

COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

January 24, 2003

FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY NOTES ON FUTURE ACTIONS

Facilitator: Jacque Abel

Chum Operations:

Paul Wagner, NOAA Fisheries, began Friday's discussion acknowledging that this was a difficult issue for the Salmon Managers to address because there were many spawning chum this year and the operation will have a negative impact on chum redds below Bonneville dam.

Due to the low runoff forecast for this year and consistent with the Biological Opinion, NMFS presented a recommendation to operate the Bonneville tailwater at a minimum of 11' as a hard constraint and 11.2' as a soft constraint. The agency also recommended 70 kcfs flow to meet Vernita Bar.

Ron Boyce, Oregon, stated that the recommendation did not result from a consensus by the Salmon Managers. Oregon does not agree with the recommendation. The agency feels that there are other options to consider and that this operation forces a fish vs. fish situation that Oregon is not comfortable with. The agency will write a letter to NMFS stating its position on this issue and an explanation for that position.

It was clarified that NMFS recommended an 11' minimum AND 70 kcfs as hard constraints and interim operations. NMFS feels that these two factors will coincide and would like to reevaluate the operation at the next TMT meeting on February 5. It was also clarified that the goal behind this recommendation is to move water into storage.

The Action Agencies agreed to NMFS' recommendation and restated the operation that will occur: Bonneville will operate to meet at a minimum tailwater of 11.0 feet hard constraint and 11.2 feet soft constraint. The operation will be revisited by TMT at the next TMT meeting on February 5. This operation will be circulated as a teletype by RCC. The BOR voiced a concern that this operation will diminish the probability of meeting an April 10 refill at Grand Coulee, but agreed with the NMFS recommendation insofar as it targets meeting Vernita Bar and chum flows equally.

Oregon asked the Action Agencies if they could provide any certainty that the water stored now will later be used for fish. Steve Kerns, BPA, offered to report on any incidences when the tailwater goes above 11.2' and an explanation for the occurrence.

ACTION: Steve Kerns will provide daily reports on the BON tailwater and an explanation of any occurrences of the tailwater going above 11.2' at the next TMT meeting.

Next Meeting, February 5th:

Agenda:

- RFC Report on STP Model – Harold Opitz
- Chum Update
 - Field trip
 - Report on BON tailwater operations – Steve Kerns
- Review Current System Conditions
- Review Operations Requests
- Develop Recommended Operations
- Set Agenda for Next Meeting

***At the beginning of Friday's conference call, the group set meeting dates through March 2003. The regular TMT meetings will be held from 9-12 on Feb. 5 and 19, and March 5 and 19. There will also be a special TMT process discussion from 10-12 on Feb. 26 in the usual meeting room.**