

FTC Cowlitz Hydroelectric Project
FERC NO. 2016
Fisheries Technical Committee
Final Meeting Summary
December 2, 2008 from 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM
Mayfield office, Silver Creek, Washington

Members Present

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

Other Attendees

Ed Meyer	NMFS
Wolf Dammers	WDFW
John Serl	WDFW
Andy Appleby	WDFW
Debbie Young	Tacoma Power
Tom Martin	Tacoma Power
Tom Santee	Insight Northwest – facilitator
*Steve Fischer	Tacoma Power
*Bill Iyall	Tacoma Power
*Marc Wicke	Tacoma Power
*Chick Sweeney	AECOM
*Debbie Carlson	BPA
*Mike Kohn	LCPUD/BPA

* Attended afternoon portion of meeting

Future FTC Meeting Dates (first TUESDAY of each month!)

January 6, February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 1, October 6, November 3, December 1, 2009

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

Announcements

Tom Santee is today's facilitator
The FTC is hosting a public meeting in Morton at 4 - 6 PM today.

Approval of Meeting Summary

The November 4 meeting summary was not approved. Brett will send FTC members written comments with her suggested changes.

Review Action Items from November 4 FTC meeting

Creel Data Actions

- 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.
 - Wolf will send out the data via email.
- Mark will talk with Pat about continuing funding these creel surveys.
 - Remains to do.

WDFW Coho Reintroduction Plan 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.
 - Letter no longer needed. Brett asked that this plan be addressed and discussed in the FHMP update process.

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.

Supplemental Collection Update Actions

- Chris will split out Mossyrock Merwin trap data from Scanewa data and incorporate other changes as suggested by FTC members into the report.
 - Done.
- Mark and Steve V will talk with Greg V and Dennis R about the effectiveness of pursuing purse seining.
 - Mark reported that Greg Volkhardt (formerly WDFW) believes a test of the WDFW purse seining equipment used in the Seattle locks would be possible in Riffe Lake under the right conditions (calm water, light winds). Steve Vigg is checking on the availability of the equipment for a test. Mark talked with Chris Sergeant about fishing on a chartered limit seiner (58') used for research in Lake Washington targeting smolts and cutthroat trout. The catches were small, but adequate for their sampling needs. Ken Tiffen of the Columbia River Research Lab, USGS shared with Mark the findings on the use of a lampara net in the lower Snake River. Their target species is juvenile Chinook, and they are fishing the gear from July through the next April. Wind and current make it difficult to haul, and it does fish effectively down to 40' depth.

Downstream Fish Passage Update 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.
 - Done. Subject of November 19 Downstream Team meeting for review at today's FTC meeting.
- Bill will ensure we add FTC review of prototypes to the schedule
 - Done.
- Marc will send out the Smith-Root electro-guidance draft report to FTC members in week of Nov. 10.

- To be sent out upon completion of Tacoma Power internal review.

Morton Public Meeting Actions

- Tom will advertise the December 2 afternoon meeting ASAP.
 - Done.
- Tom and Mark L will develop the agenda and send out to the FTC for review.
 - Tom, Mark and Pat discussed meeting agenda via phone conversations.

Mayfield by-pass facility Action

- Tacoma will post the monthly Cowlitz Evaluations Report on the website (due the 10th of each following month)
 - Done.
- Steve F will work with Julie to create a section in the operations manual that includes lessons learned here.
 - Neither Steve F nor Julie are present to discuss this item.

Agenda Item: FHMP Update Schedule

Presenters: Mark, Pat, Andy

Mark presented a brief summary of the recent action by WDFW to use the HSRG's AHA modeling process to calculate the number of hatchery-origin coho transported to the upper basin this fall. He said the AHA model was not available at the time the FHMP was drafted, but that it can be a very important tool in the FHMP update. Mark says he is embracing this tool because it helps achieve the FHMP's goals using a new approach that promises to be more effective than the current plan.

Pat added that he sees it as a useful tool because it shows what happens when changing different things. He said it is possible to set a desired end point and see what program modifications are needed to get there.

Brett asked for more information about external technical reviews of the AHA model and said a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation plan is needed because it is just a model. Andy pointed out there are reviews of the AHA model by the Columbia River basin Independent Scientific Review Board and by the Willamette/Lower Columbia River Technical Recovery Team.

