

**Cowlitz Hydroelectric Project
FERC No. 2016
Cowlitz Fisheries Technical Committee
Meeting Summary**

October 7, 2025 from 9:30am-3:15pm

FTC Representative Attendees

Tacoma: Melora Shelton

WDFW: Peggy Miller (morning) and Bryce Glaser (afternoon)

ECY: Andrew Luymes

TU: Jonathan Stumpf

Additional Attendees

BPA: Michael Boyles

LC: Ann Weckback

LCPUD: Laura Wolfe

LCFRB: Amelia Johnson

Tacoma: Jenise Bauman, Matt Bleich, Sam Gibbons, Scott Gibson, Jamie Murphy, Sean Luis, Eric Shoblom, Chris Vaughn

WDFW: Brian Gale, Josua Holowatz, Todd Hillson, Larona Newhouse, John Serl, Kristopher Warner

Facilitator: Jennifer Arnold, Reciprocity Consulting, LLC

Public Attendees: Randy LeDuc (Coastal Conservation Association), Greg King (Friends of the Cowlitz, formerly Cowlitz River Advisory Group), Larry Pryor (Northwest Fisheries Enhancement), and Chris Vandenberg (Northwest Fisheries Enhancement)

Remaining 2025 FTC Meeting Dates: Nov. 4, Dec. 2 (in person)

Approval of August Meeting Summary

The revised version of the September FTC Meeting Summary was reviewed and approved with clarifying edits and will be posted on the public website.

Review of Agenda and Action Items

We reviewed the agenda and action items, then proceeded with the meeting.

Updates

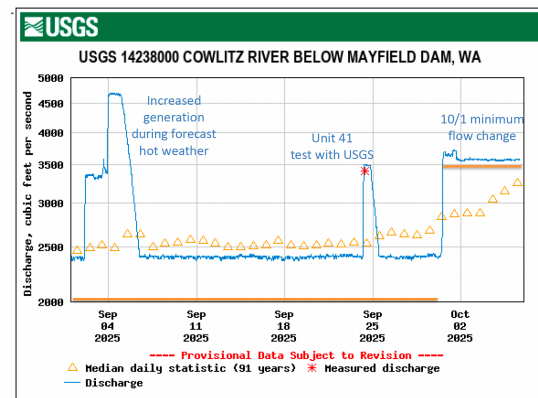
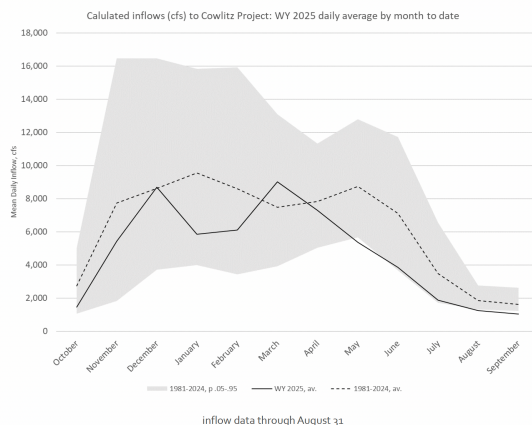
Announcements

- Melora acknowledged that federal partners are not present due to the federal government shutdown.

Hydro Operations Update by Melora Shelton (Tacoma) (emailed 10/6)

- Continued warm and dry conditions, low or extremely low inflows since May.
- WY 2025 ended with below average precipitation.

- Reservoir has been drafting since mid-June, at near-record low.
- Discharge at Mayfield mostly near or at minimums, two exceptions during hot weather.
- Near term outlook is dry.
- No operational changes anticipated until consistent fall rains return.
- USGS has confirmed that they commit to maintaining their network of streamflow gauges throughout the federal shutdown. However, they will not be doing validation measurements, and there may be a delay moving data from provisional to final status.



Current (10/6) 3,590 cfs.
Ramping at 1 in/hr 24 hr, min flow 3,500 cfs. No exceedances.

Fish Facilities Update by Eric Shoblom (Tacoma) (emailed 10/8)

Separator Returns:

Currently at the separator there are spring Chinook, fall Chinook, coho, summer steelhead, cutthroat trout, and a few chum, sockeye, and pinks returning. The majority of the fish returning currently are coho.

