

FTC Cowlitz Hydroelectric Project
FERC NO. 2016
Fisheries Technical Committee
Final Meeting Summary
March 2, 2010 from 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM
Mayfield Office, Silver Creek, Washington

Members Present

Michelle Day	NMFS
Brett Swift	American Rivers
Pat Frazier	WDFW
George Lee	Yakama Nation

Other Attendees

Bob Rose	Yakama Nation
Ed Meyer	NMFS
Rich Turner	NMFS
John Serl	WDFW
Tom Martin	Tacoma Power
Debbie Young	Tacoma Power
Bill Iyall	Tacoma Power
Steve Fischer	Tacoma Power
Joe First	LCPUD
Tom Santee	Insight Northwest
Al Giorgi	BioAnalysts
Chick Sweeney	AECOM
Lyn Wiltse	PDSA Consulting

Future FTC Meeting Dates (first Tuesday of each month)

Apr. 6, May 4, June 1, Jul. 6, Aug. 3, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 7
Default time: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM; Default location: Mayfield

Announcement

Michelle will be on special assignment and will miss our next two meetings.

**Agenda Item: FHMP Schedule Update:
Presenter: Tom M**

Tom distributed an updated version of the schedule. It shows the satellite rearing discussion pushed out to the April meeting. The extension request (until May of 2011) has been filed with FERC. The annual FHMP report due date has been requested to be permanently changed to May 15. This will allow for sufficient time to incorporate data from the WDFW annual evaluation report.

We reviewed the schedule. There may also be issues that need to be designated to be dealt with separately. We will call these out and list them in a “raceway” (vs a parking lot) along with a specific strategy to address the issue in a timely manner. This will involve offline work. Critical to staying on track is making sure we get all relevant information and then keep up with the information that is provided for review. We will put measures in place to help us stay on track. These will include email notifications that documents have been posted and also noting along with the agenda at the end of each FTC meeting summary which documents should be reviewed to yield fruitful discussions leading to timely decisions. We will also take care to record each decision clearly in the meeting summaries.

Tacoma Power is contracting with Lars Moberg to draft the revised FHMP. He is very familiar with the initial draft as he was very involved in the initial drafting of the document. He is optimistic that we can complete the revision according to the schedule. This will require work outside of FTC meetings.

Action Items:

- Lars will provide a draft outline of the revised FHMP one week prior to our next meeting.
 - Tom M will ask Mark to add a *subject to change* asterisk to the FHMP Schedule and attach it to this meeting summary for posting.
 - We will check to see if this 3-meeting strategy per topic strategy is working at our June meeting and make adjustments as necessary.
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Agenda Item: Operating Protocols

Presenter: Lyn

We reviewed and revised the May 8, 2008 version of the FTC Operating Protocols.

Action Items:

- Lyn will ask Tim Romanski if first Wednesdays of the month are still impossible for him as members would prefer to move back to meeting on the first Wednesday of each month.
 - Lyn will update the protocols according to the discussion and send them out to all for review and approval. She will italicize the edits to make it easier for people to note the changes.
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Agenda Item: Public Communications Update

Presenter: Tom Santee

The Cowlitzfish.net website has been redesigned to be more user-friendly. The new design should make it easier to access information to help with the planning of fishing trips. It will also help people understand what is happening with fisheries planning.

Tom S is also working on FAQs re Cowlitz fisheries. He sent out a revised list to FTC members in the last week for their review. He will send out a new draft that includes some of the answers. The aim is to post this on the website once it is complete. Tom will make sure he hears from each FTC member that they are in agreement with the answers before it is posted. The draft list of questions will be distributed at the public meeting on March 18 where we will ask if there are additional questions the public would like to add to the list.

The next public meeting is being publicized for March 18 in Morton, from 6:30 – 8:30. The major topics slated for the meeting include productivity testing, downstream collection plans and actions, and the FHMP update process. There will be time for the public to comment on the draft questions for the FAQ at the end of the meeting. Tom S will post a sign stating that the meeting will be audio-recorded and will be posted to the website along with other documents cited at the meeting. Any unanswered questions will be handled according to the protocol.

Other public meetings this year are anticipated to occur in early August and November of this year. The FTC will review this schedule two months prior to verify the appropriateness of each date and to identify the topics to be discussed.

Action Items:

- All are to review the Cowlitzfish.net website and give feedback to Tom S. Please let him know of any links that would be helpful to provide on that website.
- Tom S will send out preliminary draft of FAQ with some answers for all to review by March 5.
- All are to plan to attend the next public meeting on March 18.

Agenda Item: Update from Downstream Team
Presenters: Chick Sweeney and Al Giorgi

Chick and Al walked us through a PowerPoint presentation that included the following:

- Base Alternatives and Unresolved Issues
- 2010 Issue Resolution Studies
- Status Report on Biological Evaluation of Alternatives
- Conceptual Design Report Completion Plan
- Schedule Update

Next Steps: The list of base alternatives and combinations of base alternatives will be evaluated and distributed prior to the March 17 Downstream Fish Passage Team (DFPT) Meeting. The draft biological evaluation model runs will be made by the DFPT members following the March 17th DFPT meeting, and discussed and finalized during the April 14 DFPT meeting.

