

**Cowlitz Hydroelectric Project**  
**FERC No. 2016**  
**Cowlitz Fisheries Technical Committee**  
**Final Conference Call / WebEx Meeting Summary**  
 February 5, 2019 from 9:00 – Noon

**Attendees:**

Travis Nelson	TPU
Tom Wadsworth	WDFW
Carol Serdar	WA Dept. of Ecology
Michelle Day	NMFS
Rich Turner	Tech Rep for NMFS
Bryce Glaser	Tech Rep for WDFW
John Serl	Tech Rep for WDFW
Peggy Miller	Tech Rep for WDFW
Sam Gibbons	Tech Rep for WDFW
Matt Bleich	Tech Rep for TPU
Eric Shoblom	Tech Rep for TPU
Tim Hoffnagle	Tech Rep for TPU
Phil Sandstrom	Tech Rep for TPU
Chris Foster	Tech Rep for TPU
Laura Wolfe	LCPUD
Lyn Wiltse	PDSA Consulting / Facilitator

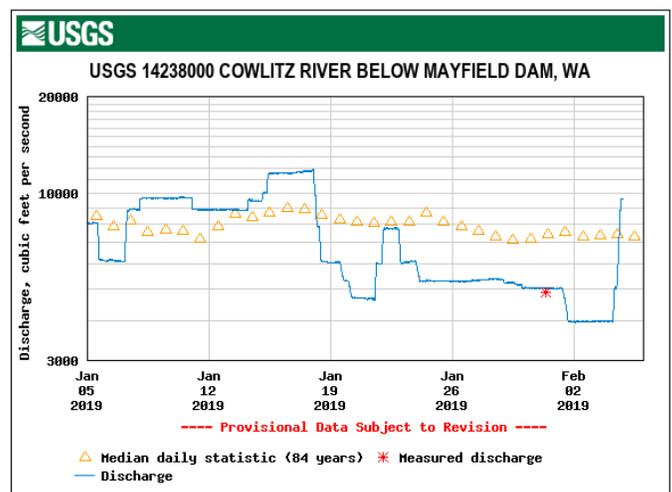
**2019 FTC Meeting Dates:** Mar. 5 (Public FTC meeting), Apr. 2, Apr. 30 (Cutthroat and Chum FHMP Workshop in AM and FTC in PM), June 4, July 2 (FHMP Placeholder), Aug. 6, Sept. 5 (Thurs.), Oct.1, Nov. 5, Dec. 3 from 9:30-3:00 at Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery unless otherwise specified.

**FHMP Workshop Dates:** Feb. 21:10:30-2:30 for Coho; Apr. 4: 9:30-3:30 for Steelhead; Apr. 30: 9:30-Noon for Cutthroat and Chum. All workshops to be at Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery unless otherwise specified.

- **Action Item:** Matt to review these dates with Paul to check for his availability.

**Announcements**

- **Hydro Operations:** Travis reviewed the current hydrograph. For January, the average daily inflow was 4,721 cfs (below the average of 9,427 cfs). Storage is currently is 704' and the snow pack is 60-80% of average. The calculated MIF is 2,900 cfs. TPU is likely to operate close to 10K cfs during this cold spell to meet load requirements. They will be replacing the exciter for Mayfield Unit #41 this summer. This will include a commissioning and testing period which may result in ramping and flow violations and a variance from traditional ramping rates as written in the license. TPU will propose a ramping schedule at the March FTC meeting. Carol



suggested they check the Nisqually minutes for lessons learned from the exciter replacement there, especially regarding the timing of what fish are present and knowing there will be low-flow summer conditions. TPU also plans to schedule an unrelated drawdown at Mayfield Lake this summer for annual maintenance. Link to the USGS real-time Cowlitz River hydrograph:

[https://waterdata.usgs.gov/wa/nwis/uv/?site\\_no=14238000&PARAmeter\\_cd=00060.00065](https://waterdata.usgs.gov/wa/nwis/uv/?site_no=14238000&PARAmeter_cd=00060.00065)

- CRR Program Update: Travis reported the habitat funding announcement was to have been made on Feb. 4 through the LCFRB. Given the inclement weather, this meeting may have been postponed. They have launched the CRR website at [Mytpu.org/crr](http://Mytpu.org/crr). This group continues to work on the habitat assessments and on developing the Upper Cowlitz Strategy. Peggy explained at their last meeting they had presentations of the 1D Hydraulic model to determine the best areas for a 2D flow model. There was also presentation on the geomorphic processes. She noted both presentations were excellent, and she looks forward to the report. Next steps include habitat-based spring Chinook production model and the impact of climate change on project selection. Travis notes he spoke recently with Erich Gaedeke at FERC regarding an order from the TPU letter saying the FTC supports the CRR Fund through the abandonment of upstream volitional passage. Erich indicated that he would send a letter to that effect likely this month. Also, this month Florian may have Hatchery Program Application documents to present.
  - **Action Item:** Florian: Please forward to all the presentations and handouts from last two CRR Fund Subgroup Meetings to Michelle and Rich.
- Gravel Augmentation: Travis explained TPU is in the early phases of permitting design and that a regulatory permit site visit is planned for Feb. 12 to discuss concerns, process, etc. The JARPA is to go out to agencies, including Ecology this week. It is assumed that the site visit would occur before the JARPA.
- D/S Adaptive Management TWG: Matt has scheduled another meeting in a couple of weeks. Main activities include review of the last annual reports and development of the 2019 evaluation period. TPU is still working with their consultants on their draft of last year's annual report. When ready, TPU will send it the FTC for review.
- M& E Subgroup: Phil explained this group has been working on technical pieces of FHMP content. They are currently in the midst of a big push to get task orders in place. They now have the Lower Cowlitz rotary screw trap report. More detail will be provided at future meetings.
- Additional Tilton Release Site: Eric explained that he recently spoke with DOT about starting a process to get a land use agreement. DOT wants to see a site plan, complete with drawings, and design before agreeing to proceed. TPU engineers have gone out to the site and taken measurements, estimated the amount of gravel that would need to be brought in, etc., in accordance with DOT requirements which are mainly related to public safety. Once complete, TPU will submit those plans to DOT and report to FTC on progress. While expressing appreciation to TPU for taking the lead on the engineering, permitting and site development, Bryce explained that WDFW wants to be included in those conversations especially regarding the timelines as they hope this can be in place by the next fall season. He offered that WDFW is willing to draft a management strategy about how the dual release sites would be used if that would be helpful. Matt responded that this will be discussed at the M&E Subgroup meeting and that there will be frequent updates to the M&E group and the FTC. Bryce responded that he sees M&E's role as developing methods to evaluate its