When separator staff collect 500 fish for 5 straight days, they begin operating 7 days a week. They averaged about 750 fish each day last week, so they will shift to operating 7 days a week this coming weekend.

Cowlitz Release Sites:

All of our release sites are currently operational.

The US Forest Service and LCPUD are currently working on a pathway for permitting a second release site across from the existing site.

Update on the Mayfield Net Pens:

WDFW and Tacoma are on schedule with Phase II with plans to stock in December.

Capital Projects: Cowlitz Trout Hatchery Remodel

Tacoma is still in the Water Supply Alternatives Analysis phase of this project.

Tacoma has completed many parts of the analysis, including:

- a complete review of existing studies and documents,
- the schedule, risk register, and other project management materials
- full grounds survey
- an initial Stormwater Management Plan, which will be updated as design progresses
- a Site Hydraulic Model
- groundwater investigation
- a Climate Change Study
- initial Bio Programming, which will be updated throughout each phase and decision point, and
- Design Basis Memorandum, which details general expectations for all phases of design.

The remaining parts they are working on include: Ozone Treatment and Intake Evaluation, Existing North Well Physical Evaluation, and Head Tank Alternatives.

Working with their consultant, Tacoma hopes to have a decision on the water supply alternatives and which combination of approaches to move into design by Jan 15.

Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Subcommittee by Jenise Bauman (Tacoma)

Life Cycle Modeling

Tacoma is going through a final legal review before posting a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a third-party consultant to develop a life cycle model (LCM). Thank you to the WDFW modeling team for helpful feedback on the RFP.

Tacoma and WDFW are making progress creating a centralized database accessible to everyone from which to build the LCM. They are starting with the Upper Cowlitz winter steelhead and then will move onto other populations. It is going smoothly so far. They hope for data delivery over the next month.

Spring and fall Chinook DNA Collection

A big thank you to TPU and WDFW staff working at the adult return separator and broodstock sampling. They will have some great data to fine tune spring and fall Chinook collection so that they will know if there is hybridization. It will inform moving through the decision-tree. For example, if they see fall Chinook in this window, should they halt collection of spring Chinook? It will also help them confirm that they are sorting correctly.

Net Pen Assessment

Kris, Todd, Chris, Scott, and Phil have been working steadily on the study design and questions.

Transition Plan Updates

Tacoma is continuing with the Transition Plan Update presentations to show the framework and data highlighting ongoing questions they are working on and the direction of the program. This month, they focused on coho, then in December, they will focus on winter steelhead.

Scale collection

Tacoma has some scales to read that were collected in previous years.. Data from the scales can help close the gap in the LCM data set. Jenise will reach out to Todd soon about processing these through the WDFW aging lab.

Tipping's proposal

The M&E Committee has been busy with the LCM and hatchery remodel, but they haven't forgotten about this proposal. They will get back to it when they have a chance.

Fall Chinook release strategies

The Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery has had low fall Chinook broodstock collection so far, and they are not close to proposing alternate smolt release strategies. They are in the initial stages of thinking through the 2026 potential bio programming plan.

Cowlitz Restoration and Recovery (CRR) Update by Melora Shelton (Tacoma)

The HAP subcommittee has not gotten any requests for support, but they are available if needed. They are waiting on the 2026 calendar from LCFRB before they set their calendar.

TWG Subcommittee Update by Sean Luis (Tacoma)

Draft Downstream Adaptive Management Plan (DAMP)

Tacoma is currently working on refreshing the draft Adaptive Management Plan, which was written by TPU, WDFW and NMFS in 2014 before the Cowlitz Falls North Shore Collector (CFNSC) was built. They want to clean up the language that talks about what would happen after the CFNSC was built and replace it to describe the current reality, however the TWG would like FTC direction on how to proceed. They emphasized that the decision-making framework has not changed. They would like to present this DAMP overview to the FTC in November if possible so that the FTC can direct the TWG on how to proceed with this document. The presentation would include decisions that have been made since 2014, scientific findings, and next steps.

Question: Peggy asked if Tacoma considers the current Adaptive Management Plan a draft? It was supposed to return to the FTC for a decision. Can you address this next month?

Suggestion: John asked if they could present a roadmap or table of contents of what the DAMP contains since it is a lengthy document. It would be helpful for the FTC if it

was laid out like the Transition Plan presentations starting with the decision-making framework and explaining how that provides a roadmap to determine how to proceed.