The plan is to finalize the biological evaluation input at the March 17 DFPT meeting. The draft combined biological and engineering evaluation will be completed and distributed to the DFPT prior to the April 14 meeting.

Chick and AI will present a preliminary recommendation of alternatives to be carried to 90% design at the May 4 FTC meeting (pending BGS study results). The plan is for them to present the 90% report at the March 2011 FTC meeting.

Chick reviewed the schedule with us that showed that June of 2016 is when the new system should be operational.

Action Items:

- Tom M will ask Marc W to send out the draft study plan to FTC and DFPT members prior to the next Downstream Team meeting on March 17.
 - Tom M will see that the draft document, Juvenile Fish Collection Base Alternatives and Unresolved Issues, distributed today, is treated as a living document to identify how we are proceeding toward addressing each base alternative and associated issues. He will discuss with the DFPT how best to reformat the document to facilitate the ability of all to track issues, strategy to address them and their ultimate resolution.
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Agenda Item: Productivity Testing (review matrices)

Presenter: Pat

This item was deferred until the April meeting.

Action Items:

- Pat will see if he can get the completed data from Ray by March 23 and send it out for all to review.
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Agenda Item: Review Satellite Rearing Materials

We discussed the information that has been posted by Mark L on Feb 16 for FTC review on this topic. We will engage in a more detailed discussion of this at our April meeting and make a decision on it at our May meeting. This will be in keeping with the FHMP Update Schedule.

Action Items:

- Mark L will post the four documents her received from Bill Bosch ASAP:
 - Using Kelt Reconditioning to Increase the Abundance and Diversity of Steelhead Spawners in the Yakima River, Fast, Hatch, Bosch, Branstetter, Blodett, Newsome, and Johnston, 2009

- Estimating the Feasibility of Reestablishing a Coho Salmon Population in the Yakima River, Washington, Bosch and Newsome, Dunnigan, Hubble, Neeley, Lind, Fast, Lamebull, and Blodgett, 2006
 - Comparison of Life History Traits between First-Generation Hatchery and Wild Upper Yakima River Spring Chinook Salmon, Knudson, Schroeder and Busack, Johnston, Pearsons, and Bosch and Fast, 2005
 - Homing and Spawning Site Selection of Supplemented Hatchery and Natural Origin Yakima River Spring Chinook Salmon, Dittman, May, Larsen, Moser, Johnston, Fast, 2009
 - George will send Mark L links to other relevant documents on the BPA website.
 - Bob will provide any additional literature particularly related to coho.
 - Michelle will check to see what documents NMFS has relative to this subject.
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Agenda Item: Update Status of February 2, 2010 Meeting Action Items

Presenter: Lyn

Action Items:

- John talked with Mark L about the marking protocols for the productivity testing. They are all currently being marked with a blank CWT at the Mayfield facility. They will discuss this with Michelle re the ESA permitting requirements and give us an update at our next meeting.
 - Michelle found that NMFS has several subscriptions to Go-To Meeting.
 - Pat reported that the Genetics Study report should be complete by March 10. He will email it to Lyn for distribution to FTC members.
 - Pat will outline management implications of the results of the Genetics Study to share with the FTC ASAP.
 - Pat will send Lyn the draft study to distribute by March 5.
 - Tom S will send out FAQ with draft answers ASAP.
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Agenda Item: Approval of February 2, 2010 Meeting Summary

We approved the February 2, 2010 meeting summary with minor edits.

Agenda Item: Meeting Evaluation

Well Done:

- Got out early
- Presentation from Downstream Team and handouts
- Worked through some concepts – listened for understanding
- Welcome to Bob Rose!

Do Differently:

- Bring dark chocolates

- Missed Shannon, et al
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The meeting was adjourned at 2:18 pm.

Meeting Handouts

- Agenda for March 2, 2010 FTC meeting
 - Draft of February 2, 2010 FTC meeting summary
 - FHMP Update: Development Plan and Consultation Schedule, 2/24/2010
 - Cowlitz River Project Documentation Fish Passage Update Presentation by Al Giorgi, Ph.D. and Chick Sweeney, P.E.
 - Cowlitz Hydroelectric Project Proposed 2010 Issue Resolution Studies
 - Cowlitz Hydroelectric Project Juvenile Fish Collection Base Alternatives and Unresolved Issues Studies
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Draft Topics for April 6, 2010 FTC Meeting

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| 9:00 – 9:30 | Welcome / Review Agenda / Check-In |
| 9:30 – 10:00 | Public Communications Update
Evaluation of March 18 Public Meeting in Morton
Review Draft Answers to FAQs |
| 10:00 – 10:20 | Draft FHMP Outline prepared by Lars and strategy to proceed |
| 10:20 – 10:30 | Update from Downstream Team Meeting |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Tee Up Credits (for detailed Discussion at May Meeting) |
| 11:00 – Noon | Productivity Testing (review matrices) |
| Noon – 12:30 | Our Usual Working Lunch |
| 12:30 – 2:30 | Discuss Satellite Rearing Materials (for Decision at May Meeting) |
| 2:30 – 2:40 | Update Status of March 2 Meeting Action Items |
| 2:40 – 2:50 | Approval of March 2 Meeting Summary |
| 2:50 – 3:00 | Meeting Evaluation and set May 4, 2010 Meeting Agenda
List relevant documents to review prior to May 4 Meeting |