

**FTC Cowlitz Hydroelectric Project**  
**FERC NO. 2016**  
**Fisheries Technical Committee**  
**Final Meeting Summary**  
January 5, 2010 from 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM  
Mayfield Office, Silver Creek, Washington

**Members Present**

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

**Other Attendees**

Mike Kohn	LCPUD
Bill Iyall	Tacoma Power
Ed Meyer	NMFS
Bill Bosch	Yakama Nation
John Serl	WDFW
Julie Henning	WDFW
Marc Wicke	Tacoma Power
Steve Fischer	Tacoma Power
Tom Martin	Tacoma Power
Debbie Young	Tacoma Power
Pat McCarty	Tacoma Power
Tom Santee	Insights Northwest
Lyn Wiltse	PDSA Consulting

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

February 2, 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

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**Agenda Item: Downstream Team Update**

**Presenter: Pat McCarty**

Pat reported on the meeting at the FERC Portland office on December 10. Tacoma gave a presentation on their intentions regarding testing and plans for the future relative to downstream passage at Cowlitz Falls Dam. LCPUD then gave a presentation relative to dam safety. FERC then said that any solution at CF Dam that impacts spillway capacity needs to be removable within one hour (due to a PMF of 200K cfs). Except for the FERC dam safety staff this was news to all attending that meeting.

When LCPUD said they were not going to remove the debris barrier until July 1, Tacoma said that it would not be necessary as they already have data after that period of time and it would impact operations of the behavioral guidance structure (BGS) planned for 2010. LCPUD is awaiting clarification from FERC re our ability to install the baffle panels this year. Tacoma Power will not be installing the screen or weir box this year.

Bill reported that we will be able to test the BGS this year. The idea is to direct the majority of the fish to the north bank (where approximately 80% of the fish now orient). He distributed a set of plans that show the design of the proposed BGS. Marc is working on a monitoring plan for this. A screen will be mounted in the top section of the BGS allowing for some surface flow to move through the screen area in hopes of keeping the fish from diving and going beneath the BGS. Ed reminded us that the screen will likely clog up unless cleaned regularly.

There will be a small fish collector on the downstream end of the BGS to allow us to track the effectiveness of the BGS. We will likely monitor the performance with radio or acoustic tags.

Tacoma will work collaboratively with team members and LCPUD to finalize the designs and we will discuss this again at our next meeting.

The Downstream Team will discuss the overall schedule (including what work products will be provided by when) and give us an update at our next meeting. Pat and Michelle reported feeling like the infrequent meetings of this team have adversely impacted the momentum and collaborative nature of the team. Tom reported that we are attempting to schedule these meetings as often as schedules allows. There was a request for more updates to the team members from Chick and Al's work.

**Action Items:**

- Marc will send out list of questions to be addressed by the evaluation plan by Jan. 8 for all to review.
- All will review the questions and give feedback/suggestions/assumption/available data to Marc by Jan. 15.
- Marc will arrange conference call after Jan. 15 re feedback on initial questions and how they will be integrated into the plan.
- Marc will coordinate Tacoma's proposed monitoring evaluation plan (with input from the Downstream Team) and propose it at the February FTC meeting.
- Tom will email members of the Downstream Team and ask them to coordinate schedules for additional meetings. He will coordinate the formation of questions that remain regarding each option and how we move forward, keeping in mind technical feasibility. The aim will be to distribute this at the February FTC meeting.
- Tacoma, in coordination with the Downstream Team, will produce a document that reflects the range of downstream alternatives that have been discussed, key questions and uncertainties that need to be addressed, the plan and schedule

for addressing the key questions and uncertainties, and any consensus recommendations of the Downstream Team.

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**Agenda Item: Supplemental Collection for 2010**

**Presenter: Marc Wicke**

Marc reported that the recommendations suggested at the last meeting are being operationalized. He didn't receive any additional feedback on suggested methods of catching fish. They will be using a special seining net this year. The boat is being refurbished and will have a new motor. It should be back in operation in the next few weeks. The supplemental collection will extend from April 15 through mid September. Merwin traps usually are deployed around July 10.

**Action Items:**

- Mike will let Marc know about drawdown dates.
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**Agenda Item: Public Involvement**

**Presenter: Tom Santee**

At the last public meeting we distributed a questionnaire created by Tacoma Power and WDFW on hatchery production. It was designed to allow people interested in this subject to weigh in. Results, including the written comments, were posted on the Cowlitzfish.net website on December 14. All documents and presentations from the last public meeting along with audio were also posted to the Cowlitzfish.net website.

All 76 questionnaire respondents fish on the Cowlitz River. We walked through the results of the questionnaire. These results will help us understand their point of view and help us know what to address in future public meetings. We will seek to deliver relevant information to this community in a variety of ways and a variety of venues. This may include a Q&A to address basic questions and concerns. We would also distribute additional questionnaires at future meetings.