CFFF Summary Report

The report is being reviewed by the subcommittee. The CFFF staff has handled about 300,000 outgoing smolts and also set a new record for Chinook smolts captured.

CFNSC Acoustic Telemetry (AT) study

TPU and consultants demobilized the AT field equipment on October 1.

A Process Note about Subcommittees by Melora Shelton (Tacoma)

Melora reminded people that each subcommittee creates their own meeting summaries using the same template for consistency and those are distributed to the FTC. The FTC can rely on those documents in order to keep the FTC meeting summaries high level. She will send these out tomorrow and include reminders of upcoming meetings.

Action Item: Melora will send subcommittee meetings summaries and upcoming meeting dates to the FTC. *(done)*

Introduction of draft TWG charter by Jenise Bauman (Tacoma)

Jenise walked through the draft charter explaining that it follows the same structure as the M&E charter that the FTC recently approved. She walked through the overview, context, roles and scope. She reached out to their NOAA representative James Archibald, who confirmed he is still the point of contact for TWG. She will prepare a draft DD for FTC to discuss at the November meeting aiming for a final DD in December.

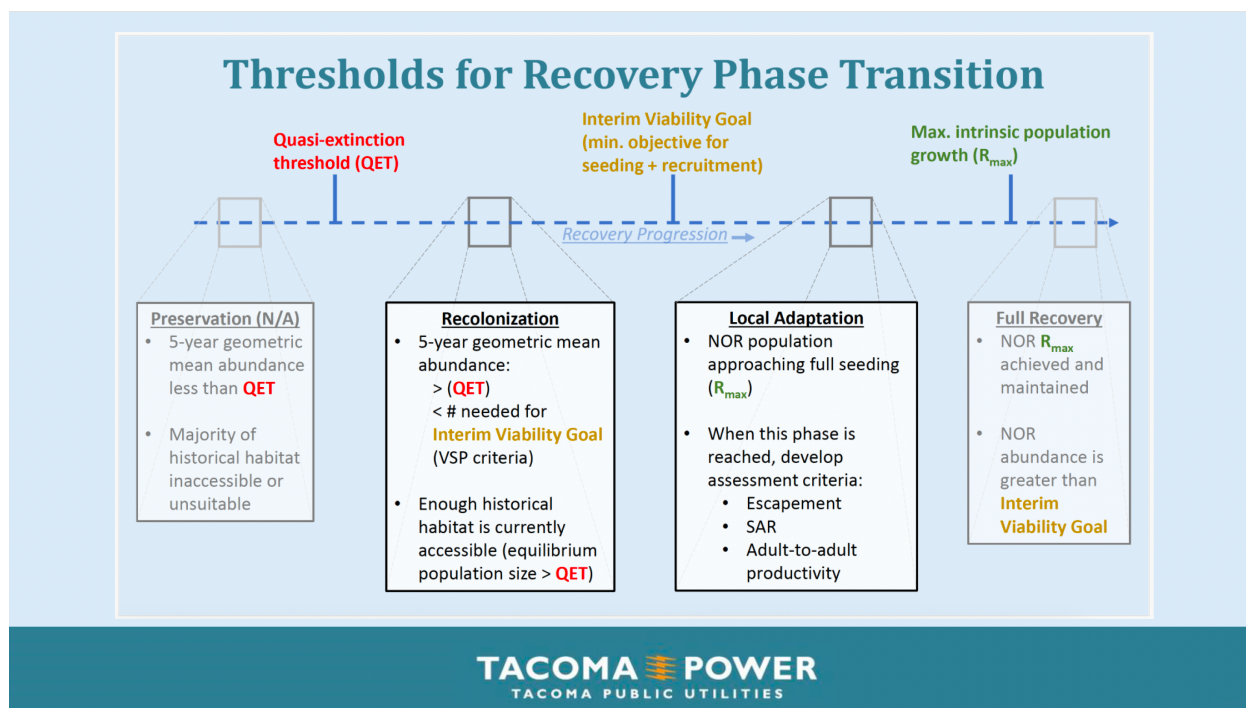
Action Item: Jenise will send the draft TWG charter to the FTC for review. Everyone should reach out directly before the next FTC meeting if they have questions, comments, or edits.

