

Project Name	SA Article 3: Cowlitz Restoration and Recovery (CRR) Hatchery-Associated Production (HAP) 2023 Round
Date Proposal Summited	July 26, 2022
Date of Requested Decision	August 2, 2022
Requested By	Melora Shelton
Date of Decision¹	August 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

The FTC supports the proposed decision to move forward with including the CRR HAP projects in the 2022/2023 CRR grand round, starting as early as August 2022 (information sessions), and following the framework described in this decision document.

FTC voting members present included Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, Trout Unlimited, and Tacoma Power.

Proposed Decision for Consideration

The HAP subgroup recommends that the FTC include HAP projects in the CRR program grant round for 2022/2023, starting with applicant outreach (information sessions/workshops) in August 2022. The process for HAP projects will be run by Tacoma CRR program staff and the HAP subgroup in parallel with process for Habitat projects run by the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board. The HAP portion of the grant round will follow the high-level schedule and process listed below. The HAP subgroup will continue to work on grant round materials through the end of 2022 and will continue providing the FTC with regular progress updates.

Background

The Cowlitz Fisheries Technical Committee (FTC) convened the CRR program Hatchery-Associated Production (HAP) Projects subgroup in February 2022 to provide recommendations and guidance to the FTC for decision making associated with the implementation and evaluation of the HAP elements CRR Program. Since February, the subgroup has met regularly, developed a charter (DD 2022-03, approved in May), revised the HAP guiding principles (work product distributed to FTC in May), and has engaged in discussions and problem solving regarding supporting a successful grant round for HAP projects in 2022/2023. Important elements of a successful grant round will include:

- Proposals that can be successful, which requires that applicants are advised throughout proposal development, application, and implementation
- Scheduled touch points for FTC engagement, input, and formal feedback to applications

- A timeline that allows the FTC to make HAP and Habitat funding determinations at the same time (September/October 2023)

The HAP Subgroup therefore recommends the following.

2022/2023 Grant Round Process for HAP projects

Proposal Development (August – February)

- Information sessions/Workshops
- Direct technical support (subgroup as technical advisors)

Application (February – June)

- Pre-application meeting
- Draft Submittal
 - Subgroup Review, initial scoring; shared with FTC
 - FTC discussion of draft applications and Subgroup Reviews
 - Formal, consolidated written feedback to Applicant
- Applicant Revisions (Subgroup as technical advisors)
- Final Submittal

Final Review/Decision (July through September)

- Subgroup review
 - Scoring/ranking
 - Funding recommendation
- FTC Funding determination: addresses both Habitat and HAP recommended projects

Applicant outreach and proposal development

The subgroup will hold up to four information sessions/proposal development workshops, starting with an information session at the end of August.

Subgroup continued work

The subgroup will continue to develop materials, including workshop materials, screening and scoring materials, a detailed schedule and process, and application materials. The subgroup also will support Tacoma CRR program staff on development of a Grants Manual and the comprehensive update to the CRR Program Implementation Strategy. All grant round materials and updates to the CRR program will be completed by December.

Coordination Need

Regular updates to the FTC

The HAP subgroup will continue meeting twice monthly and will provide the FTC with meeting regular notes as well as updates during regular FTC meetings. All FTC participants are invited to attend subgroup meetings. The FTC also will receive regular updates on the Habitat element of the CRR program throughout the grant round, including advance notification if there is potential that the total funding recommendation for both elements will exceed the available funds.

FTC grant round touch points

All FTC members are invited to attend information sessions, workshops, pre-application meetings, and any applicant presentations. The FTC will have the opportunity to provide input to applicants during the draft submittal and review phase. Feedback can be given directly to applicants following presentations and / or included in formal feedback to the applicants before their final applications are due.

Summary

The HAP subgroup recommends that the FTC include HAP projects in the CRR program grant round for 2022/2023 based on the process and continued work by the HAP subgroup and Tacoma CRR program staff described in this document.