

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

**Fisheries Technical Committee  
Final Meeting Summary**

February 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
Mark LaRiviere	Tacoma Power
Brad Caldwell	WA DOE
Tim Romanski	USFWS

**Other Attendees**

Shannon Wills	Yakama Nation
Ed Meyer	NMFS
Rich Turner	NMFS
John Serl	WDFW
Julie Henning	WDFW
Tom Martin	Tacoma Power
Debbie Young	Tacoma Power
Marc Wicke	Tacoma Power
Bill Iyall	Tacoma Power
Mike Kohn	LCPUD
Tom Santee	Insight Northwest
Lyn Wiltse	PDSA Consulting

**Future FTC Meeting Dates (first Tuesday of each month)**

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

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

**Announcements**

New Technical Rep: Shannon Wills, Fisheries Biologist and Technical Rep for George Lee, Yakama Nation, was introduced. She will be attending these meetings and offering technical support as directed by George. Welcome, Shannon!

Large Woody Debris Draft Report: Mark reported that the draft interim 5-year report for LWD has been posted to the FTC website. It is, at this point, still incomplete. It will be replaced with a more complete draft. Mark will send out an email notifying all when it has been posted and the start of the 30 day review.

Update on Extension Request: Tom M talked with Erich (FERC) about our intention to file a request for extension on filing the FHMP. Erich indicated that FERC would likely

support such a request. In the letter requesting the extension, Tom will indicate that until the updated plan is adopted, FTC recommendations will continue to follow the intent of the approved FHMP. He will attach the FHMP schedule to the letter. After some discussion we agreed to ask for a 14 month extension.

---

**Agenda Item: Productivity Testing**

**Presenter: Mark L and Pat F**

Pat, Mark, and Michelle met with Ray Beamsderfer at WDFW Offices in Vancouver on January 27, 2010 to discuss this. Pat distributed a handout that integrated their feedback. They discussed a methodology for determining the appropriate abundance numbers to be used to determine if upper Cowlitz and Tilton winter steelhead populations are self-sustaining.

Ray proposes using the Population Risk Viability Model that includes the following three factors to determine the extinction risk and what the number required for a self-sustaining population would be.

1. Smolts per adult (freshwater productivity measure)
2. FPS (Fish Passage Survival)
3. SAR (Smolt to Adult Return)

Pat reviewed the various assumptions and marking methodologies discussed during the meeting with Ray. The viability goal is high for the upper Cowlitz and medium for the Tilton, which is consistent with previous decisions by the FTC.

Concern was expressed about how ocean conditions which can vary widely would be integrated into the model. Michelle said that this model makes sense biologically.

We agreed that we will need to mark the steelhead coming out of the upper basin this season. For the productivity test we need to ensure that the marks are separated five years from now. We want to avoid fin clipping to the extent possible.

**Action Items:**

- Pat will send out the handout electronically to all.
- WDFW will meet with Tacoma to determine the appropriate marking protocol and update us on this at our March 2 meeting. They will also discuss how to mark any steelhead smolts from the supplemental collection.
- Pat will talk with Ray about coming up with completed matrices and defining the data inputs for the upper Cowlitz and the Tilton River basins to determine the extinction risk and the associated adult abundance number. The aim would be for us to have sufficient data about this to make a decision at our March meeting.

---

**Agenda Item: Tee Up: Satellite Rearing Facilities**

## Presenter: Mark L

Mark distributed a white paper including a suggested approach for this topic. It includes background on how this topic is addressed in the Settlement Agreement, the license itself, and the FHMP, and supporting rationale. He asked for feedback from FTC members regarding this format and its sufficiency for use for future topic white papers. It was suggested that all references be cited in this and future white papers. It was also suggested that these papers focus on associated issues with each topic along with a summary of FHMP rationale.

He walked us through the paper. The FERC order that modified the FHMP calls for the licensee to develop three juvenile rearing facilities in the upper basin. We need to find a way to include this in the FHMP and define appropriate goals for doing this.

Our goal is to increase NOR adult returns and expand the spatial distribution of spawning in the basin. The limiting factor is FCE. There was a discussion of rearing facilities that compensate for the lack of FCE and provide more adults to the upper basin. The approach would be to acclimate juveniles in the upper basin and then transport those juveniles downstream and release them below the barrier dam. Once our FCE improves we could release fish (spring Chinook) directly from the acclimation ponds.