Melora reminded everyone that this step of adopting charters is to formalize how the subcommittees work in alignment with FTC protocols. We will plan to revisit each charter annually. Updates to membership won't need a DD, but we would want to initiate a DD if there are big shifts.

Coho Transition Plan Part 2: Data Dive *(emailed 10/8)*

Presenter: Jenise Bauman and Scott Gibson (Tacoma)

Last month, Chris and Sean presented the framework for understanding phases and triggers for coho transition planning to put in context our current situation in the progression toward recovery. The Upper Cowlitz is in the recolonization phase, the Tilton is in the recolonization phase, and the Lower Cowlitz is in the local adaptation phase, such that all have goals for conservation and harvest.



Jenise emphasized that all program goals for coho at this stage are being met:

- There is a single Upper Cowlitz Subbasin Integrated Hatchery Program.
- Since 2022, they have begun CWT marking of coho smolts handled at the Mayfield Dam Juvenile facility.
- They are conducting a coho pilot study to assess program performance.

Jenise and Scott presented the 5-year data summary and highlighted key points:

- Fish Collection Efficiency (FCE) tends to vary by water year. Current studies (Chinook) will aid in understanding environmental conditions that also impact Coho and contribute to performance improvements.
- Adult HOR returns are steady based on the five-year average. However, these estimates don't yet incorporate harvest, and Tacoma did not yet check the returns with WDFW.
- Hatchery production goals have been consistently met.
- SAR values for both basins are steady. NOR in the Upper Cowlitz is 7%. NOR in the Lower Cowlitz will require additional years of data to estimate due to the change in tagging strategy in 2022, which likely inflated estimates before that.
- The Tilton 5-year average illustrates greater smolt production with lower adult numbers, which suggests that maybe the carrying capacity is being reached.
- Needs for transition planning:
 - Upper Cowlitz better spawner abundance estimates
 - Lower Cowlitz more years of data with new tagging strategy

They highlighted some conclusions and next steps for each basin.

Upper Cowlitz in recolonization recovery designation

- Enough historical habitat is currently accessible (including by trap and haul) for maintenance of an equilibrium population size greater than QET (to be determined during Population Phase Assessment).

Tilton in recolonization recovery designation

- Develop assessment criteria for trigger(s) such as $R_{\max}$, SAR and/or adult to adult productivity during the next year for determining how to move between recovery phases.

Lower Cowlitz in local adaptation designation

- Develop or confirm assessment criteria for trigger(s) during next year, such as escapement, $R_{\max}$, and adult to adult productivity.
- Maintain pHOS goal of 30% while Upper Cowlitz Integrated Program is established and reassess as program matures and data becomes available post 2025.

Jenise invited everyone to continue to think about how to use this data to better plan and create decision trees. They will return to this topic for at November's meeting.

John emphasized that the Tilton is a separate basin with a distinct population, also in the recolonization phase. He said they have 30 years of data from the Tilton. Is it worth going back to look at that data? They have enough HOR for seeding, but they are not sure if the habitat on the Tilton is underutilized. They have not been able to do spawning surveys. He suggested they could do a more rigorous hatchery evaluation to see how many hatchery fish are spawning. The catch record cards probably underestimate harvest.

Melora thanked the presenters for taking this time to share data and explain the goals around HOR and interactions among HOR, NOR, and other variables. It is helpful to see it laid out and compared across basins in the context of ongoing research.

Sam praised Larona and her staff for all the work that makes it possible to hit the targets for harvest opportunities and conservation.

LCPUD updates

Presenter: Laura Wolfe

- The transmission line between Cowlitz Falls and the Glenoma substation was energized on October 3.
- Cowlitz Falls Unit 1 was started on October 3 and continues to run.
- Maintenance on Unit 2 is wrapping up, and crews will get Unit 2 available to operate on or before October 16.

- Crews continue to remove debris on the unit trash racks. There is only about 5 feet remaining on the trash racks. We will remove the remaining debris using a crane in early March 2026.
 - They will remove the baffle panels in two weeks.
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Satellite Rearing Proposals *(emailed 10/8)*
Presenter: Sam Gibbons (Tacoma)

Sam began his presentation reflecting on the challenges of proposing feasible options for satellite rearing on the Cowlitz over the last 25 years. There have been many proposed options, but nothing has gained traction. He emphasized that this presentation represents a different approach from what was originally envisioned at the time of the Settlement Agreement, but an approach that is designed to meaningfully support the recovery objectives.

