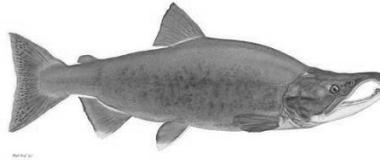

Cowlitz Fisheries Informational Meeting

March 26, 2015



Five Common Questions & Answers

Q. What is happening with surplus adults at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery?

- All spring Chinook and up to 8,600 fall Chinook above hatchery needs will be transported upstream with the exception of some retained for coded wire tag recovery. Additional fall Chinook will be donated to food banks or used for nutrient enhancement in the upper watershed.
- Up to 25,000 coho from the integrated program will be transported upstream above Cowlitz Falls. The average return for the past three years has been approximately 9,000 adults. Up to 6,000 adults above hatchery need from the non-integrated coho program will be transported to the Tilton River. Any additional fish will be either donated to food banks (if food grade quality) or used for nutrient enhancement in the upper watershed (non-food grade quality).
- Summer run steelhead above hatchery need will be donated to food banks with the exception of any adults that are recycled downstream.
- Late winter steelhead above hatchery needs will be donated to food banks.
- Cutthroat trout above hatchery needs will be recycled downstream.

Q. Water flows are fluctuating wildly below Mayfield Dam. The worst flow fluctuations ever are happening this year. Why?

A. The decision to change Mayfield discharge is made by carefully balancing a number of factors, including: downstream flow and ramping requirements; elevation restrictions on the Mayfield reservoir; coordinated dispatch of Tacoma's other power resources; and local and regional power needs. These factors have been in effect for years.

One recent change that impacts local and regional power needs is the development and integration of a large number of wind generators. In the last five years, over 7,000 MW of wind generation has been built in the Pacific Northwest. Wind generation is very volatile and uncertain. When output from the wind generators increases or decreases, the regional demand of power from other resources changes in response.

Q. How long will we be forced to use barbless hooks?

A. The emergency regulation implementing the requirement to use barbless hooks on the Columbia River from the Oregon/Washington border downstream was an outcome of the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission's (WFWC) Columbia River Basin Salmon Management Policy (POL-C3620) (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/commission/policies/c3620.html>) pursuant to the conservation and fisheries management on the Columbia River system.

The fish and wildlife commissions of Washington and Oregon worked for many months to review the many aspects of Columbia River salmon and sturgeon fishery management and to maintain concurrent regulations between Oregon and Washington in the water of the Columbia River bordering the two states.

During the North of Falcon preseason planning process (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/northfalcon/>), the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) added tributaries to the main stem Columbia regulation requiring barbless hooks. Under the terms of the WFWC's Columbia River policy, there will be an annual review of policy implementation.

Q. What is happening to increase downstream collection at Cowlitz Falls Dam?

A. In an effort to improve downstream fish collection at the Cowlitz Falls Dam, Tacoma Power has designed a shore-based collector (the Cowlitz Falls North Shore Collector). It will be located immediately downstream of the dam and the entrance will be routed through the dam. The collector will create attraction flows of 500 cubic feet per second and will be designed with the flexibility to pump that attraction water back to the reservoir or allow it to be gravity-fed to the tailrace. The construction will start in 2015 and is expected to be complete by the end of 2016. A seasonal collector is currently in use to collect downstream migrants in upper Riffe Lake between Cowlitz Falls Dam and Taidnapam Park. This collector will be used to capture juveniles not collected at Cowlitz Falls Dam during the July – August timeframe.

Q. Why isn't the state (WDFW) taking care of people? Why does Tacoma Power even have a say in fisheries management?

A. WDFW has the responsibility to manage sport fisheries on the Cowlitz River. Those fisheries must be consistent with WDFW's policies and agreements. WDFW was a signatory to the Settlement Agreement, which incorporated the guidelines of the Fisheries and Hatchery Management Plan (FHMP), and includes guidelines for hatchery/wild fish interactions. Fisheries now have to meet more stringent guidelines to be consistent with those guidelines. WDFW is working within the limitations of these policies and agreements to provide as much sport fishing opportunity as possible. The FHMP is not intended in any way to alter the legal and policy mandates and responsibilities of WDFW on the Cowlitz River. The FHMP is intended to provide a structure within which WDFW's responsibilities can be carried out in a manner that is consistent with the Settlement Agreement.

Want more information?

- Visit Tacoma Power's website at: <http://www.mytpu.org/tacomapower/fish-wildlife-environment/> or email cowlitz@cityoftacoma.org
- Learn more about the Fisheries Technical Committee (FTC) at: <http://www.mytpu.org/tacomapower/about-tacoma-power/dams-power-sources/hydro-power/licensing/cowlitz-licensing/cowlitz-license-documents/cowlitz-fisheries-committee.htm>
- Visit the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's website at: www.wdfw.wa.gov
- Learn more about the Cowlitz River Advisory Group (Ad Hoc) at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/advisory/crag/>