

FTC Cowlitz Hydroelectric Project
FERC NO. 2016
Fisheries Technical Committee
Final Meeting Summary
March 5, 2008 from 8:00 AM – 2:30 PM
Tacoma Power Conference Room
Tacoma, Washington

Participating Members

Michelle Day	NMFS
Mark LaRiviere	Tacoma Power
Brian Peck	USFWS
Brad Caldwell	WDOE
Pat Frazier	WDFW

Other Attendees

Joe First	LCPUD, Cowlitz Falls
Ed Meyer	NMFS
Steve Vigg (by phone)	WDFW
Wolf Dammers (by phone)	WDFW
John Serl	WDFW
Charles Morrill	WDFW
Tom Santee	Insight Northwest
Marc Wicke	Tacoma Power
Bill Iyall	Tacoma Power
Steve Fischer	Tacoma Power
Debbie Young	Tacoma Power
Tom Martin	Tacoma Power
Todd Lloyd	Tacoma Power
Lyn Wiltse	PDSA Consulting, Facilitator

Future FTC Meeting Dates

Apr 2, May 7, Jun 4, Jul 2, **Aug 13**, Sept.3, Oct 1, Nov 5, Dec 3.
Default time: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM; Default location: Mayfield

New Action Items

- All: Note: August meeting date is the 2nd Wednesday: August 13.
- All: Send Marc input on 2008 collection plans by COB on 3/15.
- Todd: Post forecast info by 3/10 on website.
- Mark: Send out notification when updated 2008 inflow forecast is posted.
- Michelle: By COB on 3/10 get clearance for electro anesthesia from NMFS.
- Lyn: Send out revised Draft Protocols and Sussman Consensus Model along with meeting summary in new format.
- All: Review Protocols – adequate? Note # 13, 15 re consensus process.
- Mark: Meet with Brian, Steve V., and Wolf re: Draft Goals of Fish Release Program and which sites qualify.
- Mark: Check on number of chum at Mayfield 1961-1968.
- John: Talk with Mike K. re. partnering with Tacoma to fulfill request for winter collection.
- Mark: Revise FHMP schedule
- All: Review draft FHMP schedule.
- Pat: Get detail of HSRG recommendation on chum.
- Lyn: Send out Workshop notes to all (FTC). Include Steve V's opening workshop remarks as emailed to her by COB.
- All: Let Tom M. know if you want a copy of FHMP and Public comments.
- Tom M: Send Workshop notes to Experts.
- All: Reserve August 13th (not 6th) for FTC Meeting at Mayfield.
- All: By March 17 get comments on Annual Report to Mark.

Previous Action Items (note reviewed at March 5 meeting)

- All: Verify agenda for Public Briefings prior to each meeting.
- Julie: Summarize and send out Mayfield pump on/off data.
- All – Consider ideas for chum enhancement – we will continue to discuss this at future meetings.
- Wolf – Report on the definition of low run sizes for summer-run and early winter-run steelhead.
- Steve – Send out creel data electronically to FTC members.
- Steve V – Look at getting Greg Volkhardt to do a site visit to check purse seining feasibility.

Approval of Meeting Summary

The approval of the February meeting summary was deferred until the April 2 meeting.

Agenda item: Instream Flow Projections

Presenter: Todd Lloyd

Discussion:

Todd Lloyd explained the current forecast methodology. Todd aims for 75% confidence of Riffe Lake refill at 5000 cfs discharge from Mayfield. Tacoma uses forecasts from two organizations: 3 Tier Environmental and The River Forecast Center, with preference on 3 Tier Environmental.

Last year was driest May-July on record. However, there were about two weeks where Riffe Lake inflows dropped below average, while discharge remained at a high level. This year they will be taking one of the units out of Mossyrock, leaving unit capacity of 6200 cfs. His aim is to refill Riffe without spilling – lots of variables to balance. They are expecting a well-above average runoff this season.

He walked us through several charts and explained exceedence probabilities. He is targeting Riffe Lake EL of 700' at the start of the outage period, and feels there is a very high likelihood of being able to maintain 5000 cfs at Mayfield through June and dropping to 2500 cfs in July (778.5 is full pool). They like to raise the reservoir before the recreation season so they can clean up the LWD.

