

**FTC Cowlitz Hydroelectric Project
FERC NO. 2016**

**Fisheries Technical Committee
Final Meeting Summary**

November 4, 2008 from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Mayfield office, Silver Creek, Washington

Members Present

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

Other Attendees

Ed Meyer	NMFS
Rich Turner	NMFS
Mike Kohn	LCPUD/BPA
Joe First	LCPUD
Debbie Carlson	BPA
Wolf Dammers	WDFW
John Serl	WDFW
Julie Henning	WDFW
Andy Appleby	WDFW, HSRG
John Barr	John Barr Consulting, HSRG
Tom Santee	Insight Northwest
Steve Fischer	Tacoma Power
Bill Iyall	Tacoma Power
Tom Martin	Tacoma Power
Marc Wicke	Tacoma Power
Debbie Young	Tacoma Power
Chris Sergeant	Tacoma Power
Shawn DeCew	Tacoma Power
Lyn Wiltse	PDSA Consulting

Future FTC Meeting Dates (first Tuesday of each month)

2008: Dec 2 **starting at 9:30 AM** (Tom S facilitating);

2009: Jan 6; Feb 3; Mar 3; Apr 7, May 5, Jun 2, Jul 7, Aug 4, Sep 1, Oct 6, Nov 3; Dec 1

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

Approval of Meeting Summary

We approved the October 8 meeting summary with edits as suggested by Brett, John, Mark, and Michelle. Mark will post for public review.

Creel Data Summary

Julie walked us through a summary table, using a similar format as last year to capture the creel data from the upper Cowlitz River coho fishery. The surveys were stratified according to transport and non-transport days. Surveys are more extensive this year than last, collecting data from morning until dark, Wednesday through Sunday. At Packwood, they saw harvest rates for the last few weeks of 20% – 36%. On the Cispus River they saw harvest rates between 5% and 10%. Lake Scanewa survey data is not included in this report.

Action

- Julie will update the table to include the latest data from Lake Scanewa for the December meeting. We also want to look at how these data square with punch card data.
- Mark will talk with Pat about continuing funding these creel surveys.

Agenda Item: WDFW Coho Reintroduction Plan Discussion

Presenters: Andy Appleby and John Barr

Andy and John (both members of the HSRG) reviewed the AHA Analyzer model and some of the assumptions in that model. The goal of proposing a 500,000 integrated smolt program was to generate the appropriate number of integrated hatchery fish for the upper watershed and move the spawning population towards becoming more adapted to the natural environment.

Andy reviewed the AHA Analyzer calculations over an 80 generation period using the data set and assumptions in the model. An 80% spawning effectiveness (HOR vs. NOR) was used as the HSRG believes the longer a fish remains in a hatchery the less able it is to function in the wild.

The model runs showed that a collection efficiency of 20% would not support a sustainable natural population in upper Cowlitz River over an 80 generation period. The HSRG agrees that harvest concerns need to be subordinate to conservation. Subsequently they crafted the 1,000,000 integrated smolt program, and modeled both the 30% and 40% FCE levels.

One approach is for a specific program tailored to the FCE and evaluating the productivity of the population. WDFW recommends that we be prepared to adjust the program as the input parameters change (i.e., adaptive management). Andy and John suggest using a 3 or 5 year rolling average of FCE. If we do work that is anticipated to have a significant effect, then we would look at the new FCE number right away.

It was acknowledged that the approach WDFW put together low-balls the FCE. WDFW's approach has a clear goal to put more fish in the upper basin for harvest, however, the Settlement Agreement prioritizes the recovery of the populations above harvest. According to some, a PNI of .67 should improve both fitness and productivity. The WDFW program, according to the model, would also result (though not quite as

effectively) in a rebound with a PNI .58. There is very little difference in what happens to the population in the short term. Getting to a PNI of .5 is a critical factor.

Andy suggested we state what we are trying to accomplish. Specifically what number of NORs is our objective? The escapement goal? The language in the FHMP is vague (“achieve recovery”). A de-listing goal for both the Cispus and upper Cowlitz River (together) might be suffice.

Actions

- Pat will address the question of how the September 9, 2008 coho plan fits with the FHMP, and also the WDFW view of the role of the FTC in the letter he is drafting. He reported the delay has been due to his waiting on habitat data.
- Pat will ensure that attachments to the letter include any additional pieces of supporting data (and sources of the data) and rationale for the models. He will clearly define all the rationale that supports the new WDFW plan.
- Andy will follow up with Brett to set up a meeting to discuss the model

Agenda Item: Report on Proposed FHMP Updates Discussion

Presenters: John Barr

In response to the Action Item he received at the last meeting, Mark reviewed the schedule and found that it allowed insufficient time for the public to have a formal second review of the FHMP before it is sent to FERC. Since this request came from WDFW, Mark suggested that they might want to use some of their review time in September through December of 2009 to hold their own public hearings and get additional public input.

