



# FISH PASSAGE CENTER

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## MEMORANDUM

To: Fish Passage Advisory Committee (FPAC)

From: FPC Staff

Date: January 8, 2016 (revised 1/12/16)

Subject: Action Notes from January 5, 2016, FPAC meeting

On January 5, 2016, FPAC met via conference call for its weekly meeting. The following people participated in the meeting:

Paul Wagner (FPAC Co-Chair NOAA)

Charlie Morrill (WDFW)

Erick Van Dyke (ODFW)

Joe Skalicky (USFWS)

Russ Kiefer (IDFG)

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### ***Chum Operations***

- Review and discussion of what information we do have and don't have on chum spawning, distribution of redds, and tailwater elevations when most redds were established.
- No disagreement that the information we have is limited because of survey conditions this season. Peak live counts in the Ives/Pierce complex of 341 were recorded November 25, 181 on Dec. 3, and none on Dec 8. Live chum were first observed Nov. 10 (Table 1). For the entire season only 3 chum redds were observed in the Ives Island complex. Currently, measuring redd depths is not part of the contract for chum monitoring. Therefore, we do not have estimates of redd depths. FPAC members have expressed a desire for this to be added to future contracts, as these data may be useful in informing management decisions.

**Table 1. Chum Salmon Spawning Ground Survey Counts below Bonneville and Tailwater Elevations, 2015.**

Survey Area	Date	Lives	Dead*	Redds**	Bonneville TW Elevations 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.			Bon 24 Hour Daily Avg TW	Comments
					Min TW	Avg TW	Max TW		
Ives/Pierce Island Complex	8-Oct-15	0	0	0					5 ft. vis.
	15-Oct-15	0	0	0					5 ft. vis.
	22-Oct	0	0	0					10 ft. vis.
	29-Oct	0	0	0					6 ft. vis.
	3-Nov-15	0	0	0	9.9	10.2	10.7	10.6	4 ft. vis.
	10-Nov-15	70	1	0	11.8	11.9	12.0	11.9	9 ft. vis.
	18-Nov-15	52	6	3	12.8	12.9	13.0	14.8	1 ft. vis.
	24-Nov-15	341	36	NA	12.7	12.8	12.9	14.1	6 ft. vis.
	3-Dec-15	188	NA	NA	11.6	11.7	11.8	11.7	5 ft. vis. unable to complete survey due to weather
	8-Dec-15	0	2	0	16.0	16.2	16.3	17.4	0.5 ft. vis. high water and windy conditions=poor visibility
	15-Dec-15	4	6	0	13.5	13.8	14.7	15.9	3 ft. vis. poor visibility
	Multnomah Falls Area	2-Nov-15	1	0	0	7.6	10.4	11.3	11.1
9-Nov-15		61	0	0	11.6	11.7	11.8	11.8	13 ft. vis.
16-Nov-15		276	0	0	12.2	12.3	12.4	12.0	8 ft. vis.
23-Nov-15		144	0	NA	12.2	12.4	12.5	13.2	6 ft. vis.
3-Dec-15		NA	NA	NA	11.6	11.7	11.8	11.7	5 ft. vis. unable to complete survey due to weather
7-Dec-15		44	28	0	12.5	12.8	13.2	14.4	3.5 ft. vis.
14-Dec-15		3	0	0	15.4	15.5	15.6	16.3	4 ft. vis. poor visibility
