

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

October 29, 2014

Facilitator's Summary

Facilitator and notes: Emily Plummer, DS Consulting

The following Facilitator's Summary is intended to capture basic discussion, decisions and actions, as well as 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 Operation

Doug Baus, COE, presented a proposed Chum operation, noting that the proposed operation stems from lessons learned over the past few years. He also noted that the proposed operation was discussed at FPAC yesterday and that most of the comments reported back to the AAs were incorporated into the operation. A link to the proposed operation is available on the TMT website. Doug walked TMT through the 5 steps of the operation, noting that the AAs would begin implementing on November 1st, and continued discussion and potential refinements are expected in season with coordination through TMT.

The following clarifications were made:

- Step 2 of the proposed operation would make the tailwater operating range upper limit a soft constraint of 12.5ft and hard constraint of 13.0ft.
- "If necessary to pass additional flow" was clarified to be as a result of environmental conditions such as precipitation events and/or tidal influences that increase the inflow and tailwater elevation.
- This proposed operation sets a higher and wider operating range as compared to previous years.
- This proposed operation is designed to improve conditions for Chum spawning in the Ives area.

The Salmon Managers present (WA, ID, OR, Umatilla, Colville, and USFWS) supported the AAs implementing the proposed operation, with the recognition that this operation will continue to be coordinated in season through TMT. Charlie Morrill, WA, noted that 9 Chum have passed Bonneville as of yesterday and that WDFW anticipates Chum will move into the Ives/Pierce spawning areas when this operation is implemented on November 1.

- **ACTION:** Doug thanked everyone for their input and stated that the AAs will implement the operation on Saturday, November 1.

Water Management Plan

Doug Baus, COE, reminded TMT that the draft Water Management Plan is available on the TMT website. Suggested edits are to be submitted by October 31st and draft 2 will be posted by November 10th. Please see the TMT website for more detail on how and when to submit comments.

The next TMT meeting will be a conference call on November 5th at 9:00am.

Columbia River Regional Forum
TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM – OFFICIAL MINUTES
October 29, 2014

Minutes: Pat Vivian

1. Introduction

Doug Baus, COE, chaired this TMT conference call facilitated by Emily Plummer, DS Consulting. Representatives of the COE, BPA, BOR, USFWS, Idaho, Colville Tribe, CRITFC/Umatilla Tribe, Idaho, Yakama Tribe, Washington, Oregon, and others participated. This summary is an official record of the proceedings, not a verbatim transcript.

2. Chum Operations

It's almost time to begin the 2014-15 chum operation, Baus reported. This year, the Salmon Managers have expressed a desire for a new operation, which was a subject of discussion on yesterday's FPAC call. Attachment 2a to today's agenda depicts the Action Agency proposal for the 2014 chum spawning season, with feedback from FPAC incorporated. The proposed operation consists of five steps that would be taken in response to rising inflows during chum spawning:

1. Operate Bonneville tailwater within a 1' range of 11.5-12.5' elevation during all hours.
2. If necessary to pass additional flows, operate Bonneville tailwater up to 13.0' elevation during all hours, returning to 11.5-12.5' whenever possible.
3. If necessary to pass additional flows, operate Bonneville tailwater up to 16.5' elevation during nighttime hours (5 pm-6 am) with the highest tailwater elevations around midnight.
4. If necessary, operate Bonneville tailwater up to 18.5' elevation during nighttime hours (5 pm-6 am) with the highest tailwater elevations around midnight.
5. If necessary, operate Bonneville tailwater at a range of 13.0-16.5' elevation during daytime hours (6 am- 5 pm) with no upper limit during nighttime hours and the highest tailwater elevations around midnight. At this point, the Action Agencies would notify TMT and coordinate further operations if necessary.

Baus asked for TMT's feedback on this plan. Beyond a few tweaks to what determines when the steps are implemented, FPAC members didn't identify any show-stoppers in their conference call yesterday, Tom Lorz, CRITFC/Umatilla, reported.

Several FPAC members said they would consult with their staff research experts, assuming this operation will be implemented the morning of Saturday, November 1.

