

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

**Fisheries Technical Committee
Final Meeting Summary**

September 9, 2008 from 10:15 AM – 2:30 PM
Mayfield Office, Silver Creek, Washington

Members Present

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

Other Attendees

Ed Meyer	NMFS
Mike Kohn	LCPUD/BPA
Steve Vigg	WDFW
Wolf Dammers	WDFW
John Serl	WDFW
Charles Morrill	WDFW
Tom Santee	Insight Northwest – Substitute Facilitator
Steve Fischer	Tacoma Power
Bill Iyall	Tacoma Power
Tom Martin	Tacoma Power
Debbie Carlson	BPA
Julie Henning	WDFW
Sean Murphy	Congressman Baird's Staff

Remaining 2008 FTC Meeting Dates (first TUESDAY of each month!)

Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 2.

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

Announcements

Tom Santee is today's facilitator because Lyn Wiltse is not available for the rescheduled meeting date.

Sean Murphy from Congressman Baird's staff is attending as an observer.

Pat asked to re-title the last agenda item as "WDFW Coho Reintroduction Strategy."

The October 7 meeting will return to its regular 9 a.m. start time.

Approval of Meeting Summary

We approved the August 5 meeting summary with no edits. Mark will post for public review.

Agenda Item: Downstream Fish Passage Review and Discussion

Presenters: Bill, Steve F, Tom M, Mark

Bill handed out a draft of the downstream fish passage plan to be submitted to FERC on September 15, 2008; a timeline for executing the plan that is updated from the one distributed at the August 5 FTC meeting; a technical memorandum from MWH describing 2009 interim fish passage measures; and a copy of the FERC August 17 order granting extension of time to March 1, 2009 for submitting Tacoma Power's downstream fish passage/collection facilities effectiveness report.

Bill recapped the progress made since the previous FTC meeting on the Downstream Team (DST) and FTC's recommended options. He said consulting contracts are being updated so there will be no delay in carrying out pre-design work. Steve F said there will be a competitive bid process for final design work but shouldn't cause any schedule delay.

The revised timeline focuses on pre-design tasks. It anticipates FTC review of 10% project tasks on Oct. 7, 2008, 30% tasks on Nov. 25, 2008, 60% tasks on Feb. 3, 2009, alternatives rating meeting on July 7, 2009, 90% tasks on Sept. 8, 2009 and preliminary design project completion on Nov. 19, 2009. In response to questions Bill said there will be conceptual designs – not construction designs – until after a final option is selected.

Bill said the plan described in the draft report to FERC includes all the FTC recommendations except that only one of the three weir options proposed by the downstream fish passage team. The three weir options are overlapping so only one is needed. Bill and Steve discussed the Sept. 8 memorandum from the consulting firm MWH which describes a gate slot diverter and a weir box at Cowlitz Falls Dam. Steve F said that Tacoma Power is not satisfied with some of the MWH suggested criteria for the weir box and this will be reviewed by the downstream fish passage team. Ed also wants more discussion of the gate-slot diverter and weir box at the next team meeting. Ed said the 200 cfs at the weir box seems too high velocity.

Mike said this is a good time for Tacoma Power to meet with Lewis PUD engineers to review items that relate to Cowlitz Falls Dam. Steve F agreed.

Brett asked that the plan submitted to FERC be expanded to include all the recommended 2009 measures and an explanation of why the specific weir option was chosen over the others. There also was discussion about need for a predator prey study. Mark L said this was not needed until a final option was chosen because the results depend on the location. It was agreed that a literature review relating to predator prey will be useful prior to selection of a final option.

Tom M asked FTC members to inform him of any questions they have or issues of concern with the plan being submitted to FERC. He said he will send out a revision by

Thursday. If there are unresolved matters he said Tacoma Power prefers that people contact him so additional submissions to FERC on the issue can be jointly signed.

It was decided that progress reports on the downstream passage plan shall be a standing FTC agenda item at monthly meetings.

Actions

- Tom Martin sends a revised draft plan to FTC by Thursday, Sept. 11.
 - FTC members contact Tom M as soon as possible about any concerns or additions.
 - Steve F and Mike make arrangements for meeting with LCPUD engineers
 - Downstream fish passage team reviews MWH recommendations
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Agenda Item: Report on Aug. 19 Public Meeting Presenters: Tom S, Mark, Pat **Discussion:**

Tom S said the public meeting had essentially the same attendees as the previous meeting even though the meeting was promoted through display ads in four editions of *The Chronicle* newspaper. Buddy Rose who reports for the *East County Journal* attended and wrote an informative article for that newspaper.

