

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

**Fisheries Technical Committee
Final Meeting Summary**

September 25, 2009 from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Mayfield Office, Silver Creek, Washington

Members Present

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

Other Attendees

Rich Turner	NMFS
John Serl	WDFW
Wolf Dammers	WDFW
Julie Henning	WDFW
Chris Sergeant	Tacoma Power
Tom Martin	Tacoma Power
Debbie Young	Tacoma Power
Pam Hefley	Tacoma Power
John Barr	Consultant
Lyn Wiltse	PDSA Consulting

2009 FTC Meeting Dates (first Tuesday of each month)

October 6, November 3, December 1

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

Announcements

Mark reported that the Gravel Augmentation Progress report will be out to the FTC for review at our next meeting (due to FERC by December 31, 2009). There will be a minimum of a 30 day review period for comments. The Instream Flow Monitoring report is also due to the FERC by the end of the year. The Habitat Advisory Group will be sending a report summarizing its activities also by the end of the year.

The Progress Report on Downstream Collection is due to FERC by December 15, 2009.

Tacoma filed comments with FERC re. the LCPUD Biological Opinion. Tacoma originally filed comments with FERC in July. LCPUD and BPA filed (separate) comments in September. Tacoma filed another set of comments to FERC today.

Agenda Item: Productivity Testing Discussion

Presenter: Chris Sergeant

Chris read through the McElhaney et al 2006 and McElhaney et al 2007 documents that Michelle distributed at our last meeting. He summarized the data and provided a corresponding handout. He explained viability curves (initial guidance from NMFS defined a viable population as one with an extinction risk of less than 5% in 100 years) and minimum abundance thresholds (set a floor on the viability curve). These have been defined by the population persistence thresholds.

RFTs and CRTs are set according to watershed size (based on spawnable stream kilometers) for each species as defined by Kray in 1957.

Based on the criteria described in the McElhaney documents and the watershed sizes defined by Kray, the population abundance thresholds (low risk of extinction) for steelhead are 500-750 for the Tilton (small watershed), 500-1,000 for the Upper Cowlitz (medium watershed), and 500-700 for the Cispus (small watershed).

All agreed this was a good distillation of the reports. We need to discuss an appropriate abundance number as the bar for a self sustaining population and the bar for recovery may be different.

We still have several questions to resolve including: What do we mean by sustainability? How do we fit this into our abundance number? Would we need to meet it once? More than once? Productivity is well defined. Might we do something similar for abundance as well?

Other data needs to guide this discussion:

- Abundance number
- If we test in both basins, what is the decision making? What action do we take based on results (how prescriptive should we be)? E.g., timing: base it on one 5-year rolling average?

Action Items:

- Pat will check with Mark Johnson about how long we can hold the fish (past mid-October)?
- All prepare to make a decision about the decision protocol and the official number at our October meeting.
- Pat will ask Ray B to send out info on his presentation by Sept. 29 to all to review prior to our Oct. 6 meeting.
- Rich will provide written justification for the revised winter steelhead numbers subsequent to the October meeting.

Agenda Item: AHA Subcommittee Report

Presenter: John Barr

Outstanding Issues for the subcommittee to address prior to our October 6 meeting:

- Size of fish at each release in these programs

- Clarification of the additional option (Option 3) for Upper Cowlitz Coho

The RIST report (sponsored by NMFS) reviews the HSRD guidelines and provides certain findings. We discussed the various options for the various species.

Action Item:

- The subcommittee will meet again between now and our October 6 meeting and report on these remaining items at that meeting.
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Agenda Item: Working Lunch / Hatchery Production Scenarios
Presenter: Discussion by All

We flagged various data gaps to resolve before we can recommend adoption of any specific scenario for each species. We will follow up on these at our October meeting.

Agenda Item: Confirm Next Public Meeting Date(s) and Topics
Presenter: Lyn

We discussed Tom S's thoughts regarding the next public meeting. The current plan is to focus on the hatchery portion of the update. We want to do this in a way that is meaningful to members of the public. To that end, Tom S suggests creating a questionnaire that would include questions such as *What are your favorite sports fisheries in the middle and upper Cowlitz River basin?* and *What upsets you most about the current FHMP?* Participants agreed that such a questionnaire would be a good idea.

Action Items:

- Tom S will send out sample list of questions for the public at next public meeting and we will discuss at our October 6 meeting.
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Agenda Item: Update Status of August 4 and September 1 Meeting Action Items
Presenter: Lyn

We reviewed the status of outstanding action items and carried forward those that were incomplete.

Agenda Item: Approval of August 4 and September 1 Meeting Summaries

We approved the August 4, 2009 and September 1, 2009 meeting summaries with minor edits. They will be posted to the public website.

Agenda Item: Meeting Evaluation

Well Done:

- Gave enough time to have good discussions on the hatchery scenarios
- Welcome back, George!

Do Differently:

- (Nothing listed)
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The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Meeting Handouts

- Agenda for September 25, 2009 FTC meeting
 - Draft September 1, 2009 FTC meeting summaries
 - Developing population abundance thresholds in the Tilton and Upper Cowlitz/Cispus basins (9/25/09 discussion document based on McElhaney and Kray documents summarized by Chris Sergeant)
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Topics for October 6, 2009 FTC Meeting

9:00 – 9:20	Welcome / Review Agenda / Check-In
9:20 – 12:20	Productivity Testing Discussion (Ray B)
12:20 – 12:50	AHA Subcommittee Report - Update on Data Gaps for each species
12:50 – 1:05	Initial M&E Subcommittee Report
1:05 – 1:20	FHMP Schedule Update
1:20 – 1:50	Plan for next Public Meeting - List of questions to ask the public
1:50 – 2:00	Update Status of September 25 Meeting Action Items
2:00 – 2:15	Approval of September 25 Meeting Summary
2:15 – 2:30	Meeting Evaluation and set November 3, 2009 Meeting Agenda