Horsetail Falls Area	2-Nov-15	0	0	0	7.6	10.4	11.3	11.1	5 ft. vis.
	9-Nov-15	15	1	0	11.6	11.7	11.8	11.8	13 ft. vis.
	16-Nov-15	45	0	0	12.2	12.3	12.4	12.0	8 ft. vis.
	23-Nov-15	7	0	NA	12.2	12.4	12.5	13.2	6 ft. vis.
	3-Dec-15	NA	NA	NA	11.6	11.7	11.8	11.7	5 ft. vis. unable to complete survey due to weather
	7-Dec-15	10	23	0	12.5	12.8	13.2	14.4	2 ft. vis.
	14-Dec-15	0	0	0	15.4	15.5	15.6	16.3	4 ft. vis. poor visibility
St. Cloud Area	2-Nov-15	0	0	0	7.6	10.4	11.3	11.1	5 ft. vis.
	9-Nov-15	7	0	0	11.6	11.7	11.8	11.8	13 ft. vis.
	16-Nov-15	80	0	0	12.2	12.3	12.4	12.0	8 ft. vis.
	23-Nov-15	65	2	0	12.2	12.4	12.5	13.2	6 ft. vis.
	3-Dec-15	NA	NA	NA	11.6	11.7	11.8	11.7	5 ft. vis. unable to complete survey due to weather
	7-Dec-15	1	11	0	12.5	12.8	13.2	14.4	2 ft. vis.
	14-Dec-15	0	0	0	15.4	15.5	15.6	16.3	2 ft. vis. poor visibility
Wood's Landing	6-Nov-15	10	0	1	10.5	10.6	11.0	10.5	4 ft. vis.
	12-Nov-15	187	0	1	11.8	12.2	12.4	12.0	5 ft. vis.
	18-Nov-15	75	1	0	12.8	12.9	13.0	14.8	2 ft. vis.
	27-Nov-15	400	22	NA	11.9	12.1	12.4	12.1	6 ft. vis.
	2-Dec-15	151	20	150	11.7	11.9	12.0	11.7	4 ft. vis.
	9-Dec-15	NA	NA	NA	16.0	16.1	16.2	17.9	0 ft. vis. high water and no visibility
	17-Dec-15	0	1	0	14.9	16.0	16.5	15.9	1.5 ft. vis. poor visibility
Rivershore Seeps	6-Nov-15	0	0	0	10.5	10.6	11.0	10.5	4 ft. vis.
	12-Nov-15	35	0	0	11.8	12.2	12.4	12.0	5 ft. vis.
	18-Nov-15	0	0	0	12.8	12.9	13.0	14.8	0 ft. vis.
	27-Nov-15	250	5	NA	11.9	12.1	12.4	12.1	6 ft. vis.
	2-Dec-15	52	6	NA	11.7	11.9	12.0	11.7	1 ft. vis.
	9-Dec-15	NA	NA	NA	16.0	16.1	16.2	17.9	0 ft. vis. high water and no visibility
	17-Dec-15	0	3	0	14.9	16.0	16.5	15.9	1.5 ft. vis. poor visibility
Joseph's Creek	6-Nov-15	0	0	0	10.5	10.6	11.0	10.5	1 ft. vis.
	12-Nov-15	0	0	0	11.8	12.2	12.4	12.0	3 ft. vis.
	18-Nov-15	8	0	0	12.8	12.9	13.0	14.8	1 ft. vis.
	27-Nov-15	2	14	0	11.9	12.1	12.4	12.1	2 ft. vis.
	2-Dec-15	0	7	0	11.7	11.9	12.0	11.7	2 ft. vis.
	9-Dec-15	NA	NA	NA	16.0	16.1	16.2	17.9	0 ft. vis. high water and no visibility
	17-Dec-15	0	4	0	14.9	16.0	16.5	15.9	3 ft. vis. poor visibility
Hatchery Outlet	6-Nov-15	0	0	0	10.5	10.6	11.0	10.5	2 ft. vis.
	12-Nov-15	0	0	0	11.8	12.2	12.4	12.0	4 ft. vis.
	18-Nov-15	6	0	0	12.8	12.9	13.0	14.8	3 ft. vis.
	27-Nov-15	8	0	2	11.9	12.1	12.4	12.1	4 ft. vis.
	2-Dec-15	1	4	4	11.7	11.9	12.0	11.7	2 ft. vis.
	9-Dec-15	NA	NA	NA	16.0	16.1	16.2	17.9	0 ft. vis. high water and no visibility
	17-Dec-15	0	0	0	14.9	16.0	16.5	15.9	3 ft. vis. poor visibility
Marker 85***	16-Nov-15	25	0	0	12.2	12.3	12.4	12.0	4 ft. vis.
	23-Nov-15	65	0	0	12.2	12.4	12.5	13.2	6 ft. vis.
	3-Dec-15	NA	NA	NA	11.6	11.7	11.8	11.7	5 ft. vis. unable to complete survey due to weather
	7-Dec-15	1	0	0	12.5	12.8	13.2	14.4	1.5 ft. vis.