Mark and Pat were the FTC members present. Bill Iyall made the presentation. There was some difficulty accessing the projection equipment so the meeting start time was delayed.

Bob Reid and Tom S asked most of the questions at the meeting. Bob expressed disbelief that a surface collector will work due to debris problems.

Because of the small turnout Pat asked if it may be best to return to the idea of a roundtable discussion rather than a presentation-style meeting. Other locations or times may be appropriate as well. Tom S said he could call some of the public who regularly attends and ask what they would prefer. The next public meeting will be discussed at the Oct. 7 FTC meeting

Actions

- Tom S calls some of those attending the public meetings and prepares a recommendation for the next public meeting for discussion at the Oct. 7 FTC meeting.
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Agenda Item: Supplemental Collection Update

Presenter: Mark

Discussion:

Mark handed out the supplemental juvenile salmon collection summary report for Aug. 23- Sept. 6, 2008. The report states that the Merwin traps, inclined plane trap and the Natural Solutions trap were fishing during the period. The minnow traps were

discontinued for the remainder of the season due to low catches and to allow for more beach seining effort.

Marc said the inclined plane traps need to be removed soon and the Merwin traps will continue fishing until Sept. 24.

Through August the supplemental collection smolt totals are; Merwin traps 6,618 fish, the incline plane trap 6,087, beach seining 711, and none collected using the minnow traps.

Agenda Item: WDFW Coho Reintroduction Strategy
Discussion:

Presenter: Pat

Pat handed out "WDFW's Generalize Approach for Reintroduction of Target Anadromous Salmonid Species into the Upper Cowlitz River Basin." Pat said the existing strategy for rebuilding wild coho stocks in the upper Cowlitz is inadequate due to the low-percentage downstream fish collection. He said WDFW believes the numbers of adult spawners needs to be greater than is possible under the current method. His agency also is very concerned about the economic hardship to local communities due to the greatly lessened sport fishing opportunity resulting from the current method.

Pat focused most of his discussion on the new WDFW approach on its potential biological performance. He said his agency believes that more hatchery stock is needed upriver than under the current management method until such time as downstream fish collection is achieving high performance. Offsetting a lessened genetic quality from hatchery stock is greatly increasing intergrated hatchery stock production.

Pat said implementing this new approach is within WDFW's authority but that he wants the FTC to concur with the approach.

Initial response by some FTC members focused on not being provided this information in advance so there is no opportunity for review and analysis. Pat said the approach was finalized the previous week and he was working this morning getting the information together for the FTC. Brett said American Rivers cannot provide feedback today on something they had no opportunity to review.

Several questions were asked about how it technically changes current hatchery operations including tagging, how it is consistent with the ESA recovery plan, how it melds with what the HSRG summarized a year ago and how WDFW arrived at its calculations. Pat encouraged FTC members to email him with their questions so he can respond with more details.

It was agreed to continue the discussion of this at the next FTC meeting after WDFW provides more detail.

Actions

- FTC members email Pat with specific questions
 - Pat provides details and responses well in advance of the next meeting
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Meeting Handouts

Agenda, September 9, 2008 FTC meeting

Draft August 5, 2008 FTC meeting summary

Signed attendance list, 9/9/08 Cowlitz FTC meeting

Downstream Team – draft timelines

MWH Technical Memo, 9/8/2008

Draft SA License Article 1 plan for 2009 Fish Collection Improvements

Supplemental Collection Report – August 23 to September 6, 2008

WDFW's Re-evaluation of upper Cowlitz River basin coho management

Draft WDFW paper – NOR:HOR releases ratios, Fall 2007 - Vigg, 9/4/2008

WDFW's generalized approach for re-introduction of salmonids into upper Cowlitz River

Topics for Oct. 7 2008 FTC Meeting

Welcome / Check-In / Review Agenda, Action Items, etc.

Approval of Sept. 9 Meeting Summary

Downstream Fish Passage update (This is to be a monthly agenda item)

Plan for next public meeting (Tom S)

Report on satellite rearing facilities

Supplemental collection update

Report on FHMP update process

Discussion of details regarding WDFW Coho Reintroduction Plan

Update on Cispus adult release chute

Evaluate Meeting and Set Agenda for Nov 4 Meeting

Meeting Evaluation

Documents weren't provided ahead of meeting

Facilitator cut off discussion too early at times; meeting felt rushed

We keep returning to issues without resolution; lack of collaboration

Subgroups are where collaboration is succeeding; maybe need more