

**Cowlitz Hydroelectric Project**  
**FERC No. 2016**  
**Cowlitz Fisheries Technical Committee**  
**Public Meeting at the Chehalis Veterans Memorial Museum**  
**Final Meeting Summary**  
November 6, 2018 from 9:00 AM – 2:30PM

**FTC Attendees:**

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Travis Nelson  | TPU                                     |
| Tom Wadsworth  | WDFW                                    |
| Carol Serdar   | WA Dept. of Ecology                     |
| Paul Sparks    | WA Council of TU / TU / American Rivers |
| Michelle Day   | NMFS                                    |
| John Serl      | Tech Rep for WDFW                       |
| Peggy Miller   | Tech Rep for WDFW                       |
| Brian Gale     | Tech Rep for WDFW                       |
| Bryce Glaser   | Tech Rep for WDFW                       |
| Sam Gibbons    | Tech Rep for WDFW                       |
| Mara Zimmerman | Tech Rep for WDFW                       |
| Matt Bleich    | Tech Rep for TPU                        |
| Eric Shoblom   | Tech Rep for TPU                        |
| Tim Hoffnagle  | Tech Rep for TPU                        |
| Chris Foster   | Tech Rep for TPU                        |
| Melora Shelton | Tech Rep for TPU                        |
| Steve West     | LCFRB / Tech Rep for TPU                |
| Laura Bouchard | LCPUD                                   |
| Debbie Carlson | BPA                                     |
| Lyn Wiltse     | PDSA Consulting / Facilitator           |

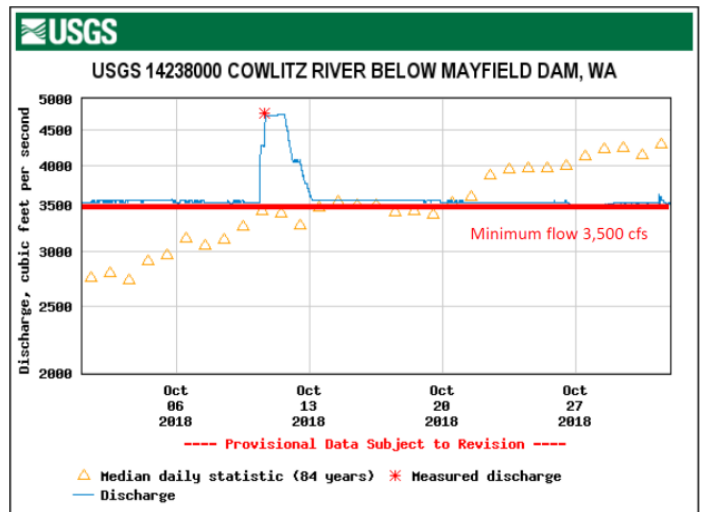
**Next FTC Meeting:** Dec. 4 from 9:30-3:00 at Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery (tentative)

Note: This meeting agenda was advertised in advance and open to the public. Public comments and questions with responses will be posted to the public FTC website.

<https://www.mytpu.org/tacomapower/about-tacoma-power/dams-power-sources/hydro-power/licensing/cowlitz-licensing/cowlitz-license-documents/cowlitz-fisheries-committee.htm>

**Announcements**

- Hydro Operations: Melora reported outflows at Mayfield Dam have been consistently at 3,500 cfs, except when they increased to 4,700 cfs Oct. 10-13 in response to a natural gas pipeline explosion in BC. Inflows for October were low (~1600 cfs). Riffe Lake is slowly starting to refill and was at 709' on Nov. 5. There is some snow now above 5,000' with snow levels variable up to 9,000'. The 10-day outlook is pretty dry. Carol asked about the size of the hole TPU must keep for flood control



and Matt responded that Florian would get back to her with that information.