John B walked us through an outline of the Update of the FHMP.

The proposed reviewing and updating:

- Re-introduction programs
- Lower river programs
- Credit mechanisms
- Productivity testing

Update programs using existing policy guidance:

- Settlement Agreement
- Recovery Plan

Technical Guidance:

- HSRG Scientific framework and HSRG criteria and recommendations
- EDT
- AHA – All H-Context

Recovery Plan

- What does this mean for Cowlitz vs. what does it mean for the ESU (Evolutionarily Significant Unit)?

John B explained that there are three levels of population designations: Primary (core, genetic legacy populations), Contributing (important for recovery – not as large

historically – provide diversity), and Stabilizing (probably never were big contributors to the meta population.

All-H Approach (Habitat, Hatchery, Harvest, and Hydro)

- This is built into the AHA Analyzer that could be for the updates to the FHMP.
- Different H's take effect at different rates.
- Actions would be phased to compensate for differential implementation rates.
- Hatchery/harvest actions take effect first and habitat actions require the most time.
- Necessary actions vary depending on expected contribution of population recovery.
- We can't be successful if we have harvest rates that are not consistent with recovery.
- While developing strategies for any one H we take into account the context of its value to all the Hs. This will give us a better opportunity for a successful outcome.

Example: WDFW's All H Approach to Lower Columbia River Conservation and Sustainable Fisheries Plan

- A plan for implementation of hatchery actions necessary to achieve recovery and support robust sustainable fisheries.
- Key actions were to restrict the number of HORs in natural spawning areas, reprogram hatchery production and manage broodstocks to minimize risks to fish.

The FTC reviewed a proposal to update Cowlitz programs and the Fisheries and Hatchery Management Plan by:

- Using All-H Strategy
- It is consistent with :
 - SA
 - Recovery Plan
- Using:
 - HSRG principles and criteria
 - WDFW Conservation and Sustainable Fisheries Plan as a guide.

The HSRG approach on the Lower Columbia was to contribute to recovery while maximizing harvest, subject to:

Primary populations:

-PNI > 0.67 OR pHOS < 0.05

Contributing populations:

- PNI > 0.5 OR pHOS < 0.1 (threshold condition)

Stabilizing populations:

- Current PNI and pHOS or better

At the end of the discussion FTC Members agreed on the following to guide the FHMP update:

- Result in a single updated document
- Include an All-H Approach
- Use Conservation and Sustainable Fishery Plan as a guide
- Use HSRG standards (PNIs and pHOS) and recommendations
- Get policy guidance from the Settlement Agreement
- Get policy guidance from the Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery Plan
 - Bring in ESU to find out what contribution these populations will make

Actions

- John – Continue work on the revised FHMP according to feedback received from FTC members and the criteria listed above.
- All – Be prepared to discuss their comments on the proposed FHMP updates at the December meeting.

Agenda Item: FHMP Adaptive Management Discussion

Presenter: John Barr

The FHMP calls for the creation of a structured Adaptive Management plan with technical and policy level input. Thinking about some of the past problems with developing the FHMP and looking to where we want to go in the future, John recommends breaking things down into technical and policy decisions. The FHMP calls for the development of a Technical team. The FTC functions as the Policy team.

We will use the December FTC meeting to walk through the suggested updates.

Actions

- All – Review section 6.0, FHMP.
- All – Review section 1.1, FHMP

Announcement

The FTC was informed about an incident two weeks ago related to the construction of the Mayfield by-pass facility. . All the flow was going into the raceways. The planned 2-3 day outage to replace the bypass pipe line was expanded to 7 days. The screens were overwhelmed with flow and some fish died in the process. The bypass pipe line is now completed and we want to ensure this incident doesn't happen again. There were lessons learned about reducing flow to the raceways while clearing the fish out of the bypass pipeline. Ed doesn't envision the same situation occurring again and we now know how to prevent this from happening again.

Action:

- Tacoma will post the monthly Cowlitz Evaluations on the website (due the 10th of each following month)

- Steve F will work with Julie to create a section in the operations manual that includes lessons learned here.
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**Agenda Item: Supplemental Collection Update Presenters: Chris Sergeant
Discussion**

Chris reviewed the fishing effort and catch of the 2008 supplemental collection program. They used for minnow traps, beach seining, inclined plane trams, and Merwin traps at Mossyrock and Scanewa.

