

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM
December 28, 2011 Conference Call
Facilitator's Summary
Facilitator: Robin Gumpert

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 Update

Charles Morrill, Washington, relayed a field update on chum numbers checked by the field crew on Friday, 12/23 and Tuesday, 12/27. While there was some activity in some areas, Charles suggested we were at the tail end of the chum spawning period at Ives Island with no new chum or redds observed. He also said the high/low tide coming in this week would likely provide adequate protection for the remainder of this week.

Given this information, BPA's Tony Norris proposed declaring the 'end of spawning' and moving to an incubation operation of a 12.0-foot minimum tailwater elevation during all hours at Bonneville. The action agencies would like to have as much flexibility at the project as possible to manage the pending higher flows expected to enter the system.

TMT members discussed this operation, and those present on the phone (Washington, Idaho, CRITFC/CTUIR, NOAA, Reclamation, BPA and COE) agreed with the proposal. *(NOTE: Richie Graves, NOAA, joined late and concurred with the proposed action. With NOAA's concurrence, TMT members agreed with the implementation of the change.)*

Operation Plan: The COE planned to initiate a chum incubation operation effective today, with a 12.0-foot minimum tailwater elevation during all hours, at Bonneville. Karl Kanbergs (COE) stated that the 12.0 minimum tailwater elevation could be revisited by TMT at a later time based on the uncertainties of what kind of water year will actually occur, noting the unusually dry December.

Draft 2012 Water Management Plan

Lisa Wright, COE, reported that the final 2012 WMP would be posted to the TMT web page by the end of this week.

TMT Schedule

TMT members will coordinate off line and a 2012 schedule will be posted to the TMT page as soon as possible. The current schedule says there will be meetings on 1/4 and 1/18 – this schedule is subject to change based on needs and availability of the TMT members. All participants are encouraged to check the web page for updates.

Columbia River Regional Forum
TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM – OFFICIAL MINUTES

December 28, 2011

Notes: Pat Vivian

1. Introduction

Today's TMT conference call was chaired by Karl Kanbergs, COE, and facilitated by Robin Gumpert, DS Consulting. Representatives of BPA, COE, Washington, CRITFC/Umatilla, Idaho, BOR, NOAA Fisheries and others attended. There was no representation from USFWS, Oregon or Montana today. This summary is an official record of the proceedings, not a verbatim transcript.

2. Chum Operations Update

Charles Morrill, Washington, reported that field surveys on December 19 and 27 indicate chum spawning is nearly done in the Ives Island area. On December 27, visibility was excellent, and 11 live fish and 15 dead fish were observed. The Woods Landing and River Shore spawning sites are still active, however, with 19 new redds at Woods Landing and 7 new redds at River Shore as of December 23. Scott Bettin, **BPA**, noted that the survey on December 27 found no "new" chum from Multnomah Falls to the Ives/Pierce Island Complex, indicating that counted fish had been there for some time and had likely already spawned.

In light of this information, as well as high inflows and heavy rainfall, **BPA** proposed that the chum spawning operation at Bonneville Dam end today. What's at stake, Tony Norris said, is not maintaining a given protection level, but whether daytime elevation limits can safely end. With the volume of water that's coming down the river, limiting releases until December 31 could make it difficult to maintain the 11.7-12.5-foot protection band now in effect, Karl Kanbergs, **COE**, explained. RPA 17 in the BiOp extends spawning protections through December 31, but the Action Agencies would prefer to end the spawning phase of the chum operation sooner than that if possible.

Morrill noted that incoming tides are predicted to be high enough, at 67 feet, to protect spawners at River Shore and Woods Landing through the end of the week. The **BOR** concurred with BPA's proposal to move to a 12-foot minimum tailwater operation during all hours at Bonneville effective today. **Washington, Idaho, CRITFC/Umatilla Tribe** and **NOAA** did not object to the proposal.

Hearing no objection, the COE will end spawning operations at Bonneville today. The chum operation will transition to the incubation phase, with a 12-foot minimum tailwater elevation during all hours and no maximum daytime elevation. Karl Kanbergs (COE) stated that the 12.0 minimum tailwater elevation could be

revisited by TMT at a later time based on the uncertainties of what kind of water year will actually occur, noting the unusually dry December.

3. Water Management Plan

Lisa Wright, COE, confirmed that the Final 2012 Water Management Plan will be posted as planned to the TMT website by the end of this week.

4. Next TMT Meeting

TMT scheduled a tentative meeting for January 4, 2012, to check in on the chum operation. The next regular meeting after that will be January 18.

Name	Affiliation
Tony Norris	BPA
Karl Kanbergs	COE
Charles Morrill	Washington
Tom Lorz	CRITFC Umatilla
Russ Kiefer	Idaho
John Roache	BOR
Lisa Wright	COE
Ruth Burris	PGE
Barry Espenson	CBB
Bruce McKay	consultant
Russ George	WMC
Scott Bettin	BPA
Harvey Hall	EWEB
Mike Shapley	Snohomish
Lisa Beck	Grant PUD
Heather Dohan	Puget Sound Energy
Ritchie Graves	NOAA