Link to the USGS real-time Cowlitz River hydrograph:

[https://waterdata.usgs.gov/wa/nwis/uv/?site\\_no=14238000&PARAMeter\\_cd=00060,00065](https://waterdata.usgs.gov/wa/nwis/uv/?site_no=14238000&PARAMeter_cd=00060,00065)

- Cowlitz Falls Fish Facilities Report: Chris reported remodel work is continuing and is on schedule. They have completed the new office storage building and are finishing up the HVAC and electrical. The work on the infiltration gallery to is also nearly complete. This will allow them to bring in cooler water in the summer months. They are also wrapping up the flume recoating project and the perforated plate and dewatering screens are being reinstalled. They anticipate completing this work by the end of the year. They have updated the infrastructure in the sampling building and will begin fall operations the week of Nov. 12 and will perform commissioning upgrades at that time. They plan to operate 3 days a week through the first week in December.
- Trout Hatchery Master Plan: Eric explained that TPU has contracted HDR to complete this plan for remodeling the Trout Hatchery. TPU received the draft plan from HDR on Nov. 1 that considers how all the components work together in anticipation of present and future needs as they relate to overall program goals. Once final TPU comments have been incorporated, HDR will present the final draft by the end of the year. At that point, TPU will decide whether to have the entire project designed first and then built, or to hire a design/build firm. They will also send the plan to the FTC for feedback at that point. Paul wants the designs to include congruence with natural conditions. e.g., bankside cover and overhead canopy. Eric explained the new preliminary designs for the rearing lakes call for segmenting those lakes from 5 acres to 1 acre or smaller and to switch the raceways over to circulars. This will create flexibility to experiment with various rearing techniques. There have been no major changes to the plan since the presentation to the FTC a few months ago.
- Gravel Augmentation Update: Melora explained that the design for moving the existing pile of gravel is moving forward. Survey work is complete, including adding cross sections for design and monitoring. They've also begun discussing permits with WDFW and Lewis County. Carol reminded her of the need to coordinate with Ecology on the construction stormwater permit and water quality protection plans. Peggy observed the current Decision Document to delay gravel augmentation expires the end of this year.
- Cowlitz River Restoration (CRR) Fund: Melora reported they got through the initial CRR review and sent it to the LCFRB for initial review by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). This should be a fast and iterative review process. They anticipate getting the draft materials to the FTC with a decision document in December for a 30-day review ahead of the January FTC meeting. In addition to developing hatchery applicant guidance / materials, this group is also working on habitat assessments including a geomorphic assessment of the entire upper basin. They are contracting with Anchor to do some hydrologic modeling. Paul expressed appreciation to all who are involved in this technical work group.
- On October 30, Travis sent out the Draft Cowlitz 402 Annual Report (monitoring minimum flows, ramping) with comments due to Melora Shelton by 5pm on Nov. 30.

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### Meeting Summary Approval

The Oct. 2, 2018 meeting summary was approved with edits and will be posted to the FTC public website.

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## **M&E Subgroup: 10-Year Perspective on Fall Chinook**

**Presenter: John Serl**

John gave a presentation describing the current state of Fall Chinook for adults returning to the Cowlitz River (46% go to fisheries, 10% end up in the hatchery and 44% end up on spawning grounds.) He gave an overview of the total harvest for ocean, Columbia, and Cowlitz Rivers, noting most of the NORs are harvested in the ocean. Total run size is influenced by changes in production levels and ocean conditions. Mass marking of Fall Chinook returns (arriving back at the Barrier Dam) wasn't complete for returning adults until 2012. They are focusing on Fall Chinook recovery in Tilton and Spring Chinook in the upper Cowlitz. The integrated Fall Chinook program was started in 2013. They have made many improvements in this over the past few years. John noted that additional fish are passing through the turbines and not being counted as the juvenile collector at Mayfield is only collecting ~70% of the fish.

Current gaps in understanding:

- NORs: No identifier to tell which population that fish belongs to
- No adequate run size forecasts for Cowlitz River populations
- Poor understanding of spawner escapement and distribution
- Unknown impacts of integrated vs. segregated hatchery programs on natural populations
- Unknown reasons for relatively poor survival of Fall Chinook hatchery programs in the Cowlitz River.