### Associated Issues:

- Species (spring Chinook and/or coho)
- Life history stage (fry, fingerlings, smolts or kelts)
- Location
- Duration of time at acclimation site (if temporary sites they could be moved after a period of time).
- In-season duration (short vs. long term)
- Short vs. long-term goals. When we improve FCE and get good recovery, the program may change.
- Release number
- What is the actual need from a recovery standpoint?
- Definition of "satellite rearing facility" (much depends on life history stage)
- Definition of "juvenile"

### Data Needs:

- Data on adult distribution (spawning ground and radio tagging) - *John*
- Info related to hatchery supplementation and recovery (It may not be appropriate to use hatchery facilities for NOR stock activities.) – *Mark, Rich*
- Site-specific information where there is also data on NOR fish (introducing vs. supplementing stocks) – *Mark, Rich*
- Info on successful programs of establishing stocks through the use of juveniles – *Mark, Rich*
- Potential sites (consider water sources, etc.) Some past surveys may inform us here. – *Mark, Wolf*

**Action Items:**

- All will send relevant data to Mark by noon Feb. 16.
  - Mark will post all info on FTC website by COB Feb. 16 along with an email notification of what has been posted and associated headings.
  - Lyn will send info to Shannon on how to access this site.
- 

**Agenda Item: Update on Downstream Collection****Presenter: Marc Wicke**

Marc sent out a list of objectives for biological monitoring to John Serl, Mike Kohn, and Al Giorgi and incorporated changes into the 2010 request for quotes based on their feedback. This was based on changes necessitated by dam safety. Marc also set up a conference call to discuss these. The request for quotes was sent out Jan. 28. Their responses are due by February 11.

We will be evaluating whether a Behavioral Guidance Structure (BGS) will effectively guide (with 20 cfs attraction flow) coho, Chinook, and steelhead from the south shore to the north shore in the Cowlitz Falls Dam forebay. It will also let us know if large numbers of fish are circumventing the BGS at various locations along the structure.

The goal is to have the BGS installed and operational by April 15, 2010.

Mike said USGS needs to if there is an opportunity to do some sharing of studies by the end of February. LCPUD will also be buying radio tags for a reservoir survival study this season. They will coordinate with Tacoma on this.

**Action Items:**

- Mike will send out LCPUD's draft reservoir survival study plan. This would be a 2-year plan.
  - Bill will send the plans for the whole 2010 collection of drawings to Ed to review by Feb. 5.
  - All will get any additional input relative to the biological monitoring to Marc ASAP.
- 

**Agenda Item: Update from Downstream Team****Presenter: Tom Martin**

Tom reported that the Downstream Team has not met since the last FTC meeting. They plan to meet on Feb. 9 and also on Mar. 17.

The DST will, at their next meeting discuss the plan for the 2010 studies and all remaining issues. This will include defining all (including non-biological) monitoring to be

implemented in 2010. The complete plan for the BGS, the floating weir, and any associated monitoring being proposed will be provided to the FTC for their review after it has been agreed to by the DST.

At that meeting the DST will also review, discuss, and finalize the biological assessment input. They will also discuss the schedule and draft remaining (unresolved) issues associated with the various alternatives including the dam safety limitations. A summary list of these will be sent out the FTC by Feb. 23. They will also set up additional meeting dates.

At our March 2 meeting FTC members will provide feedback on the plans. This feedback will be discussed by the DST at their March 17 meeting.

**Action Items:**

- Tom M will give Shannon access to the Downstream Team website.
- Tom M will post details of the full plan for 2010 to the FTC website by Feb. 23. He will email the FTC when this has been done.
- Tom M will send results of DST meeting to FTC members by Feb. 23.

---

**Agenda Item: FHMP Schedule Update**

**Presenter: Mark L**

Mark distributed an updated FHMP plan schedule. It was based on a 12 month extension of the schedule. We discussed the need for two extra months and agreed to ask FERC for a 14 month extension from the current due date. The 14 month extension would translate to May 2, 2011. We also discussed the order of the issues and the three meeting process: present an issues paper prior to the initial meeting where we tee up the topic, next meeting to discuss the topic thoroughly, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting to come to consensus on a recommendation relative to that topic. The new FHMP schedule provides for time at the end to resolve any outstanding issues.

We also discussed the process of the actual drafting of the updated FHMP. Mark reported that Lars Mobernd (who drafted much of the initial FHMP) is available to draft the update. We need to figure out how to best get him up to speed on our current process and our plans for the updated FHMP.

**Action Items:**

- Mark will adjust the schedule to reflect the 14 month time frame.
- All will give feedback to Mark about the sequencing and length of time for each topic.
- Michelle will investigate setting up web-based meetings where all could view and discuss a shared document between FTC meetings to help facilitated

discussions around issues that require more time than time allotted to it during actual FTC meetings.

