

Project Name	2026 FHMP Submission
Date Proposal Submitted	July 7, 2026
Date of Requested Decision	September 1, 2026
Completed By	Matt Bleich
Date of Decision¹	September 1, 2026

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 approves applying minimal changes to the FHMP. FTC members present included Ecology (A. Luymes), Tacoma Power (M. Shelton), Trout Unlimited/American Rivers (J. Stumpf), WDFW (B. Glaser), and Yakama Nation (B. Sharp).

USFWS (J. Garnett) concurred with the decision during the 7-day hold.

Proposed Decision or Consideration

Request to submit the Cowlitz Settlement Agreement Article 6, Cowlitz River Hydroelectric Project Fisheries Hatchery Management Plan, with minimal changes. The intent is to provide a short, summary level document identifying the progress that has been made on key items since the filing of the 2020 Plan. The 2020 Plan will be attached as an appendix to the 2026 FHMP Update and filed with FERC; no changes are being made to the 2020 Plan.

Background

The City of Tacoma (Tacoma) submitted the Fisheries and Hatchery Management Plan (FHMP) required by the Cowlitz Settlement Agreement (Article 6) and was approved by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on October 14, 2014. In that Order FERC required that the licensee's next FHMP be filed with the Commission by April 18, 2016. However, because of technical differences within the Fisheries Technical Committee (FTC) and the complexity involved in completing the work (i.e. collaborative workshops, several public meetings, and extensive reviews), Tacoma filed for extension (DD 2019-09) and eventually filed with FERC in October 2020.

Also outlined in DD 2019-09 was an FTC supported recommendation to extend the FHMP plan schedule from 6 years to 10 years beginning at the time of the next submittal. This was due to the multifaceted adaptive management approach that involves the development of several Transition Plans, an updated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, and an Annual Program Review, which incorporates steps for data collection, data analysis, results reporting, and decision making and planning. Therefore, at the time it was submitted to FERC in 2020, Tacoma asked that the FHMP be renewed on a 10-year cycle instead of a 6-year cycle. There has been no response to this request to date from FERC.

Currently, Tacoma is assuming that they will not receive the official response from FERC extending the renewal period to 10 years in June, in which case, they need to act now to renew before the October deadline and stay in compliance. To remain in compliance with the October 2026 due date, Tacoma proposes to prepare an FHMP with no substantive changes to go through our three-month DD process (July through September) for filing on or before the October deadline. When discussed during the June 2026 FTC meeting, WDFW, Ecology, Yakama Nation, and Trout Unlimited expressed support for Tacoma Power proceeding with a streamlined update of the current FHMP.

Coordination Need

To accomplish the filing, Tacoma will apply minimal changes that include modifying the title page to reflect date of submission. Tacoma will also work with a consultant to advise on any critical changes that need to be made to stay in compliance. Otherwise, the FHMP will stay as close to the current FHMP as possible.

Work with FTC to determine how best to package 2026 FHMP update with 2020 FHMP content to streamline referencing of the 2026 FHMP in future documents.

Summary of Potential Impacts

Tacoma will submit in October 2026 and continue to update according to the existing 6-year FERC schedule.