

# **COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM**

November 5, 2014

Facilitator's Summary

Facilitator, Emily Plummer; Notes, Tory Hines 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 Update**

Doug Baus, COE-NWD, provided an update on the Chum operation, coordinated at the October 29th TMT meeting. He noted that the operation was officially initiated at 0600 hours on November 1, at which point the tailwater elevation at Bonneville was 11.6ft, with an outflow of 114kcfs. On November 5, at 0800 hours tailwater elevation was 11.9ft with total outflow of 112.9kcfs.

Doug noted that the Corps is interested in hearing feedback from the Salmon Managers on the operation if there are suggested alterations. Paul Wagner, NOAA, noted there were no suggested changes at this point and that Salmon Managers are interested to see how the operation plays out, noting that there was general support for the steady operations between day and night. Paul also noted Chum are in the area, with 4 fish, as well as a red observed within the Multnomah Falls/Horsetail Falls area. He stated 12 chum have gone above Bonneville and Charles Morrill, WA, added there were 7 live chum and 1 redd observed in the Ives/Pierce Complex area. He also noted that 71 live, 5 dead fall Chinook were observed and 7 redds.

Doug reiterated that the Chum operation will continue to be coordinated through TMT. A link to an outline of the operation is available on today's agenda on the TMT website.

## **TMT Year End Review**

The facilitator reminded everyone that the TMT Year End Review will be on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, so please mark your calendar and join. A draft agenda is on the TMT website.

**The next TMT meeting will be a face to face meeting on November 19 at 9:00am.**

**Proposed Agenda:** Chum update

**Columbia River Regional Forum**  
**TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM – OFFICIAL MINUTES**  
**November 5, 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, Washington, USFWS, Idaho, Colville Tribe, BOR, Yakama Tribe, CRITFC/Umatilla Tribe, NOAA, and others participated. This summary is an official record of the proceedings, not a verbatim transcript.

**2. Chum Spawning Operation**

There has been no change in the chum operation since last week's TMT conference call, Baus reported. The document posted to today's agenda outlines the same operation TMT agreed to last week. Currently, this year's operation at the onset is relatively different from previous years operations in the following ways: 1) the tailwater operating range is higher (11.5 to 12.5 feet this year compared to 11.3 to 11.7 feet in previous years); 2) the tailwater operation is wider (1.0 feet this year compared to 0.4 feet in previous years), and; 3) the tailwater protection level (11.5 to 12.5 feet) will not be increased even if there is a slight excursion (up to 13.0 feet) above the current chum protection level. The goal of implementing these changes is to improve habitat for spawning chum by minimizing relatively wider changes in daytime/nighttime tailwater operations that does not appear to have improved spawning conditions for chum in previous years. This year's operation should relatively provide a higher tailwater operation throughout that day as opposed to previous year's operations that would have increased tailwater differential between the daytime and nighttime operation. It consists of the following steps that will be taken to improve chum spawning habitat as the project tailwater increase:

1. The Bonneville Dam tailwater operate within a 1-foot range of 11.5-12.5 feet during all hours.
2. If necessary to pass additional flow, the Bonneville Dam tailwater will be operated as necessary up to 13.0 feet during all hours, returning to the range of 11.5-12.5 feet whenever possible.
3. If necessary to pass additional flow, the Bonneville Dam tailwater will be operated up to 16.5 feet during nighttime hours (5 pm-6 am). The highest tailwater elevations will be concentrated around midnight.

4. If necessary to pass additional flow, the Bonneville Dam tailwater will be operated up to 18.5 feet during nighttime hours (5 pm-6 am). The highest tailwater elevations will be concentrated around midnight.
5. If necessary to pass additional flow, the Bonneville Dam tailwater operating range will become 13.0-16.5 feet during daytime hours (6 am-5 pm) with no upper limit during nighttime hours. The highest tailwater elevations will be concentrated around midnight. The Action Agencies will notify TMT of this occurrence and coordinate further operations if necessary.

Baus reported the chum spawning operation officially began 6 am Saturday, November 1, with a tailwater elevation of 11.6 feet with outflow of 114 kcfs. The project has essentially been maintained at step 1 since the chum operation began. For example, today's hourly data show the Bonneville tailwater at 11.9 feet elevation by 8 am with outflow of 112.9 kcfs.

Baus asked whether any TMT members wanted to discuss changing the chum operation. Paul Wagner, NOAA, said FPAC's discussion yesterday led to general consensus that the current operation should continue, at least for now. FPAC will continue to monitor chum spawning under the current operation. There are already signs of chum in the Bonneville area, with 3 spawners counted at Ives Island on November 4, and 1 redd established near Horsetail Falls. Not all of the monitored locations are populated yet, but a total of 12 chum have passed Bonneville Dam. Charles Morrill, Washington, added that 71 chinook were counted on November 4 in the Ives Island area, with 5 dead spawners and 7 redds already established.

### **3. Next TMT Meeting**

TMT will have a conference call November 19 followed by a process meeting. The TMT year-end review will be held December 3.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Tony Norris	BPA
Charles Morrill	Washington
David Wills	USFWS
Russ Kiefer	Idaho
Sheri Sears	Colville
Doug Baus	COE
Eric Rothwell	BOR
Tom Iverson	Yakama
Scott Bettin	BPA
Tom Lorz	CRITFC
Paul Wagner	NOAA