

Cowlitz Fish Technical Committee
Decision Documentation

Project Name	2014 Mayfield downstream fish passage survival study
Date Proposal Submitted	2/4/2014
Date of Requested Decision	2/4/2014
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FTC Decision and Justification

The Cowlitz Fisheries Technical Committee (FTC) agreed that Tacoma should focus first on evaluating the juvenile bypass system, and agreed to support Tacoma's intent to plan for a third gate if it meets the survival model assumptions.

Proposed Decision or Consideration

Tacoma recommends focusing on the juvenile bypass system (JBS) and evaluating survival via that passage route in 2014. Tacoma will be working with the consultants on how to plan the paired release study for this year.

Background

Tacoma Power achieved the downstream fish passage study goal of releasing tagged fish throughout the outmigrant periods in 2013. However, the study assumptions included no tagging bias and fish detections at both downstream gates (Barrier Dam and Cowlitz Trout Hatchery). Both assumptions were violated in 2013 – a tagger bias was shown, and due to delays at the Barrier Dam many tagged coho were not detected at the Cowlitz Trout Hatchery. These need for correction for 2014.

Coordination Need

Tacoma Power will need to work with Hydroacoustic Technology, Inc. to re-structure the 2014 study goals and approaches to; add a gate, to address the study bias, to focus on the JBS and to test tag battery life. Tacoma will bring the 2014 study changes to the FTC for review and approval.

Summary of Potential Impacts

Additional acoustic tags and passive tags (i.e., fin marked or dye tagged) fish will be needed. Study costs will likely be increased.