

COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

CONFERENCE CALL

November 3, 2006 Meeting

FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY NOTES ON FUTURE ACTIONS

Facilitator: Robin Harkless

Notes: Erin Halton

The following notes are a summary of issues that are intended to point out future actions or issues that may need further discussion at upcoming meetings. These notes are not intended to be the "record" of the meeting, only a reminder for TMT members.

Chum Status

Emails from Ron Boyce, ODFW, and Cathy Hlebechuk, COE, following the 11/1 conference call said that the survey results would not be available until the afternoon of 11/3 and that the exclusion devices would have their installation completed by the afternoon of 11/3, assuming tailwater elevations are low enough. The TMT conference call was rescheduled for 3:30 on 11/3.

During that call, Wayne Vandernaald (ODFW chum survey leader) reported that 3 chum were seined in Section 2 and 3 below Hamilton Island but none were observed in the Ives Island complex. Hlebechuk reported the Seal Lion Acoustic Deterrents (SLAD) installation work was re-scheduled and could be completed by the afternoon of 11/3. Given this, the salmon mangers requested that the chum operation begin as soon as possible. BPA proposed a start date of Tuesday, 11/7 at 7 a.m., and said with the precip forecasted to move in over the weekend, the operation might start sooner than Tuesday if local inflows increase.

**** Update: the forecasted precip caused local inflows go increase over the weekend and the operation started 0700 hours Monday, 11/6. The following email was sent out from the COE on 11/5 specifying the operation:

11.3' – 11.7' between 0700 – 1900 hours

Minimum 11.3' all hours

Tailwater will be measured 0.9 miles downstream from the first powerhouse, 50 feet upstream from Tanner Creek and at R.M. 144.5. This is the project tailwater as opposed to the powerhouse tailwater.

Technical Management Team Conference Call Notes

November 3, 2006

1. Greetings and Introductions.

The November 3 Technical Management Team conference call was chaired by Cathy Hlebechuk and facilitated by Robin Harkless. The following is a summary (not a verbatim transcript) of the topics discussed and decisions made during this call. Anyone with questions or comments about these notes should contact Hlebechuk at 503-808-5942.

2. Chum Survey Results and Start of Chum Operation.

Wayne Vandernaald of ODFW said today's chum survey found no chum in the Ives Island complex. However, we met the Washington crew at the Ives Island site, and they told us they had caught, tagged and released three chum just below Hamilton Creek earlier in the day. The other thing is that, since Friday is a holiday next week, the crews will be going out to Ives Island on Monday and Thursday, Vandernaald said – we'll provide further updates, and as soon as we see chum, we'll let you know. In response to a question from Hlebechuk, Vandernaald said crews had attempted to conduct a survey in the I-205 area yesterday, but conditions were too rough.

Hlebechuk reported the SLAD bracket installation was ongoing and would be completed that afternoon.

And what were Bonneville tailwaters yesterday and today? Cindy LeFleur asked. Tailwater elevations were 10 to 11.5 feet, Hlebechuk replied. There have been two special operations, holding tailwater elevations down during the day at Bonneville, Scott Bettin added – they were installing the trap at Duncan Creek, and installing the brackets for the Sea Lion Exclusion Devices in the dam.

It looks like Tuesday at 7 am will be a good starting-time for the chum operation, said Bettin. If it rains more than expected, then an earlier start date will be in order. We would prefer to wait for fish, but with heavy precipitation expected, that will set up the river nicely for the start of the chum operation. Most likely, we'll be seeing more fish by then as well. I would note that we did see chum yesterday, so fish are present on the spawning grounds, LeFleur said. In response to another question, Hlebechuk said she has no reason to believe the brackets for the SLADS will not be installed by later this afternoon.

Paul Wagner said that, based on previous years' operations, starting the chum operation on Tuesday would be acceptable to NOAA Fisheries. LeFleur said the SOR requested that the chum operation today – since we have confirmed chum are now present on the spawning grounds, and the bracket installation work will be completed today, why wouldn't the chum operation begin today?

In response to a question, Kiefer described the background for this SOR and the timing it requests – essentially, that November 4 has been, in recent years, the average date of the first observation of chum on the Ives Island spawning grounds. He said the State of Idaho would like to see the chum operation begin as soon as the river can be set up for it. If that's today, that would be great, he said, but if it's early next week, that would be acceptable to us as well. After a few minutes of further discussion, no TMT disagreements were raised to the action agencies' proposal that the 2006 chum operation begin no later than 7 a.m. Tuesday, November 7. If the operation can be started sooner – by Saturday, for example – it will.

With that, today's conference call was adjourned.

TMT Participant List
November 3, 2006

Name	Affiliation
Cathy Hlebechuk	COE
Scott Bettin	BPA
Dan Spear	BPA
Tom Le	PSE
Robin Harkless	Facilitation Team
Paul Wagner	NOAAF
Bern Klatter	COE
Rudd Turner	COE
Wayne Vandernaald	ODFW
Russ Kiefer	IDFG
Cindy LeFleur	WDFW
Tom Haymaker	PNGC