He reminded people that a lot has changed since the Settlement Agreement was written. They were managing in a preservation phase with little to no NORs. There were challenges with FCE. They were doing juvenile and adult supplementation and upper watershed acclimation and release. They have made progress growing NOR populations and increasing FCE, especially with the new collector in 2017. Juvenile supplementation in the upper basin has now been discontinued and the focus is on adult supplementation. They don't want juvenile hatchery fish competing with NORs in the upper basin. Their goal with this new approach was to think creatively about meaningful projects that will benefit recovery given the current situation.

Sam clarified that these proposals focus on satellite rearing 'opportunities' not 'sites.'

Sam cited the Settlement Agreement Article 5:

- "The Licensee shall be responsible for funding the operation and maintenance of the Cowlitz Hatchery Complex consisting of the remodeled Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery, the remodeled Cowlitz Trout Hatchery, and **three satellite rearing facilities**, for the duration of this license."
- Article 5 further clarifies, "**production shall emphasize the recovery of indigenous stocks**, and production and management of all stocks shall be consistent with that goal."
- The License and Settlement Agreement also emphasize an adaptive management approach: "**An adaptive management approach to implementing the Agreement is a central concept.**"

He explained that all proposals must:

- Meet FERC requirements
- Promote recovery

- Have a high probability of success and
- Have broad support.

He emphasized that they looked for a synergistic approach that:

- fits within existing fish management
- augments current conservation and recovery efforts and
- leverages existing capacity to maximize results.

He presented a high-level overview of the three proposals, which they developed working closely with WDFW and which are collectively expected to increase production by an estimated 15,300 lbs.:

1. Mayfield Net Pen Coho rearing program, assuming pilot phase 2 is successful, Satellite Rearing implementation in 2026-27

Benefits

- Estimated increases spring Chinook abundance (250-500 adults)
 - Maintains current coho program (2,500-10,000 adults)
 - Added capacity dedicated to coho now, which could be flexible in the future as conditions and needs change
2. Cowlitz Falls spring Chinook activating additional raceways for rearing (35,000-50,000 spring Chinook), utilizing this space to extend rearing of part of the fall release of sub-yearlings program to yearling stage with a potential start date in 2026 or 2027 pending upgrades to develop a dedicated waterline

Benefits

- Estimated increases abundance of spring Chinook (250-500 adults)
 - Acclimates spring Chinook to the upper watershed
 - Provides a pathway to an integrated program – Transition Plan/FHMP
3. Expand Cowlitz Falls Fish Facility operations from March to December as much as possible considering weather, debris, drawdowns, repairs, etc. with a potential start date October 2026

Benefits

- Additional outmigrant collection – All ESA listed species
- Further improves FCE
- Increase abundance & productivity
- Potential life history diversity benefit

Sam emphasized that none of the proposals will conflict with current hatchery operations.

Jennifer asked FTC voting representatives to weigh in with initial impressions of the proposals.

Bryce responded that he is conceptually supportive of the three proposals. He reminded FTC that WDFW wrote a letter in 2019 to Tacoma supporting a pivot away from traditional satellite facilities and toward more relevant options that can promote faster recovery. He emphasized that all three options have flexibility for an adaptive management approach, which is a benefit. He emphasized that he would want to evaluate the third proposal as it gets implemented to assess how much it is possible to expand operations at the CFNSC given weather, maintenance, etc.

John Serl asked if they could rear integrated steelhead at Cowlitz Falls or just spring Chinook. Sam responded that they are developing this proposal specifically for spring Chinook, but if needs change in the future, there is that capacity to redirect to integrated steelhead or whatever the needs are determined to be.

Jonathan Stumpf responded that he appreciates this creative approach and feels it is moving in the right direction, especially with the focus on adaptive management.

Andrew responded that his initial impression is positive and that it is clear everyone has put a lot of thought into these proposals.

Melora emphasized that she likes how all three proposals foundationally provide increased capacity and flexibility, which are important to the FHMP and transition plans.