TPU is operating a flow regime very similar to the agreement they signed with WA Dept. of Fish & Game in 1977. About half the time we fall below 5000 cfs in the spring.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Todd will put information on the website for all to review. Information will include: Riffe Lake elevation; Inflow; Outflow; Refill probability curve; Snow pack.	Todd Lloyd	April 2 and monthly thereafter through June.
✓ Mark will let FTC members know when it has been posted – March-June	Mark LaRiviere	

Agenda item: FTC meeting Summaries

Presenter: Lyn Wiltse

Discussion: The aim of the meeting summary for FTC meetings

The aim of the meeting summary: "The Record" – Snapshot of what occurred and where we left off.

Remember accurately

"Decisions" recommendations made / rationale

Action items / Next steps (Who/What/By When)

List what is unresolved, differing views, Discussion, Status, Next Steps.

Conclusions: ✓ Adopted a new format to try. Will get feedback at April meeting.

Action items and next steps: (Who/What/By When)	Person responsible	Deadline
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✓ Determine if new format fulfills aims as listed above.

All

4/2/08

Agenda item: Format of the meeting summary for FTC meetings. **Presenter:** Lyn Wiltse

Discussion: How to record meeting summary and supporting process

We agreed the FTC meeting summaries should include the following elements:

- Attendees
- Action Items
- Response to Questions Raised (NEW!)
- Issues
- Discussion (issues of differing opinions – list issues without attribution)
- Next Steps
- Next Agenda
- Evaluation

Process: All “own” notes as Lyn writes them

- Review Next Steps / Action Items at end of each agenda item.
- Lyn to send documents with Agenda one week prior to meeting.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Try new format and discuss effectiveness at next meeting	Lyn Wiltse	3/7/08

Agenda item: Mayfield Downstream Migrant Improvement Schedule **Presenter:** Steve Fischer

Discussion:

Steve explained that this project has been broken into 3 parts, each with a different schedule:

1. Secondary Separator Improvements: Redesign so the brush will move upward only. Fabrication will last two months. Installation will require another 2 months in 2008. NMFS is comfortable with the design.

2. Counting House: Working with ESC Engineering to simplify this design. Hope to be out to bid late summer. Goal: To be operational by the start of out-migration season 2009.

3. Outfall Improvements: Tacoma asked NMFS if the current design is sufficient. Steve F will give NMFS more information on the depth of the flow – maybe reduce the pipeline diameter to try to get more depth? Maybe add water? Anticipated to construct in 2008.

Action items (our Next Steps)	Person responsible	Deadline
Send the revised secondary separator design to Ed when available.	Steve F	ASAP
Send the revised counting house design to Ed when available.	Steve F	ASAP
Steve will Convene an early design meeting and include NMFS and WDFW as Ed would like to see this early in the process. Ed needs more detail on flow and fish path.	Steve F	ASAP
Reconfigure the bid package for outfall improvements. Tacoma will go through one more iteration of this with Ed - phone call will be sufficient.	Steve F	

Agenda item: Alternate Release Locations

Presenter: Mark LaRiviere

Discussion: What will happen this season and going forward?

Mark reported that he has tentative approval from the Ranger to go ahead with our erosion control plan at the current Cispus River site. TP is committed to continue looking at additional sites for this year. Mike K requested a time extension (September 30, 2009) to use the funding for this. TP is in the early stages of developing a design for a fish release device towed behind the fish truck, probably on a trailer with an arch. The design is very rough at this time. TP agreed to consider application of this for the Tom Music site, while, together with other FTC members, they also consider other sites that allow us to address these issues to determine site locations:

- Permitting issues with Tom Music site
- Temperature (rivers/lake systems) for determining site locations
- Fall back
- High velocities

Members discussed the need to set goals for the adult release locations. These goals, in addition to a list of potential sites in the Cispus and Upper Cowlitz, should be used to guide the selection of the most suitable sites.

