

FTC Cowlitz Hydroelectric Project
FERC NO. 2016
Fisheries Technical Committee
Final Meeting Summary
October 6, 2009 from 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM
Mayfield Office, Silver Creek, Washington

Members Present

Michelle Day	NMFS
Brett Swift	American Rivers
Pat Frazier	WDFW
Mark LaRiviere	Tacoma Power
George Lee	Yakama Nation
Brad Caldwell	WDOE

Other Attendees

John Serl	WDFW
John Barr	John Barr Consulting
Tom Santee	Insights Northwest
Chris Sergeant	Tacoma Power
Debbie Young	Tacoma Power
Ray Beamesderfer	Cramer Fish Sciences Consultants
Lyn Wiltse	PDSA Consulting

2009 FTC Meeting Dates (first Tuesday of each month)

November 3, December 1

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

Announcements

FTC members are encouraged to go the FTC website to review various documents that have been posted.

The Upstream Fish Passage Plan has the goal of handling 2,500 adults/day at the separator. Yesterday, they hit 2,300 working until 2 PM. It looks like we will be able to reach the 2,500 goal pretty easily – maybe even 3,500. These are mostly coho.

Agenda Item: Productivity Testing Discussion

Presenter: Ray Beamesderfer

Ray walked us through a PowerPoint presentation on salmon population sustainability based on information from the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Plan. The draft plan will be out for public review in November 2009.

He suggested that sustainability should be considered the same as viability (ESA perspective). This, in the recovery plan, is a long-term median abundance value over

several generations. A low level of extinction risk would be 5% or less. Elements that contribute to sustainability include abundance, productivity, spatial structure and distribution, and diversity.

Winter steelhead in the Tilton are considered a low viability population due, in part, to the degraded habitat conditions. John explained that the EDT equilibrium number is around 300. This assumes 100% outmigration and no adverse hatchery impact (reduced productivity).

John explained that the NEQ would be 222. This is the number, on average, where the population would settle based on the AHA model equation. However, this population would have a high extinction risk.

300 was one of several abundance numbers suggested. We also discussed the appropriate length of time to test in order to account for wild swings in ocean conditions and after El Nino effects.

The steelhead life cycle is such that 5 years would cover approximately 85% of them.

Action Items:

- All will continue to contemplate the best course of action, with the idea of coming to agreement at our next meeting.

Agenda Item: AHA Subcommittee Report

Presenter: Mark and Pat

John reported that Chuck presented his option for upper Cowlitz River coho at the October 5 AHA subcommittee meeting.

They also discussed sizes at release. They came up with some preliminary recommendations.

Action Items:

- John will summarize the recommendations and send them out for concurrence by subcommittee members and then will share them with the FTC.
- John will send a detailed description of Alternative 3 to Mark to post on the FTC website as well as a summary of that option in the same format that has been presented previously to the FTC.
- Mark will let FTC members know when this has been posted to the website.

Agenda Item: Initial M&E Subcommittee Report

Presenter: Mark

They will meet between now and our November FTC meeting.

Action Items:

- Mark will convene this subcommittee prior to our next meeting.
-

Agenda Item: FHMP Schedule Update**Presenter: Mark**

Mark reported that the Settlement Agreement says only five things are required to be included in the FHMP. If we treat the existing plan as a standalone reference document, then all we have to do is only focus on the five things that are specifically required in the Order. That leaves many things (nutrient enhancement, resident fish, adaptive management, etc.) on the table for us to consider as an FTC. Michelle noted that, under the Biological Opinion, an Adaptive Management plan is required. This could be included in the FHMP update or as a separate document.

We discussed the desire to have the updated version of the FHMP serve as a standalone document. We want to improve the existing format, which many find confusing.

All are to consider what we want to include in the FHMP under “Fisheries Management”. We will discuss this at our November meeting. Pat observed that we could also ask for an extension on when the FHMP update is due to FERC.

Action Items:

- John will work with Mark and George to draft a proposed Table of Contents for the updated FHMP for all to review prior to our next meeting. He will include how to address anything removed from the current FHMP.
-

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

Tom suggested that we set the next public meeting for the evening of Thursday, October 29. The focus of the meeting would be the hatchery program proposals and how they might affect fisheries. At the meeting we would distribute a list of questions to members of the public. They could take the list with them and get their responses back to us so we better understand their interests.

Tom distributed sample questions. We want to be careful not to unduly raise expectations by the way we frame the questions.

Action Items:

- All will review the draft questions distributed by Tom S and let him know what else they would like to know from the public.

- Tom S will meet with Mark and Pat to further plan the agenda for the public meeting.
 - Tom will send out the draft agenda to FTC members for their feedback.
 - Tom will arrange the meeting room at Centralia College on October 29 from 6:00–8:00.
 - All will put the next public meeting on their calendars and plan to attend
-

Agenda Item: Update Status of September 25 Meeting Action Items

Presenter: Lyn

We reviewed these and transferred forward those that were incomplete.

Agenda Item: Approval of September 25 Meeting Summary

Presenter:

We approved the September 25, 2009 meeting summary with minor edits. They will be posted to the public website.

Agenda Item: Meeting Evaluation

Well Done:

- Ray's presentation was very helpful
- We are listening to each other and working to find alternatives that satisfy each other's interests

Do Differently:

- Ran late
- Some had to leave early
- We missed Tim
- We need to have fewer side conversations
- We need to ensure that people finish their thoughts before talking

Set November 3, 2009 Meeting Agenda (see below)

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Meeting Handouts

- Agenda for October 6, 2009 FTC meeting
- Draft September 25, 2009 FTC meeting summary
- Ray Beamesderfer's PowerPoint presentation on sustainability

- Sample questions for public meeting
-

Topics for November 3, 2009 FTC Meeting

9:00 – 9:20	Welcome / Review Agenda / Check-In
9:20 – 12:20	Productivity Testing Decision
12:20 – 12:50	AHA Subcommittee Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Size of fish at release, updated alternatives- Data gaps
12:50 – 1:40	Yakama presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Acclimation ponds
1:40 – 1:50	Initial M&E Subcommittee Report
1:50 – 2:00	FHMP Format and Schedule Update
2:00 – 2:10	Report from Oct. 29 Public Meeting
2:10 – 2:20	Update Status of October 6 Meeting Action Items
2:20 – 2:25	Approval of October 6 Meeting Summary
2:25 – 2:30	Meeting Evaluation and set December 1, 2009 Meeting Agenda