

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

December 22, 2015

Facilitator's Summary

Facilitator & 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

Tony Norris, BPA, provided an update from Scott Bettin, BPA, who was able to accompany WDFW survey crews during the survey today. Tony reported that the survey crew saw one live chum and one live Chinook, both of which looked to be nearing their end. There were no fish caught in the WDFW sein and no new information regarding redd sightings. Charlie Morrill, WDFW, noted that he did not have any additional information from the survey, or any changes to the suggested minimum tailwater elevation of 12.5 ft from last week's meeting.

Paul Wagner, NOAA, shared that FPAC arrived at a recommended operation today on their call. FPAC suggests holding a 12.5ft minimum, with a four hour rewetting period of the tailwater elevation up to 15ft in case there are redds at higher elevations. It was noted that if possible, the preference is to not have the rewetting hours be a consecutive four hour period. Charlie noted that the survey crew intends to go back out to survey next week, so if conditions allow, there may be more information.

Joe Skalicky, USFWS, asked if the survey crew had any information on redds in the Woods Landing or Multnomah Falls areas; Scott Bettin responded that they did not see anything in the Multnomah Falls areas, however, did not go to Woods Landing. The elevation at Woods Landing is not controlled by operations at Bonneville Dam. Joe reiterated that more information would be helpful and Erick Van Dyke, OR, agreed, noting that there is not much information available to inform this operation.

Scott Bettin noted that the project should be able to hold the 12.5ft elevation with four hours up to 15ft, however, if something changes, a TMT meeting will be scheduled.

- **ACTION:** At this time, the plan is to set a minimum tailwater elevation of 12.5ft, with four hours of rewetting up to 15ft during each 24 hour period. This operation will start at 0000 hours on December 23rd and continue until January 6th, 2016, or until more information becomes available, at which point TMT will revisit this operation. TMT will check in on the Chum operation at the January 6th conference call.
- **ACTION:** BPA and WDFW will continue to coordinate the removal of the WDFW trap at Duncan Creek.

The next TMT meeting will be a conference call at 9:00am on Wednesday, January 6, 2016.

Columbia River Regional Forum
TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING—OFFICIAL MINUTES
December 22, 2015

Minutes: Pat Vivian

1. Introduction

Representatives of the COE, Washington, USFWS, Idaho, BPA, Oregon, BOR, Yakama Tribe, NOAA and others participated in today's TMT conference call regarding the chum operation at Bonneville Dam. The call was chaired by Lisa Wright, COE, and facilitated by Emily Plummer, DS Consulting. This summary is an official record, not a verbatim transcript.

2. Chum Operation

Since TMT last met on December 16, survey crews were out today and observed only one live chum and one live chinook, both in weak condition, Tony Norris, BPA, reported. The Action Agencies operated to provide a low tailwater elevation during the survey, and hourly data indicated tailwater was down to 13 ft and dropping.. It appears that spawning is done for the season, but no one knows whether redds are established above the 12-12.5 ft tailwater range that was recommended to FPAC and TMT last week. Survey crews are working on two goals, mapping redd locations and seining for an adult chum count, Joe Skalicky, USFWS, noted. Surveying was still in progress today.

Given the lack of data, FPAC members agreed this morning to recommend a 12.5 ft minimum tailwater elevation until more is known about the presence or absence of high-elevation redds, Wagner said. The FPAC recommendation includes rewetting of potential spawning areas up to 15 ft elevation for 4 hours a day, preferably sporadically rather than for 4 consecutive hours.

Scott Bettin, BPA, called in from the field to report on today's survey results. No additional redds have been observed, and the seining crew found no live chum at Multnomah Falls, Scott Bettin, BPA, reported. On a side note, they were not able to remove the trap at Duncan Creek and will try again later.

Joe Skalicky, USFWS, said he believes there are redds at higher elevations because 150 spawners were surveyed below BON before flows inundated the area on December 9. Surveying is nearly finished, and more details on redd locations should be available next week or the week after, Wagner and Charles Morrill, Washington, agreed. A key question is whether rewetting is needed to protect chum redds at higher elevations. This decision is unfortunately being made without adequate information, Erick Van Dyke, Oregon, commented.

TMT agreed to follow FPAC's recommendation regarding the chum operation until the next TMT meeting, when more information will be available. Beginning at midnight tonight and continuing through January 6, the Action Agencies will maintain a minimum 12.5 ft tailwater elevation below Bonneville Dam, rewetting elevations of up to 15 ft for 4 hours a day, preferably not consecutive. There is no maximum tailwater elevation.

3. Next TMT Meeting

TMT will review the chum operation in light of final survey results on January 6, 2016.

Name	Affiliation
Lisa Wright	COE
Charles Morrill	Washington
Joe Skalicky	USFWS
Russ Kiefer	Idaho
Tony Norris	BPA
Erick Van Dyke	Oregon
Eric Rothwell	BOR
Julie Ammann	COE
Tom Iverson	Yakama
Paul Wagner	NOAA
Margaret Filardo	FPC
Dave Benner	FPC
Scott Bettin	BPA