Bryce clarified that the intent is to add poundage at the net pens and raceways and that the estimated 15,300 extra poundage would not be included in the 650,000 pound production cap.

Matt B. reflected that these proposals reflect a lot of thought and collaboration over the years. He thanked Sam for all of his work. He emphasized that he is excited that they will be able to do something meaningful to benefit recovery. He reached out to FERC already since this is a non-traditional approach and they were comfortable with this direction.

Eric emphasized that he is also excited to be moving forward something meaningful with a high probability of success. Since he was hired in 2015, they have been going around and around with different ideas, some of which had a much higher risk of damage from storms or vandalism. The proposals we are discussing now are in protected facilities where there are support people on call who can respond to emergencies. John Serl agreed.

Sam will prepare a draft DD with more details for each of these proposals and circulate it in advance of the November FTC meeting for people to review. They will aim to have it go out with the meeting materials a week before the November meeting. Matt B. encouraged voting members to reach out directly with questions or edits, so we can keep the proposals moving forward and avoid wordsmithing during FTC meetings.

Bryce noted that federal partners are currently furloughed, and it will be important to hear from them. He also emphasized that we should keep moving forward and that this is consistent with the Hatchery Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs).

Cowlitz Falls North Shore Collector AT Study Update (*emailed 10/8*)
Presenter: Sean Luis (Tacoma)

This AT study seeks to investigate collection efficiency for Spring Chinook, specifically entrance efficiency. Last month's presentation focused on the methods, while this month focused on preliminary data and next steps for analysis. Results will inform potential operational changes within the draft Adaptive Management Program decision framework.

2025 End of Season Data Update

- The monitoring equipment was successfully demobilized thanks to many Tacoma and LCPUD staff.
- Sean showed some preliminary data with the caveat that the final two weeks of data from two autonomous upstream receivers have not yet been processed.
- The LCPUD line outage (Sept 2-17) created altered forebay hydraulics due to:
 - CFNSC Inflow variable throughout LCPUD outage (reservoir Water Surface Elevation)
 - Pumpback Diffuser System pumpback volume below normal (normal = 520cfs)

Study Questions and Hypotheses

- Sean shared testable hypotheses, response variables and data attributes for four location-specific collection efficiency metrics and several metrics related to travel, diversion, entrainment, Zone of Influence (ZOI) microhabitat selection, and behavior.

Next Steps for 2025

- Continue developing positioning protocol
- Continue covariate data consolidation
- Data exploration to characterize covariate relationships considering 78 potential covariates
- Develop multivariate mixed effects models
- Draft a 2025 interim report

Matt B. emphasized how exciting it is that this very complex study is going so smoothly.

CRR Program Updates

Grant Round Funding

Presenter: Amelia Johnson (LCFRB) *(Emailed 8/26)*

Amelia referenced DD 2025-06 and the attachments that have been sent out for review and discussed at the August and September FTC meetings. She emphasized that the recommendation is not to fund the project at this time but to work together to make it a better project for a future funding round. There were no additional comments.

DD 2025-06 was approved by FTC voting members present and will be sent out for electronic approval from FTC voting members not in attendance.

Process Question about FTC Business during the Federal Shutdown

Melora recognized that federal partners are currently in furlough status due to the federal shutdown. She suggested the FTC might want to develop protocols in the future in case this happens again. She emphasized the intention is to give all FTC voting members an opportunity to participate in all decisions alongside the importance of keeping FTC business moving forward. Tacoma consulted with their legal team and proposed that if the federal shutdown continues past the 7 day electronic approval window that they allow another 7 days, which would be 14 days total, in the hopes that the federal government would resume operations and they could respond. In the case that the shutdown continues beyond that 14 days, they propose finalizing the decision.

Bryce, Jonathan and Andrew generally agreed with the approach. Discussion included checking in with Federal partners at 14 days, noting that some Federal leadership positions are available for urgent issues, that we don't want to pause FTC business, being mindful of how it would feel if one of us were in the position if not being able to be present. There also was discussion around whether it would be different with a more consequential decision and importance of a future process or established procedure for guidance independent of the type of decision.

Melora will follow up on the initial 7 day hold email and copy FTC representatives when communicating with federal partners on this issue.

