

Cowlitz FTC Decision Document 2022-07a*

Project Name	Satellite Rearing
Date Proposal Submitted	8/24/2022
Date of Requested Decision	01/03/2023
Requested By	Phil Sandstrom
Date of Decision¹	01/10/2023

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

FTC supports the proposed decision. Representatives present included NOAA, WDFW, Trout Unlimited, and Tacoma Power.

Proposed Decision or Consideration

Several program options have been discussed since two potential satellite rearing sites were identified. Decision Document 2021-07 lists two options (2 & 5) from a consultant produced document that the FTC supported moving forward. Through the review process to date, additional programs that fall outside of the two defined options have been discussed and determined to have merit. FTC support to pursue rearing of sub-yearling Spring Chinook and kelt reconditioning in addition to Options 2 & 5 is requested. The original Decision Document remains valid, and this Decision Document adds two program options and an updated timeline for the satellite rearing project.

Background

Over the course of the last two years Tacoma Power has been working collaboratively with the FTC and consultants to move the goal of creating three satellite rearing facilities in the Cowlitz Basin forward. A Decision Document (2021-07) was approved in 2021 that supported planning with the intent of design and construction of one project from the following options: Option 2 - Overwinter Fry/Sub-yearling collection Upper Basin; or Option 5 – Lower Basin Finishing/net pens.

After additional effort was put into site identification and additional conversations were had regarding biological relevance and implications for recovery new program considerations were brought forward. There were no objections to the potential sites discussed. The programs that were brought forward that were slight deviations from Options 2 & 5 from the consultant produced documents were rearing of hatchery spring chinook for release as sub-yearling and kelt reconditioning.

Increasing the scope of program consideration will lead to an improved outcome that could provide increased utility for any constructed facility and optimize the benefit for recovery purposes across multiple species.

Coordination Need
<p>There will be considerable coordination throughout the satellite rearing facility concept development. Tacoma Power will give a monthly update on the progress to date at FTC meetings and will electronically share any materials related to satellite rearing facility development, as they are completed. Once the team has developed adequate detail around the potential programs a presentation will be made to the FTC and committee members will have the ability to help determine which strategy should be moved forward. The findings of this planning strategy will also be shared with the public. FTC members will have the opportunity to comment on proposed strategies/programs prior to any options being shared with the public. Tacoma Power has held workshops to solicit additional feedback from FTC committee members around sites and programs. More meetings/workshops can be held to give FTC members and their support staff an additional venue for feedback, if necessary. Once an option is selected Tacoma will coordinate with WDFW any required modification of Tacoma’s WDFW transport permit.</p>

Table 1: Targeted dates and elements to be developed as part of the Satellite Rearing Facility.

Step	Work Element	Start Date	End Date	Responsible
Final Design and Permitting	Final Drawings, Secure Permits, Land Use Agreement, FERC Approval	10/01/2022	10/01/2023	Tacoma Power
Update Decision Document	Approve DD	10/04/2022	10/11/2022	FTC
Conceptual Drawings	Complete Design to 15-20%	10/03/2022	10/10/2022	Tacoma Power
Review Conceptual Drawings	Strategy/benefits/risks/costs	10/11/2022	10/24/2022	FTC
Workshop	Feedback/recommendation	10/10/2022	10/31/2022	FTC
Presentation Approval	Feedback on content presented	02/07/2023	02/14/2023	FTC
Public Comment/Feedback	Presentation to receive feedback	02/22/2023	03/22/2023	Public
FTC Recommendation	Choose program	04/04/2023	04/11/2023	FTC
Construct	Procure material and Construct	10/01/2023	TBD	Tacoma Power

Summary of Potential Impacts
<p>Supporting this proposal to consider additional programs as satellite rearing moves forward will increase the potential benefit of development of a facility. It will also serve to help streamline the development of any future satellite rearing facilities and approaches. Designing and constructing a satellite rearing facility will move Tacoma Power closer to meeting our license obligations.</p>

* 2022-07a supersedes 2022-07