



FISH PASSAGE CENTER

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MEMORANDUM

TO: FPAC

FROM: FPC Staff

DATE: October 27, 2014

RE: Action Notes from October 21, 2014, FPAC face-to-face meeting

On October 21, 2014 FPAC met at the FPC offices in Portland, OR for its monthly face-to-face meeting. Present for the meeting were: Paul Wagner (FPAC Co-Chair, NOAA), Dave Wills (USFWS), Charlie Morrill (WDFW), Kyle Dittmer (CRITFC, via phone), Sherri Sears (Colville, via phone), Russ Kiefer (IDFG, via phone), Kathryn Kostow (ODFW, via phone), Joe Skalicky (USFWS), Dean Ballinger (SMP-BON, via phone), Erick Van Dyke (ODFW), Tom Lorz (CRITFC), Tom Skiles (CRITFC), Margaret Filardo (FPC), Erin Cooper (FPC), Brandon Chockley (FPC), Tommy Garrison (FPC), and Michele DeHart (FPC).

Agenda Items

Water Supply/Flood Control

- Margaret Filardo (FPC) provided a summary of the current reservoir operations and water supply forecasts. Below is an overview.

<i>Project</i>	<i>Current Elevation (feet)</i>	<i>Change in Elevation (feet over past week)</i>	<i>Last Week's Outflows (Kcfs)</i>
GCL	1285.7	Refilled 0.7	50 – 75.4
LIB	2447.9	No Change	4.0
HH	3547.3	Drafted 1.9	2.0 – 3.2
DWOR	1515.6	Drafted 3.4	1.4
BRNLE	2061.0	Refilled 2.3	8.5 (inflows)

- The 2014–2015 water year began on the first of October.

Weather

- Kyle Dittmer provided an update of current weather conditions. Precipitation was as follows:

Location	Seasonal (Oct. 1–Now)
Portland	90%
Middle Columbia	51%
Lower Snake	41%
Upper and Mid-Snake	6%

- Temperatures were as follows (temperature departures):

Location	Pro-rated Monthly
Portland	5.8
Middle Columbia	6.0
Lower Snake	5.2
Upper and Mid-Snake	5.1

- The signs of El Niño are mixed, with water temperatures indicating a strong El Niño and atmospheric conditions indicating a weak El Niño.
- The winter weather forecast will be presented at OMSI on Saturday, October 25th.

Juvenile Fish Passage

- Subyearling Chinook passage index has increased at Lower Granite over the last week to several hundred/day.
- Subyearling Chinook passage index at Little Goose has been below 100/day.
- Subyearling Chinook passage index at Bonneville has been below 100/day, with a few exceptions of between 200 and 300 on a few days over the past week.
- Descaling at Lower Granite has not been high. Descaling at Little Goose Dam was 12% (50 fish examined) on one day, but immediately returned to below 4%.

Adult Fish Passage

- Fall Chinook counts at Bonneville have ranged between 462 and 1,400 over the last week. The year-to-date count is 90% of 2013 counts and 203% of the 10-year average.
- Coho counts at Bonneville are 450% of 2013 counts and 225% of the 10-year average.
- Steelhead counts at Bonneville are 138% of 2013 counts and 92.7% of the 10-year average.
- Fall Chinook counts at Priest Rapids have dropped off relative to other sites. Year-to-date counts are 51% of 2013 counts and 222% of the 10-year average.

- Fall Chinook counts at Lower Granite are 108% of 2013 counts and 262% of the 10-year average.
- Coho counts at Lower Granite are 860% of 2013 counts and 725% of the 10-year average.
- Steelhead counts at Lower Granite are 147% of 2013 counts and 94% of the 10-year average.

Lower Monumental Change Form Columnaris

- Each fall, smolt collections at Lower Monumental are low and mortality is high. At the same time, temperatures are relatively high and *Columnaris* loads are elevated.
- Paul Wagner (NOAA) outlined a few options for a 2015 Fish Passage Plan change form when *Columnaris* levels and/or mortalities are elevated in summer:
 - The 2014 action (which was to collect and transport fish every other day). Fish from non-sample days would be bypassed to the river.
 - Full flow bypass, with no collections for monitoring.
 - Sample daily, but return fish to river rather than holding for transportation.
 - Sample daily and transport fish every-other-day. This would mean that some fish are held in raceways for up to 48 hours.
- NOAA's fish pathologist believes that transportation and collection is a stressful process, moves smolts into warmer water upon release from barge, and detriments may outweigh the benefits of salt treatment. NOAA recommends returning smolts to river after sampling.
 - Tom Lorz expressed concern about stopping sampling for the rest of the fish passage season after the first signs of *Columnaris*.
 - Charlie Morrill stated that WDFW still believes that the salt treatment has a net benefit.
- FPAC will continue to discuss the NOAA draft change form.

Smolt Monitoring Program Review

- Margaret Filardo (FPC) provided a summary of recent efforts to optimize sampling and reduce handling at CSS/SMP traps. Due to releases of listed hatchery fish, ESA handling quotas are often met before tagging of wild stocks has been completed.
- To represent MPGs and improve coverage of wild populations, some trap locations have been discontinued or moved for 2015. Many of these sites are untested, so 2015 should be considered a pilot year.
- The changes are outlined in the memo provided by FPC on October 21, 2014, "Trap Modifications for 2015."
- FPAC approved changes for 2015.

Chum Planning

- The beginning of the chum planning period may be delayed due to unit testing at The Dalles Dam, as requested by BPA. It is unclear why the test is necessary at this time, or why it will necessitate a delay of chum operations.
- Grand Coulee Dam will have work done this winter, which may delay refill and cause low spring flows.

TMT Year End Review

- Brandon will be on annual leave during TMT year-end review, but will complete the analyses and presentations for Paul Wagner.

Coordination

- The next FPAC face-to-face meeting will be on November 18th at 9:00 AM at the FPC office.
- TMT year-end review will be on December 3rd at 45 SW Burnside (Note new location at Mercy Corps).
- Comments on the first draft of the 2015 Water Management Plan are due at the end of October.
- AFEP year-end review will be December 9–11 at 911 NE 11th Avenue in Portland.