Action Items

- Melora: Send out DD for 7-day electronic approval. *(done)*

- Melora and Matt: If the federal shutdown continues beyond 7 days, allow another 7 days with outreach to federal partners and documentation before finalizing the decision. *(10/15 or 7 days after notice was sent)*
 - Melora and all: Develop a procedure for what to do when one partner is unable to participate in FTC because their agency or organization is shutdown. *(2026)*
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Water Quality Update by Melora Shelton (Tacoma)

- There have been no spill events and no water quality compliance issues.
- Temperature monitoring is ongoing at the same locations: Copper Canyon, Lake Scanewa Boat Launch and the Boat Barrier.
- The water quality monitoring equipment at the north and south debris deflector arrays was demobilized for the Downstream Passage AT Study.
- Water monitoring is continuing as part of the Mayfield Downstream Passage Study.

Related Projects

- North Taidnapam Boat Launch Improvements Project – The parking area and the fishing trail are completed. The lower courtesy dock anchor and upper ADA loading ramp will likely be completed next week.
 - Kosmos oil clean up monitoring is on-going. They are in the final stages of working with Ecology to approve the Remedial Investigation (RI) report. They are developing a Feasibility Study (FS), which includes draft of alternatives and is due to Ecology 120 days after the report is accepted. The Feasibility Study will help inform the schedule for Riffe Lake Initiatives.
 - The Onion Rock Bridge pier repair – Phase 2 (armoring to prevent future erosion) is in permitting.
 - Riffe Lake Fishing Area at Mossyrock Dam – There are concerns about rocks falling onto boulders where people fish. Tacoma is assessing some mitigation options.
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Public Comment Period #1 - Agenda related

Comment: Randy noted that the satellite rearing proposals aim to increase production by 15,300 lbs. He asked what reassurance do we have that you won't cut back other production if this is successful knowing it's expensive?

Response: Eric responded that the Settlement Agreement calls for a maximum of 650,000 lbs. If the FTC cuts back, then we would still have to adaptively manage that within our decision-making framework. The satellite rearing would increase targets for additional poundage, estimated at 15,300 with these proposals.

Follow-up Comment: Randy asked if there would be the potential to expand the programs if they were successful without having to talk about it for another 5 years?

Response: Sam responded that with any new program there will be lots of opinions. Everything they've talked about fits within the FMHP and HGMP based on the current population parameters on the Cowlitz. However, NMFS needs to weigh-in. Decisions to change programs would be on a case-by-case basis and vary by species. For example they are pretty close to the limit on summer steelhead, so probably no room there, but spring Chinook could be discussed.

Follow-up Comment: Randy emphasized that if there was a chance to increase spring Chinook, he hopes it goes through. He has not heard the debate. He is definitely in support of these proposals.

Comment: Chris Vandenberg introduced himself as a fish enthusiast who formerly worked as a fish biologist. He emphasized that spring Chinook is a keystone species in the upper watershed. He said he is okay with the coho net pen if it frees up space to lower the density of spring Chinook at the salmon hatchery and lower the chance for disease. He appreciated the increased poundage. With the current SARs for spring Chinook at 0.2%, they only expect about 150 adults to come back without accounting for harvest. He is okay with the CFFF extended rearing as long as it doesn't take a year to get the infrastructure in place. Although he felt the proposals presented were creative, he felt taking the funding for satellite rearing to operate the collector for a few more months is not following the letter of the law. He emphasized that FTC needs public buy-in and should go up to talk to people in the upper watershed and include them. He reiterated that Greg has suggested the possibility of doing egg plants there.

Comment: Greg King represents Friends of Cowlitz and formerly participated in the Cowlitz River Advisory Group (CRAG). He thanked everyone for their hard work on the satellite rearing proposals. He said they have suggested the net pen projects in the past, which have been successful up and down the West coast. He voiced concern about meeting the Settlement Agreement obligations and requirements. He felt the term 'adaptive management' is used to kick the can down the road. He suggested they could have another net pen at Mossyrock, where there is security and people to feed fish. Friends of Cowlitz used to do this. It could be a win-win without a lot of expense. They could put net pens in Scanewa and Riffe Lakes. He urged Tacoma to move forward after 25 years of delays.

Comment: Larry said he would start with the bad news and then shift to positive comments.