---

**Agenda Item: Steelhead Genetic Study**

**Presenter: Pat Frazier**

Pat reported that WDFW just completed the draft report for 2008 and 2009. They submitted the draft report to Tacoma on Feb 1. After they receive comments from Tacoma, they will share the report with the FTC. Results were consistent with last year's findings. Pat reported that there are management implications for steelhead.

**Action Items:**

- Pat will share the data after Tacoma reviews the draft report.
  - Pat will outline management implications to share with the FTC by Feb. 23.
- 

**Agenda Item: Plan for Next Public Meeting**

**Presenter: Tom Santee**

Tom S distributed his recommendations for follow-up to public questionnaire responses. Mark distributed a list of FAQs.

Tom's recommendation is to hold the next public meeting in Morton on March 18 starting at 6:30 and concluding by 8:30. Potential topics: Productivity testing, FHMP revision update, 2010 Downstream Team plans. This would allow the public to come up to speed on FTC activities and allow them also to raise their issues.

Additionally, April, August, and November are the tentative months scheduled on the FHMP revision schedule.

Tom has listed the questions based on how respondents answered the questionnaire we distributed at the end of the last public meeting. He asked for FTC feedback.

**Action Items:**

- Tom S will arrange the facility and send out notification of the meeting to the public.
  - FTC members will reserve the date of the March 18 public meeting.
  - By Feb. 9 FTC members will send Tom S their feedback on the Draft questions for the Cowlitz fisheries FAQ (which will be posted to the cowlitzfish.net website). Also write draft answers to any questions you like.
  - By Feb. 16 Tom S will send out final list and draft answers to all for review.
- 

**Agenda Item: Review / Revise FTC Protocols**

**Presenter: Lyn**

We deferred this topic.

**Action Items:**

- All to review existing protocols (last reviewed May 8, 2008).
- 

**Agenda Item: Update Status of January 5, 2010 Meeting Action Items**

**Presenter: Lyn**

**Action Items:**

- We agreed that Marc used the protocol described above rather than the specific set of action items listed on p. 2 of these notes.
  - Re: the 5<sup>th</sup> bullet at the bottom of p. 2, the DST did not meet since the January meeting and therefore nothing was distributed to FTC members on this in advance of this meeting.
  - P. 3: the scheduled maintenance drawdown has been postponed for a year.
  - P. 4: Delay Mark L action item to work with Michelle on the narrative for the productivity testing.
  - Michelle still needs to follow up re productivity data related to acclimation ponds
  - Marc W will post a graph relating thermocline temperature with run timing in Riffe Lake on the FTC website.
- 

**Agenda Item: Approval of December 1, 2009 and January 5, 2010 Meeting Summaries**

We approved the December 1, 2009 and January 5, 2010 meeting summaries. The January meeting summary will be accepted pending approval by George Lee. Both sets will be posted to the public website.

**Action Item:**

- Shannon will review edits with George and let Lyn and Mark know if he has any edits to the December meeting summary.
- 

**Agenda Item: Meeting Evaluation**

**Well Done:**

- Welcome Shannon!
- Good discussions
- Good attendance

**Do Differently:**

- Got started 15 minutes late
  - Need full FTC member attendance for whole meeting
- 

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

---

**Meeting Handouts**

- Agenda for February 2, 2010 FTC meeting
  - Edited Drafts of December 1, 2009 and January 5, 2010 FTC meeting summaries
  - FHMP Update: Development Plan and Consultation Schedule, 1/12/2010
  - Upper Cowlitz and Tilton Productivity Test Abundance Target – FTC Subgroup Meeting notes, 1/27/2010
  - Draft White Paper: Cowlitz Complex, Satellite Rearing Facilities
  - Tom Santee Recommendations for follow-up to public questionnaire responses, Jan. 15, 2010
  - Draft Questions for Cowlitz Fisheries FAQs, Jan. 26, 2010
  -
- 

**Topics for March 2, 2010 FTC Meeting**

- 9:00 – 9:30 Welcome / Review Agenda / Check-In
- 9:30 – 11:30 Update from Downstream Team
- 11:30 – Noon Our Usual Working Lunch
- Noon – 1:05 Productivity Testing (review matrices)
- 1:05 – 1:10 FHMP Schedule Update
- 1:15 – 1:45 Review Satellite Rearing Materials (in preparation for discussion at our April meeting)
- 1:45 – 1:55 Public Communications Update
- 1:55 – 2:05 Review FTC Operating Protocols
- 2:05 – 2:10 Update Status of February 2 Meeting Action Items
- 2:10 – 2:15 Approval of February 2 Meeting Summary
- 2:15 – 2:30 Meeting Evaluation and set April 6, 2010 Meeting Agenda