Andy presented an extensive background regarding the development and use of the AHA model and how it is useful in determining strategies for integrated hatchery programs. He described the AHA model as a gene-flow calculator aimed at determining how to best utilize the natural environment to drive genetic fitness when there is an integrated (natural and hatchery) fishery.

Following Andy's presentation Mark and Pat recommended the creation of a technical team of people knowledgeable about the AHA model parameters to help guide the FHMP update with this new approach.

There was considerable discussion regarding the proposal to create the technical team. Much of the discussion centered on concern that the technical team would face policy

issues that are the province of the FTC, and uncertainty that the team would recognize those situations. On the other hand, it was pointed out the FTC won't have all the information it needs for policy decisions until it has the technical information to be developed by the work of the team. The discussion was tabled for later in the meeting to allow the next agenda item to be presented. When the discussion re-opened FTC members agreed to the following action:

Action Item:

- A technical team will be formed to assist incorporating AHA modeling into the FHMP update. FTC members can designate their technical representative. The team's first meeting will be held this month (December).

Agenda Item: Downstream Team Report – 30% Design

Presenter: Chick Sweeney

Chick gave a detailed report on the completion of the 30% tasks for the downstream fish passage plan and discussed progress on each of the five smolt collection alternatives. He also handed out a new draft project timeline pointing out that the design and construction phase is a generic schedule and will be expanded at the 60% tasks submittal. He noted that agency review periods are increased from 10 to 30 days. Chick said the 60% schedule is tight and may need a few additional weeks to complete. He said this would not delay the schedule for design and construction.

Marc reported on 2009 study plans. He said tests to improve smolt collection include a weir box and a gate well flow converter at Cowlitz Falls Dam. There also will be studies of fish transit through Riffe Lake to evaluate travel time and survival, and fish pathology examinations of downstream migrant fish mortalities.

Action Item:

Marc will provide a study plan to FTC for comment when available in about a week, including deadline for submitting comment.

FTC comments on 30% submittal due December 19.

Downstream team to re-evaluate completion schedule for 60% tasks at its January meeting. Tom M to email FTC with report on an adjusted schedule following that meeting.

Agenda Item: Morton Public Meeting

Presenter: Tom S

Tom said the 4 - 6 PM public meeting was advertised in Morton's East County Journal and promoted on the cowlitzfish.net Web site. The announced agenda is for Mark to give an update on plans for 2009 actions and studies. Stan Bartel called Tom to ask that someone be prepared to talk about plans for the Tilton River fisheries and Tom talked with Pat regarding Stan's request. Tom said the meeting is scheduled for this afternoon

to make it easier for more FTC members to attend because the public requested this at previous meetings.

There was discussion about how worthwhile these meetings are because of the low attendance. Tom said holding the meetings in communities along the river may get more attendance than holding meetings in Centralia. He said Bob Reid suggested holding meetings in Packwood and Toledo.

Pat and Mark suggested changing the planned agenda for the Morton meeting to get right to the questions and issues of those in attendance. Instead of starting with a prepared summary of 2009 plans the attendees will be asked for their questions which will be written on flip charts for response by Mark and Pat.

Meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Meeting Handouts

- Draft November 4, 2008 FTC meeting summary
- List of Cowlitz populations and recovery designations
- All H Analyzer (AHA) results - screen shots
- Timeline for Cowlitz Downstream Team activities

Topics for January 6 FTC Meeting

Welcome / Check-In / Review Agenda, Action Items, etc. (9:00 – 9:40)

Approval of November 4th & December 2nd meeting summaries (9:40 – 9:50)

Lower Columbia River Fish Recovery Plan

- Population designations, Ray Beamsderfer

Report on December 2nd Morton public meeting

Working Lunch (12:00 – 12:15)

Use of the All H Analyzer model (AHA) for the Cowlitz “ladder tests”

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

Use of All H Analyzer model (AHA) for Fisheries & Hatchery Management Plan (FHMP) solutions

- Upper Cowlitz River: coho

Downstream Team update (2:35 – 2:45)

Meeting Evaluation and set February 3 meeting agenda (2:45 – 3:00)

Topic for February 3 FTC Meeting

Discuss purse seining to decide whether or not to continue and/or conduct testing.