- He emphasized 2025 fish returns for the hatcheries were terrible. He presented the SARs he calculated: late winter steelhead 0.0045; spring Chinook 0.002 as of May 29 and 0.0047 as of Aug 29; summer steelhead 0.0064 as of Aug 29 and 0.0085 as of Oct 2; fall Chinook 0.00015 as of Oct 6, which is 568 adult returns from 3,506,863 released in 2022 from 2021 broodstock. His SAR calculations included projected harvest using Serl and Holowatz 2024 APR harvest report.

- Larry praised Jenise's and Scott's report on Coho. He emphasized that they did a nice job. He said it's been a long time coming to see this type of reporting.
- He returned to Sam's comment about targets. Larry felt FTC has fallen short of their goals for years. He asked: What are FTC's SARs goals? What are harvest goals? The Northwest Power and Conservation Council and BPA have long had SARs goals of 2-6% on the Columbia River above Bonneville Dam, and they measure them consistently. He urged FTC to set goals for SARs and harvest. He has raised this repeatedly but has not gotten an answer.
- With regards to the satellite rearing proposals, Larry asked Sam what water quality testing they have done. He said that he has been concerned about water hardness. He obtained samples from the Upper Cowlitz and had them tested, which came out to a hardness of 14. He is concerned that water quality is leading to poor results.

Topics for November 4, 2025 FTC Meeting on Teams

Coho Transition Plan follow up topic 2, Satellite Rearing draft DD, TWG charter draft DD, if time allows, an overview of the refreshed DAMP, and Usual Updates: Hydro Status, Water Quality, Fish Facilities, M&E, TWG, HAP, and LCPUD

Public Comment Period #2 – Any topic

Comment: Chris Vandenberg commented on the poundage associated with the satellite rearing proposals. He said Tacoma is required to produce 650,000 pounds but can go up to 800,000 pounds. He echoed Greg that it has been 25 years and Tacoma has not put money into their obligation for satellite rearing. He asked what can you do to help the fry in the upper watershed so there are greater adult returns and fishing opportunities. He urged Tacoma that they should invest now in meaningful actions or they will have to pay more during relicensing.

Comment: Randy asked for an update on the chum project. **Response:** Todd was happy to report that they are moving forward. They have a consultant under contract and are moving forward with some initial analysis. They will meet with everyone involved next month.

Comment: Greg emphasized that the SARs numbers are terrible for the Cowlitz. He emphasized his concern with predation, referencing birds, and asked why USFWS and NOAA are not more involved with FTC and addressing predation issues. He emphasized that this is an expensive program not to be seeing better results. He repeated his discomfort with adaptive management from his earlier comment.

Comment: Larry asked Eric what he meant when he said Tacoma is meeting their broodstock goals? What are their goals? How do they select fish for broodstock? Referring to Jenise's and Scott's report on coho NOR based on collected fish SARs,

Larry commented that 5-7 smolts collected per female release was a good report. He also agreed with their conclusion that the upper Cowlitz and Tilton are not as productive as previously thought, which he had previously suggested might be happening. He suggested that FTC looks into gravel augmentation in the Tilton River to improve habitat. He asked if FTC is interested in increasing harvest. He noted the Upper Cowlitz harvest numbers are a bit better than the Lower and suggested that recycling coho may improve the harvest rate in the Lower Cowlitz. **Response:** Eric responded to the question about broodstock. He explained they set broodstock goals every year by proportion of males, females, and jacks. They do not sort by size or age class beyond that. They don't sort for physical characteristics unless to distinguish spring and fall Chinook. They also aim to collect a percentage of NORs and collect temporally across the breadth of the run to represent the full spectrum of the population. They usually achieve those goals.

Meeting Evaluation

What went well? What can we change or improve in the future?

- Strong attendance
 - Good engagement and discussion throughout. It was nice to hear different perspectives.
 - Engagement was strong on content and process steps related to various agenda topics.
 - Extremely high quality content throughout the agenda.
 - This is how we get to where we want to go by hearing different perspectives and keeping focused on our end goals.
 - Flexibility to accommodate different schedules.
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Josua's Inspirational Quote

"I have always felt that laughter in the face of reality is probably the finest sound there is and will last until the day when the game is called on account of darkness. In this world, a good time to laugh is any time you can." — Linda Ellerbee

Closing Remarks

Everyone expressed gratitude for all the hard work that went into the presentations.