**Action Items:**

- Pat and Mark will draft a Q&A and send it out for FTC review. At that time we will discuss how best to disseminate this additional information.
  - By January 15 Tom S will draft recommendations for next steps. We will make decisions on this at our February meeting.
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**Agenda Item: Productivity Testing**

**Presenter: Mark L**

We discussed the productivity abundance numbers and how it might make sense to gather data from the productivity test in each basin for 5 years to evaluate whether each

population is self-sustaining. If we did this we would set the abundance number based on those basin-specific results. Pat will set up a meeting with Ray Beamesderfer and others to flesh out how we might carry out this approach. We then agreed to carry over the action items from the previous meeting (see below).

**Action Items:**

- Pat and Ray will work with Tacoma and NMFS to flesh out Ray's proposal and send it out for all to review prior to our next meeting. Discuss if we need to implement additional juvenile collection actions.
  - Mark L will work with Brett to update the table with edits and post for review prior to our next meeting.
  - Mark L will work with Michelle to revise the accompanying narrative to address the five questions listed in the December 2009 FTC meeting summary. Include also rationale for doing testing in the upper basin.
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**Agenda Item: Yakama Presentation**

**Presenter: Bill Bosch**

Bill walked us through a PowerPoint presentation on Yakima Basin Salmon Restoration activities. It will be posted to the FTC web page.

**Action Items:**

- Michelle to follow up re productivity data related to acclimation ponds.
  - Mark to post Bill's presentation to FTC web page.
  - Mark will draft an issue paper on satellite rearing facilities and post it by Jan. 23.
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**Agenda Item: Review FHMP Schedule**

**Presenter: Mark L**

Mark distributed an updated version of the schedule that included the additional topics suggested at the last meeting, including a public workshop and 2 month public review period. He also pushed out the schedule by a year as we had discussed.

We discussed the process for being able to successfully update the FHMP in a timely fashion. After some discussion we agree to address the relevant issues within a 3 meeting (month) timeframe and then give FTC consensus decisions to the consultants to draft as the revised FHMP. We will determine how best to incorporate public reviews. Quarterly public reviews might be a viable option.

**Action Items:**

- Mark L will revise the schedule to reflect discussions.
- Mark L will help us tee up issues for each FHMP topic by providing an issues paper a week prior to the meeting where the issue is to be initially discussed.

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

We deferred this topic.

**Action Items:**

- All to review existing protocols (last reviewed May 8, 2008).
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**Agenda Item: Update Status of December 1, 2009 Meeting Action Items****Presenter: Lyn****Action Items:**

- Tom will call Erich Gaedeke and discuss our request for a one year (at least) extension for the revision of the FHMP , and prepare a draft for FTC members for review before submitting to FERC.
  - Marc W will post a graph relating thermocline temperature with run timing in Riffe Lake on the FTC website.
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**Agenda Item: Approval of December 1, 2009 Meeting Summary**

We discussed some edits to the December 1, 2009 draft meeting summary. We will defer approval until the Feb. 2 meeting.

**Action Item:**

- All to send suggested edits for the December 2 meeting summary to Lyn prior to January 20<sup>th</sup>. After that date send the proposed edits to Mark L.
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**Agenda Item: Meeting Evaluation****Well Done:**

- Interesting presentation by Bill Bosch from Yakama Nation
- Good, frank discussions on many topics
- Good discussions around next steps

**Do Differently:**

- Started late and ran late
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The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

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**Meeting Handouts**

- Agenda for January 5, 2010 FTC meeting

- Draft December 1, 2009 FTC meeting summary
  - Preliminary design documents for 2010 CFD Downstream Smolt Collection
  - Results: October 2009 Questionnaire Regarding Cowlitz Hatchery Production Levels
  - FHMP Update: Development Plan and Consultation Schedule, Dec. 22, 2009
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### **Topics for February 2, 2010 FTC Meeting**

- 9:00 – 9:30 Welcome / Review Agenda / Check-In
- 9:30 – 10:30 FHMP Schedule Update
- 10:30 – 11:30 Productivity Testing
- 11:30 – Noon Tee Up: Satellite Rearing Facilities
- Noon – 1:05 Our Usual Working Lunch
- 1:05 – 1:20 Update from Downstream Team
- 1:20 – 1:45 Plan for next Public Meeting
- 1:45 – 2:00 Update Status of January 5 Meeting Action Items
- 2:00 – 2:15 Approval of December 1 and January 5 Meeting Summaries
- 2:15 – 2:30 Meeting Evaluation and set March 2, 2010 Meeting Agenda

### **Action Items:**

- All will review Credit Program posted on website in preparation for discussion on this topic at our Next meeting.
- Mark will send out list of issues to tee up Credits discussion.