Action items (our Next Steps)	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Mark will talk with Ranger re. permitting issues at Tom Music; FTC members consider goals for fish release program – consider using the fish contraption in a variety of locations including the upper Cowlitz and Tilton rivers. List design requirements around functionality (e.g., how far to extend from the truck, angle, etc.)	Mark, Wolf, Steve V., Brian	
✓ Review draft design memorandum. #1 Clarify the goals of this program. #2 Clarify the list of sites.	Mark, Wolf, Steve V., Brian	

Agenda item: Schedule for Updating FHMP **Presenter:** Mark LaRiviere

Discussion:

Mark distributed a draft schedule for all to review. It shows that the FTC will have two opportunities for review changes to the FHMP (double what is called for). The public will also have an opportunity for review. Tacoma suggested having an FHMP meeting with Lars Mobrand to review the plan. We don't expect the update to be as complex as the new plan.

Conclusions: We will also discuss the process for agreeing on changes

Action items (our Next Steps)	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Mark will revise the schedule to include another issues resolution point.	Mark LaRiviere	
✓ All will review the revised schedule which revolves around FTC meetings. We will review the goals. Approve this at our April 2 meeting.	FTC members	

Agenda item: FERC Reporting Schedule - FHMP **Presenter:** Mark LaRiviere

Discussion:

The FHMP Annual Project Status Report is due to FERC April 1, 2008. The draft annual report was posted to the FTC web site on 2/7 for review. This final report includes the draft 2007 Cowlitz evaluation report. Mark just received this from WDFW and has appended it to the Annual Report.

TP expects to file this report electronically as they did last year.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ All get comments to Mark by March 17.	All	3/17/08

Agenda item: Public Outreach

Presenter: Lyn Wiltse

Discussion:

We reviewed the press release announcing the Cowlitzfish.net website that Tacoma sent out on 2/27/08. So far it doesn't look like any of the papers have picked it up. We will for other ways to promote public awareness of the web site.

Conclusions: We need to find additional ways to update the public.

Action items

Person responsible

Deadline

- ✓ Tom S will report on number of hits on website.

Tom Santee

4/2/08

Agenda item: 2008 Cowlitz Falls Dam Downstream Migrant Collection Plans

Presenter: Bill Iyall

Discussion: Debris barrier

Bill updated us on the proposed designs for the 2008 Downstream Migrant Collection Plans. TP is talking with LCPUD about how to accomplish repairs to support structure without a drawdown.

Conclusions: We need advice from fish passage experts to inform our next steps.

Action items

Person responsible

Deadline

- ✓ Set up site visit with project people to determine feasibility. Bill - let Marc Wicke know if not feasible.

Bill Iyall

Agenda item: 2008 Cowlitz Falls Dam Downstream Migrant Collection Plans

Presenter: Bill Iyall

Discussion: Intake Screen

TP is still working through some design review comments they received from LCPUD. When asked about frequency of cleaning Steve explained this process will be defined over time. They will start out daily and adjust as appropriate.

Issues:

- Effect on fish impinged on screen or going through the turbine is unknown.
- How to evaluate the head loss / generation?
 - Fish survival issue
- Turbulence in gate well?
- Have someone watch tail-race when doing cleaning?
 - De-scaling?
 - Injury rates?
 - Record observations
- NMFS is okay for TP to move ahead once TP gets approval from LCPUD.
- Smith Root contract in place to investigate electro-anesthesia in the forebay (won't work in the confines of rejection area). NMFS concerns – effect on smolts / kelts / larger resident fish.
- Electrified field with radio tags? This is experimental technology (requires NMFS review).

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Need approval of design – looking to deploy April 15.	Steve Fischer	
✓ Michelle to get go-ahead on electro-anesthesia.	Michelle Day	3/10/08

Agenda item: Fish Passage Expert Workshop **Presenter:** Lyn Wiltse

Discussion: Next Steps after Workshop

Lyn distributed the 29 pages of draft workshop notes that she compiled from the last two days' activities. Discussion included the following:

State specific goals and by when we should complete them. WDFW wants to see a plan by August as it will impact their fish management decisions and may re-shape the FHMP

TP wants to be able to model and test hypotheses. We want to implement what will give us the most "bang for the buck."

Have AI and Chick summarize the workshop notes for alternatives teams recommended be carried forward for FTC to review. Share this summary with workshop participants.

Get expert consultant input from workshop participants and additional NMFS participants identified by Michelle.

Potential phrasing: *How would you improve FPS to reach 95%? What is your supporting rationale?*

(Use Settlement Agreement definition of FPS)

Need a short term and long term balance as well as a research and action balance.