Baus said the Action Agencies would like TMT's consensus today on an operation to implement November 1, as the next TMT meeting isn't until November 5. Details of the operation can be worked out over the next few days. Baus walked TMT through each of the five steps. The primary differences in this year's operation are:

1) Daytime tailwater elevation will likely be higher (e.g., 11.5 – 12.5 feet) as a result of less fluctuation between the daytime and nighttime tailwater elevations as compared to previous years (e.g., low daytime tailwater range of 11.4 – 11.7 feet, increasing at night up to 18.5 feet).

2) In steps 1 and 2, the Action Agencies will operate if necessary up to 13.0 feet but return to 11.5 – 12.5 feet whenever possible. In previous years, a tailwater elevation higher than the daytime range would have resulted in setting a higher tailwater protection level (e.g., if daytime range is 11.5–12.5 feet and the tailwater reaches 12.8 feet, then the new protection range would have been set at 12.8–13.8 feet).

Essentially, step 2 during all hours equates to a soft constraint operating range of 11.5 – 12.5 feet and a hard constraint of 11.5 – 13.0 feet, Baus said. The whole intent of this new operation is to improve chum spawning conditions in the Ives Island area, Tony Norris, BPA, said.

The Salmon Managers present (CRITFC/Umatilla, Colville Tribe, Washington, Oregon, USFWS, and Idaho) generally approved of implementing the proposal, while noting that adjustments may be needed throughout chum spawning season and will be coordinated with TMT. Erick Van Dyke, Oregon, asked for more specifics on Bonneville operations in relation to what necessitates an increase in project outflow that would result in higher tailwater. The chum operation typically involves managing the Bonneville Dam outflow to achieve tailwater elevation targets relative to short term and long-term changes in river conditions (e.g., inflow, tides), forecast and water supply, Baus replied. Steps 2 through 4 of the new operation are intended to maintain a relatively higher tailwater over the course of a day rather than having wide fluctuations between daytime and nighttime tailwater elevations in response to increasing water supply. The initial tailwater elevation range is higher and wider under the new operation. Lisa Wright, COE, noted that "to pass additional flow" means the combined effects of inflow, precipitation and tidal influences.

In past years, chum generally have started spawning at higher elevations when the Bonneville tailwater is around 13', Norris pointed out.

TMT members gave their views on implementing the proposed operation November 1, assuming that TMT coordination will continue throughout chum season:

- **Washington** – Agrees with implementation Saturday. As of yesterday, 9 chum have been counted passing Bonneville Dam, and chum will probably start spawning in the Ives Island area as soon as this operation is implemented and the tailwater elevation rises.
- **CRITFC/Umatilla** – Agrees with implementation of the proposal.
- **Colville** – Sees no problem with the proposal.
- **Oregon** – Agrees with implementation on November 1. Discussion will be needed throughout the season.
- **USFWS** – Believes this operation is worth trying; sees no downside to implementation. There will be opportunities for further discussion.
- **Idaho** – Supports the proposed operation.

NOAA Fisheries was involved in the coordination of this operation during the FPAC meeting yesterday but unfortunately was unable to participate in today's TMT meeting. Hearing the views of the region, the COE will implement the chum operation described in attachment 2a beginning at 6 am, November 1. The COE will collaborate with the region on further refinements to the 2014-15 chum operation.

3. Water Management Plan

Baus reminded everyone the draft Water Management Plan is posted to the TMT page for review. TMT members are invited to comment by October 31.

4. Next TMT Meeting

TMT will hold a conference call November 5 to discuss chum operations and any other items that come up.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
Tony Norris	BPA
Mary Mellema	BOR
David Wills	USFWS
Joe Skalicky	USFWS
Tom Lorz	CRITFC
Scott Bettin	BPA
Agnes Lut	BPA
Doug Baus	COE

Russ Kiefer	Idaho
Julie Doumbia	BPA
Eric Rothwell	BOR
Lisa Wright	COE
Tom Iverson	Yakama
Margaret Filardo	FPC
Dave Benner	FPC
Barry Espenson	CBB
Charles Morrill	Washington
Sheri Sears	Colville
Erick Van Dyke	Oregon