TPU remodeled the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery a few years ago and the effect on fish from the remodel are not yet understood. They are looking at developing a marking program for NOR smolts at Mayfield Dam along with a strategy for transition to fully integrated hatchery program. They plan to generate specific Cowlitz River Fall Chinook forecast instead of using Lower Columbia forecast. The parasite *C. shasta* is a limiting factor for Fall Chinook juveniles and adult returns. Stray rate data will be included in the HGMP.

### **Action Item:**

- Travis: Attach a PDF authored by the M&E subgroup of this PowerPoint presentation to these meeting notes.

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## **2016 FHMP Process Update**

**Presenter: Matt Bleich**

Matt thanked everyone for their support of this process and explained that while they are currently two weeks behind schedule, they still intend to make the FERC deadline.

Chapters 1 and 2: These were sent to the FTC for review. TPU incorporated comments and then sent them out again to the FTC and the public. Most of the comments they received were from WDFW. He thanked them for their contributions which are improving the document and explained that TPU will engage a consultant to act as a technical editor to incorporate comments and develop a corresponding comment matrix noting the treatment of each comment and also if additional discussions are required. He anticipates 90% will be incorporated straightaway; 5% will be met with counter suggestions; and 5% will need additional conversations. There is no timeline on this yet. The comment matrix will be posted to the website that Travis set up to facilitate the FHMP review process. FTC members can use this website to submit comments as well as review comments from

others. WDFW suggested that it would be good to revisit these two introductory chapters after having reviewed each of the individual species chapters.

**Chinook Chapters:** Matt acknowledged that while this full Chinook chapter should have been sent out two weeks ago, it was released the afternoon of Nov. 5. He apologized for the delay and committed to bringing a revised schedule to the next FTC meeting. This delay pushed the rest of the FHMP schedule out by two weeks. TPU will use the same process for the review of this chapter as for the introductory chapters: 30-day review for FTC, then back to TPU to address comments, then back out to FTC and out to the public for another 30-day review. TPU thought there were sufficient differences between Fall and Spring Chinook to split them into distinct chapters.

**Coho Chapter:** The next version of this chapter will have the species and population sections fully detailed and should be out in two weeks, with the same review process as for the other chapters. The review period for the Coho and Chinook chapters will overlap.

**FHMP Workshop:** This has been discussed for the past couple of months. The email with the Chinook chapters includes dates for the FHMP workshop and asks folks to respond to a poll regarding their availability. The timing of the workshop may impact the timing of the next FTC meeting. The M&E Chapter review is built into the larger schedule that Matt will re-issue shortly. For the workshop, Matt will identify key issues, where there are conflicting views, to work through (vs. an exercise in line edits).

**Action Item:**

- All: Please respond to the Doodle Poll with your availability and then Matt and Travis will be back to everyone regarding implications for next FTC meeting.
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**Updating ISIT Data**

Bryce explained that the In-Season Implementation Tool (ISIT) works from a basic model that has been used widely. ISIT allows for more real-time updates – rolling 5-year averages can be used for updated model runs. It is important to use the most up-to-date data, including stray rates to track progress over time. With updated data sets, WDFW will be able to do model runs to inform the FHMP. The last update was two years ago.

**Action Item:**

- Tom: Send ISIT Data inputs with description of how these are being used to all once they are finalized.
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**Potential Topics for the December 4, 2018 FTC Meeting**

- Usual Announcements/Updates
  - Approval of November Meeting Summary for posting to public
  - FHMP Process Update (the bulk of the meeting)
  - CRR Fund Update – Decision Document
  - Gravel Augmentation Update – Decision Document
  - M&E Subgroup Presentation
  - Agree on 2019 FTC Meeting Dates
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**Meeting Evaluation**

- Eric's time keeping was superb.
- Problems with microphone / acoustics in the room.

- Needed to be able to get into the building to set up the room earlier.
- It was good for the public to see how we function, including the back-and-forth discussion at the end.
- For future meetings with the public, FTC members should introduce themselves as they begin to speak.
- We ran out of name tags.