

Project Name	2022 Annual Project Review – Hatchery Production
Date Proposal Submitted	5/3/2022
Date of Requested Decision	6/07/2022
Requested By	Eric Shoblom
Date of Decision¹	8/9/2022

¹ Decision will become final if committee members who were not present at this meeting do not oppose this proposed decision within 7 days

FTC Decision and Justification
<p>Tacoma Power held a public meeting with FTC attendance on April 21st, 2022 as part of the APR process as required in the 2020 FHMP Update.</p> <p>At the April 21st public meeting, hatchery production options were provided to stakeholders. Feedback was requested by May 2nd, 2022. Feedback was received and discussed at the May 3rd FTC meeting. This document represents the results of the FTC discussion and decision at the public June 7th, 2022 FTC meeting.</p> <p>Members Present: FTC members present represented WDFW, Ecology, and Tacoma Power. This Decision document will be circulated to FTC members not present and become final on 8/9/2022 if no objections are received.</p>

Proposed Decision or Consideration
<p>The 2022 Cowlitz Complex hatchery programs are proposed below (Table 1). The programs are in alignment with FHMP transition plans that have been approved by the FTC (DD# 2022 02). Program release numbers and sizes at release remain largely unchanged. However, there are some notable changes, which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a lower pNOB rate for winter steelhead in the Upper Cowlitz and Tilton subbasins. • Run timing of the lower Cowlitz winter steelhead program will be advanced and, rather than being an integrated program, it will shift to a segregated program. • The two hatchery Coho Salmon programs will be merged into a single integrated program with a lower pNOB. • The two fall Chinook Salmon programs will also be merged into a single integrated program. <p>Table 1 represents the proposed program goals for the 2022 brood year of Coho, fall Chinook Salmon, Summer Steelhead and Cutthroat Trout. Winter steelhead and spring Chinook Salmon goals will take effect in the 2023 brood year as is typical of the APR process.</p>

Species	Before 2011 FHMP Update	2018 APR Goal	2019 APR Goal	2020 APR Goal	2021 APR Goal	2022 APR Goal
Fall Chinook	4,800,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000
Spring Chinook	959,800	1,738,529	1,738,529	1,738,529	1,738,529	1,678,000
Coho	2,835,000	2,178,000	2,178,000	2,178,000	2,178,000	2,178,000
Winter Steelhead	690,000	647,000	647,000	647,000	647,000	647,000
Summer Steelhead	550,000	625,000	650,000	650,000	650,000	650,000
Cutthroat	160,000	100,599	100,599	100,599	100,599	100,599

This program is consistent with the Settlement Agreement and 2020 FHMP.

Background

The characteristics (number, size, integration rate, release date, etc.) of the Cowlitz Hatchery Complex program is determined through the Annual Program Review (APR) process, as described in the 2020 Fisheries and Hatchery Management Plan Update (FHMP).

The 2022 APR was based on data inputs from WDFW and Tacoma Power. During the first APR meeting, proposed hatchery programs were reviewed and public feedback was received.

The 2022 APR public meeting was held in a virtual format on Thursday, April 21, 2022, and was recorded. Comments were received at the meeting and via email through May 2, 2022. Comments were captured and incorporated into the APR process, as possible. These modifications were presented to the public in a second virtual public meeting held on June 1st, 2022.

Coordination Need

The 2023 strategy requires either a rebalancing (reduction) across programs or utilizing a 1 year only Coho net pen pilot project. This equates to about 9.5% of the Coho program to sufficiently offset poundage gains.

Tacoma is currently seeking funding for a one year pilot net pen project. If funding is available and the project proceeds and following the one year pilot, additional funding would need to be identified. Alternatively, it would be necessary to investigate rebalancing (reductions) to hatchery programs.

Tacoma, WDFW, and the FTC will coordinate around any changing program needs and limitations due to actual adult returns and other limitations. Shortfalls or over production of juvenile hatchery salmonids will be reported to the FTC, as well as the anticipated impacts for adult returns in subsequent years.

Summary of Potential Impacts

The hatchery programs have remained static for the past several years, with very few changes to release numbers or size at release. In the 2022 APR, there are changes to integration rates, minor shifts of release date targets, and changes to broodstock collection strategies (most notably front-loading the collection lower Cowlitz River winter steelhead).

The net pen project may result in water quality impacts. Tacoma Power will work with Ecology to secure appropriate permits to address this operation and potential impacts to water quality.

The changes are expected to decrease and minimize the impacts of the Cowlitz Hatchery Complex on natural-origin salmonid populations throughout the Cowlitz Basin, while maintaining harvest/angling opportunity. These shifts will also provide increased ability to monitor and evaluate hatchery programs due to the simplification of marking strategies.