effectiveness and in the meantime, there is much pressure to have a secondary release site in place by next fall and work with DOT and others to accomplish this in short order. He requested a timeline be shared at the next FTC meeting. Matt agreed to take this request back to TPU and to discuss this with Bryce further offline.

**Action Items:**

- Matt: Continue to discuss this with Bryce.
  - Matt: Take Bryce's request for a timeline back to the appropriate department at TPU.
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**Meeting Summary Approval**

The January 11, 2019 FTC meeting summary was approved with edits and will be posted to the FTC public website. Lyn expressed appreciation for everyone's edits.

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**Decision Document 2019-04: Excess Cowlitz Sea Run Cutthroat Disposition**

**Presenter: Eric Shoblom**

Eric briefly walked through the document. Michelle reported that she had reviewed this document and confirmed that this is a "one-off" and not a scheduled occurrence for any time in the future. Eric explained that they had good survival in sea run cutthroat resulting in an overage. Putting these fish in Riffe Lake seemed good as it would support the fishery and not threaten fry production. Michelle reminded all that there are listed fish in Riffe Lake. After discussion, this Decision Document was approved with edits.

**Action Item:**

- Travis: After customary 7-day review by FTC members not attending this meeting, post on the public website.
  - Travis: Send to all handouts and presentations from the last two FTC meetings.
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**Public Questions and FTC Answers from November 6, 2018 Public FTC Meeting**

**Presenter: Travis Nelson**

Travis explained that receiving no replies to the Nov. 8 email where he attached the Excel spreadsheet of questions from the public at the Nov. 7 FTC Meeting, TPU and WDFW spent considerable time and effort on drafting responses for FTC review at this meeting. These draft responses were sent out on Jan. 29 along with other documents for this meeting. The intent was to facilitate the FTC review so this (now Word) document can be posted as soon as possible. The FTC reviewed these responses, offering clarifying edits and additions.

**Action Items:**

- Tom: Send Travis link to Columbia River Compact predictions so he can include it.
  - Phil: Add *C. shasta* to items to address in M&E Group.
  - Bryce: Send Travis official release sent to Buddy Rose on bird predation. (*Done.*)
  - Travis: After customary 7-day review by FTC members not attending this meeting, post these responses on the public website.
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**Potential Topics for the March 5, 2019 FTC Public Meeting**

**Presenter: Travis Nelson**

Travis explained that the location for this meeting is not yet been chosen. It may be good to rotate the location so that no single group is made to travel especially far. Other potential

locations include Ridgefield and Olympia. Tom noted that while other members of the public would be attending, members of the CRAG prefer the Centralia / Chehalis area.

Logistics: If at the Veterans Memorial Museum again, look at a different microphone system. Consider starting at 10am and ending at 2:30 or 3pm. Include lunch again. Make time for one comment period, either at the beginning or end of the meeting. Note public comments and questions but don't promise written responses as was done for the November meeting.

Potential Agenda Topics:

- Usual Announcements/Updates including Additional Tilton Release Site
- Approval of February Meeting Summary for posting to public
- Gravel Augmentation Report / Presentation based on Feb. 12 site visit.
- FHMP Update
- CFFF Update
- CRR Fund Update
- M&E Subgroup Report / Presentation
- Downstream Adaptive Management TWG Report
- Topics for April 2 FTC Meeting

**Action Items:**

- Travis: Secure location and coordinate advertising for the meeting.
  - Travis: Send out draft agenda including timing of Public Comment Period to all for review / comment.
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## **FHMP Process Update**

**Presenter Matt Bleich**

Matt explained the need to select a new date for the FHMP Coho Workshop that had been intended to precede this meeting, as the workshops are most effective when done face-to-face. He will check with Paul's schedule re the dates listed on p. 1 of these notes.

**Action Items:**

- Matt: After checking with Paul, send out dates, locations, and agendas for Coho and Steelhead FHMP Workshops.
  - Lyn: Send notes from Fall Chinook Workshop out to Rich and Michelle. *(Done.)*
  - Matt: Send draft FHMP Workshop Spring and Fall Chinook tables to Rich and Michelle.
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**Meeting Evaluation:**

- Great attendance
- Happy to have our federal members back with us
- Very organized and productive
- Started and ended on time