was agreed that Tacoma Power and WDFW will co-host a public meeting at the community center in Morton on Tuesday, June 23 from 6-8 p.m. The topic is what's planned for productivity testing. Tom will reserve the room and publicize the meeting.

FTC members also discussed when to hold the first Webinar. It was agreed that this should take place near mid-July. The Webinar will feature a presentation by Tacoma Power on the salmon hatchery remodel.

Action Items:

- Tom S will reserve the conference room in the community center in Morton for the June 23 meeting and publicize the meeting.
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Agenda Item: Downstream Team Update

Presenter: Marc Wicke

Marc handed out the 60% design summary for discussion at the June FTC meeting.

March reported that low, medium and high-flow calibration is complete for the screens at Cowlitz Falls Dam. The weir box will be in place by mid-May. It must be able to be removed within 24 hours of a high-flow situation in order to get FERC dam safety approval.

Action Items:

- FTC members review the 60% design report for discussion at June meeting.
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Agenda Item: Supplemental collection update

Presenter: Marc Wicke

Marc handed out the April 13-26 supplemental collection report and said monthly reports will be posted to the FTC site a week prior to each FTC meeting during the collection period. Through April 30, 1,858 juvenile salmon were collected, ranging from 180 to 350 fish per day. Only 30 to 40 were collected via the inclined plane trap with the rest via beach seining.

Agenda Item: Upper basin juvenile supplementation; conference call report
Presenter: Pat Frazier & Wolf Dammers

There was no conference call to report. Pat handed out a document emailed to FTC members and posted to the FTC site on April 30 titled: "A Proposal to Eliminate Hatchery Late Winter Steelhead Fry Stocking in the Upper Cowlitz River Watershed."

Pat said the annual stocking of 200,000 late winter steelhead fry upstream of Cowlitz Falls Dam is returning an average of 44 adults to the hatchery. Meanwhile, the stocking of 75,000 smolts is producing an average return of 207 adults annual. As a result, WDFW proposes the stocking of 200,000 fry annually be ended starting fall 2009 and the release of smolt hatchery origin late winter steelhead be increased from 75,000 to 100,000. Pat said that most of the additional smolts could be acclimated in the Hall Creek Facility near Packwood and collected there for transport downstream thereby avoiding issues with fish-collection efficiency near Cowlitz Falls Dam.

Considerable discussion followed the proposal but no decision was made regarding WDFW's proposal. The members decided to table further discussion and possible action until the June FTC meeting.

Agenda Item: River forecasts and reservoir refill updates
Presenter: Mark LaRiviere

Mark said there is no likelihood that Tacoma Power will be asking to temporarily reduce minimum flows below the required 5,000 cfs this season as Riffe Lake's refill should be normal.

Agenda item: Construction/Operations update
Presenter: Mark LaRiviere

Mark said the salmon hatchery rebuild is on schedule. They are going to be moving fall Chinook juveniles on the north side of the hatchery to adult ponds to rebuild those raceways, and then will do the raceways on the south side. Mark said modifications are being made in both design and operations of the fish separator to reduce stress on the fish. Ed said he wants to see it in operation again before Tacoma Power concludes that the modifications are complete and adequate.

Mark said work is under way to rebuild the downstream migrant facility at Mayfield Dam. The contractor is ahead of schedule and operations are continuing during construction.

Added agenda item: FHMP Annual Report review
Presenter: Mark LaRiviere

Mark said the FHMP annual report is out for comment. It needs to be sent to FERC next week so any late comments must be submitted right away.

Added agenda item: HAG meeting update

Presenter: Mark LaRiviere

Mark said the HAG will meet next week at the WDFW office. There will be a report on the latest land acquisitions. Tacoma Power is being approached by property owners wanting to sell their land.

Added agenda item: FTC member attendance at meetings

Presenter: Mark LaRiviere

Mark noted that two FTC members weren't present: George Lee and Tim Romanski. Neither said they would not be here for the meeting. The FTC suggested that both be contacted to learn if there is a way to facilitate their participation in the meetings.

Action item: Lyn will call Tim and Mark will call George about FTC participation matters.

Agenda Item: Update Status of Action Items

- Tom M will check with Bill Iyall re WDFW portable adult release chute for the Cispus River.
 - Tom M will send out a draft of the revised Mayfield Debris Management plan for review before it is to sent to FERC
 - Dean will take some pictures of the louvers at Mayfield Dam to show the amount of debris before and immediately after the annual cleaning. We will use these as baseline photos from which to compare subsequent years and re-evaluate accordingly.
 - Lyn will add request for RSVP to draft agenda she emails out one week prior to each meeting. Also ask for where item requires decision and note this on agenda. Send out reminders of action items with agenda.
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Agenda Item: Approval of April 7, 2009 FTC Meeting Summary

We reviewed and approved the April 7 meeting summary. It will be posted to the public website.

Agenda Item: Meeting Evaluation

Well Done:

- Good job, Tom, with facilitation

Do Differently:

- Concern about attendance
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The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Meeting Handouts

- Agenda for May 5, 2009 FTC meeting
- Draft April 7, 2009 FTC meeting summary
- Updated FHMP Schedule
- Genetic subcommittee 4/13/2009 conference call summary
- April 2009 monthly report of Cowlitzfish.net activity
- April 13-26, 2009 Supplemental Collection effort report
- WDFW proposal re: upper Cowlitz River basin juvenile steelhead fry plants
- Adult steelhead hauled above Cowlitz Falls Dam, 1996-2008 graph

Topics for June 2, 2009 FTC Meeting

9:00-9:30 a.m.: Welcome / Review Agenda / Check-In

9:30-11:a.m.: AHA subcommittee report and discussion

11:00-11:15 a.m.: Break

11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.: Productivity testing recommendation

12:15-12:45 p.m.: Working lunch

12:45-2:45 p.m.: Downstream Team 60% Report discussion

2:45-3 p.m. May meeting summary approval / Set July 7 agenda