Pat stated that the plan must show the 95% fish passage survival goal must be achieved, including benchmarks and timelines, including actions that will be implemented in the near term that will be implemented in the near term that will result in substantial progress towards achieving the 95% goal.

Conclusions: We will reassess where we are and the appropriate next steps at our April meeting.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Send workshop summary to NMFS fish passage experts who did not attend the workshop along with background information ask them also to answer the King question.	Michelle Day	ASAP
✓ Send Workshop notes out to all FTC participants to review before they are sent out to experts.	Lyn Wiltse	ASAP
✓ Ask AI and Chick to help phrase expert consultant question ASAP.	Lyn Wiltse	3/5/008
✓ Send workshop notes out to fish passage experts along with question."	Tom Martin	ASAP

Agenda item: March 20 Public Technical Briefing **Presenter:** Tom Santee

Discussion: Preparation for the meeting

Tom S will see if a school facility is available for this informational briefing. Mark and Pat agreed to attend and help explain the workshop activities and outcomes. We want to allow ample time for Q and A.

Suggested Agenda for the meeting:

6:00 Welcome and introductions

6:30 – 6:50 Set the context (Distribute and review John's background document)

6:50 – 8:00 Review proceedings of the workshop (distribute and review Workshop Notes)

(incl. break) Hand flip charts from the workshop so public gets the flavor of the creativity and process.

8:00 – 8:45 Discuss next steps

8:45 – 9:00 Q&A
 9:00 – 9:15 Open time
 9:15 Adjourn

Conclusions: We want to inform the public of where we are in this process in a way that allows them to understand next steps with regard to fish passage and the supporting rationale.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Tom to meet with Mark L and Pat Frazier to coordinate the details of the meeting	Tom Santee	ASAP

Agenda item: Supplemental Collection **Presenter:** Debbie and Marc

Discussion: What will be done this season?

Debbie reported that Tacoma is pretty much in agreement about proceeding with the suggested forms of supplemental collection with the exception of winter collections. Brian restated the USFWS request of 2 days a month of beach seining and minnow trapping (overnight) October through March.

He also expressed a need for a firm commitment to beach seining at the head of Riffe Lake. Tacoma committed to seining at least weekly and possibly daily depending on the number of fish in the traps. Morning seining is considered important. TP will make every attempt to do morning seining. Consider going to 10 hour work days. Marc explained that the safety of the fish in the traps has to come first.

Conclusions: We will explore opportunities to partner with LCPUD on this.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ John will talk with Mike Kohn re. partnering with Tacoma to fulfill winter collection	John Serl	a firm date would be better ...

Agenda item: Chum **Presenter:** Mark LaRiviere

Discussion: HSRG Recommendation

Mark explained that the HSRG has just released recommendations for chum salmon.

Conclusions: We will discuss this at our April meeting.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Get description of HSRG findings and send out to all	Pat Frazier	3/26

Meeting Evaluation

Well Done:

- Meeting summary discussion and focus on moving forward
- Plan for public technical debrief on March 20
- Frank discussions
- Attention to notes on flip charts
- FHMP review schedule and discussion
- Wolf and Steve joining us by phone (instead of missing the meeting)

Do Differently:

- Ran late
- Noise level of facility

- Missed the teamwork discussion (once again)
- Missed Brett and George

Meeting Handouts

- Snow pack and refill forecast graphs
- 2/25 draft conference call summary
- 2/6 draft meeting summary
- FTC operating protocols – 10/4/2006
- Proposed FTC meeting summary format
- 2007 FHMP annual project evaluation and status report
- Tacoma Power – Cowlitzfish.net press release
- FTC Fish Passage Expert Workshop meeting notes

Topics for April 2 FTC Meeting

- Welcome / Check-In / Review Agenda, Action Items, etc.
- FHMP Renewal Schedule
- Report from Fish Passage Expert Workshop
- FTC operating protocol discussion
- Working Lunch
- Report on public meeting – March 20
- Productivity Issues for: Late Winter Steelhead and Spring Chinook
- Review 2008 Downstream Migrant Collection Plans and Supplemental plans
- Set Agenda for April 2 Meeting and Evaluate the Meeting