The following recommendations were proposed for 2009:

- Discontinue Minnow trapping
- 2009 Sampling Schedule

Apr. 15 – June 1 do inclined plane traps in 2008 location and intensive beach seining.

June 1 to July 1: Continue inclined plane traps and intensive beach seining.

Adaptively decide whether a Merwin trap at Mossyrock Dam is warranted during the month of June.

From July 10 to Sept 15 continue incline plane traps and install two Merwin traps in Lake Scanewa in 2008 location. Conduct beach seining as schedules allow.

Actions

- Chris will split out Mossyrock Merwin trap data from Scanewa data and incorporate other changes as suggested by FTC members into the report.
 - Mark and Steve V will talk with Greg V and Dennis R about the effectiveness of pursuing purse seining.
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**Agenda Item: Downstream Fish Passage Update Presenter: Marc Wicke
Discussion**

Tom M reported that the status report is due November 15 to FERC. He noted that the main issue is the schedule that is due with the report. With the additional design review time that NMFS requested, it is no longer possible to meet the March 1 plan filing date. That plan would contain the concept feasibility designs at the 60% level and the proposal to use the 2009 prototype study results to arrive at a final collection plan. Tom will consult with FERC about the March report delayed by at least one month or if they would prefer we wait until the end of next year so we can include 2009 data and a final plan in one report. These proposed reporting delays will not impact our overall implementation schedule.

Marc reported that following the last Downstream Meeting there have been a series of discussions with USGS about biological evaluation studies for 2009 and the need to develop conclusive results from those studies. At this point USGS is recommending the

block-study approach for the two different apparatuses we will be testing at CF dam (the weir box attached to the spill gates, and the Tacoma fish screen combined with increased flow).

USGS wants us to expand on lessons learned from the past. They are proposing we use the weir box only early in the season. Later in the season they suggest evaluating Chinook passage by the screen and flow deflector. USGS is also working on the time-travel study for a floating surface collector on Riffe Lake and they plan to deliver this plan by Nov. 10. It will be discussed at the next Downstream Team meeting on Nov. 19 and we will get an update at our Dec. 2 FTC meeting.

Actions

- Tom M will follow up with Eric G (FERC) re: the plan and the schedule for filing it. Can we submit it as a draft? Let FTC members know what he says by Nov. 15.
- Bill will ensure we add FTC review of prototypes to the schedule
- Marc will send out the Smith-Root electro-guidance draft report to FTC members in week of Nov. 10.

Agenda Item: Plan for Next Public Meeting Presenter: Tom S

Discussion:

Tom recommended having the next public meeting December 2nd immediately following the FTC meeting (and after the 30% fish passage alternatives design meeting). He suggested we hold the meeting from 4:00 – 6:00 in Morton at the facility where we held the last meeting in a conference room that provides a more intimate venue for discussing fish issues.

Possible future locations could include Packwood and Toledo, and Spiffy's at Hwy 12 and I-5?

Tom S has heard that the public is interested in fish transportation. He proposed the subject matter for the December meeting be along the lines of "Looking Ahead to 2009".

Actions

- Tom will advertise the December 2 afternoon meeting ASAP.
- Tom and Mark L will develop the agenda and send out to the FTC for review.

Meeting Handouts

- Agenda, November 4, 2008 FTC meeting
- Draft October 7, 2008 FTC meeting summary
- Draft Creel Data Summary Table (will be updated For Dec. FTC meeting)
- Upper Cowlitz Coho Table 2-1 (from proposed FHMP Updates)
- Conceptual Model graph
- LCSRB Cowlitz Population Designations, December 2004
- FHMP Section 6.0: AMP Management Structure
- FHMP Section 1.1 Policy Formation

- 2008 Supplemental Collection Report slides
- Draft Progress Report, November 15, 2008, License Article 1: Downstream Fish Passage: Riffe Lake and Cowlitz Falls Collection and Passage.
- Timeline for Downstream Team activities

Topics for Dec. 2, 2008 FTC Meeting

Welcome / Check-In / Review Agenda, Action Items, etc. (9:30 – 9:40)

Approval of Nov. 4 Meeting Summary (9:40 – 9:50)

FHMP Update (9:50 – Noon)

Working Lunch (12:00 – 12:15)

Conclude FHMP Update (12:15 – 1:15)

Downstream Team Report - 30% Design (1:15 – 2:45)

Meeting Evaluation and Set Jan. 6 Agenda (2:45 – 3:00)

Meeting Evaluation

- Need chocolate sooner
- Conference calls and other distractions
- Morning speakers outstanding
- Good feedback on FHMP Update Process
- Great participation!