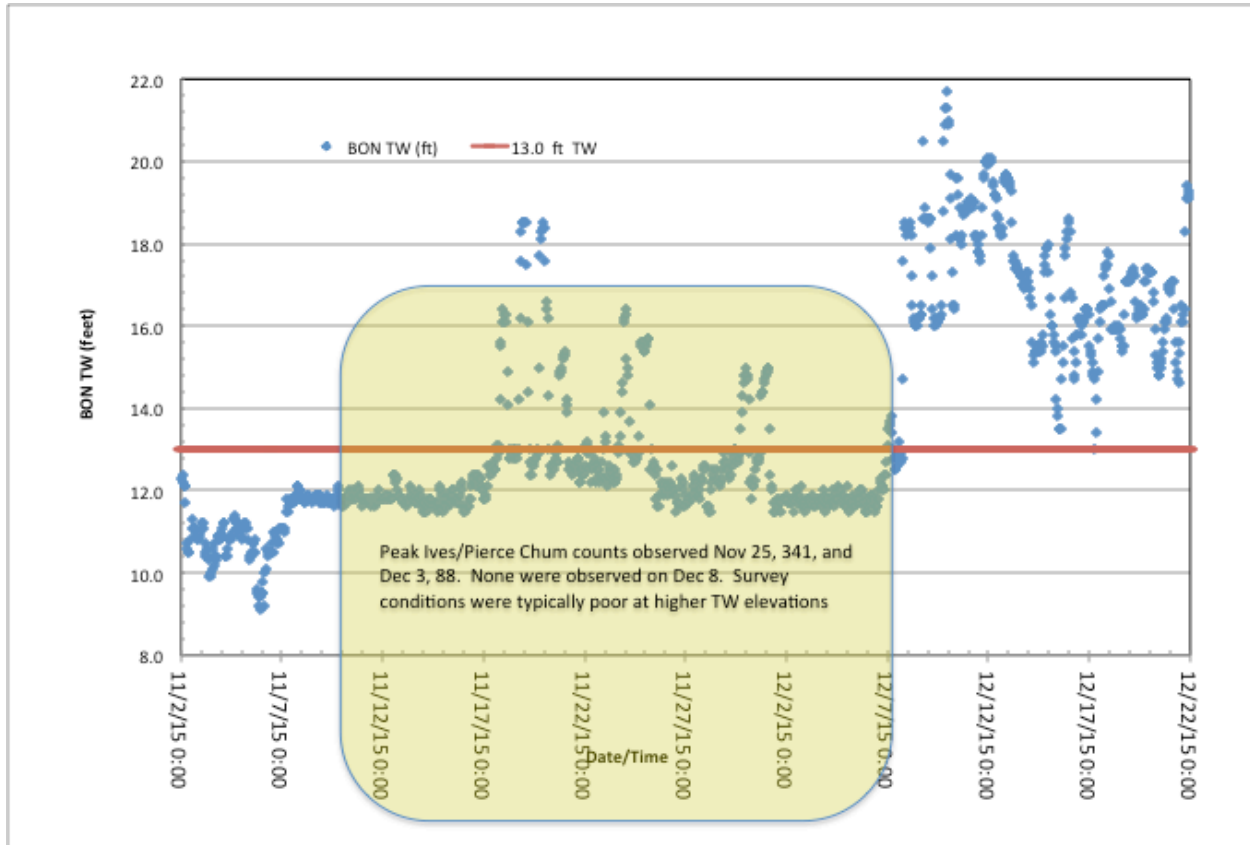
\*Dead are newly sampled fish only

\*\*Redds are an instantaneous count for the day, not cumulative.

\*\*\*Sporadic spawning.... 1st time area was checked this year.

- Peak counts at Multnomah and Horsetail Falls, St. Cloud, and Rivershore were recorded between Nov. 15 and 27. Counts at Woods landing showed two peaks, one of 187 live chum on Nov. 12, followed by a second peak of 400 on Nov. 27, with only 151 counted a week later on Dec 2.

- Concerns were expressed that some chum may have spawned at higher tailwaters and that is certainly possible (Figure 1). Charlie shared that from his discussions with Todd, that WDFW staff did not observe chum along shallow margins and/or observe redds above the wetted shoreline in later surveys, and that WDFW is comfortable with a 12.5-foot tailwater elevation and no further re-wetting as BPA has been doing the past two weeks. Given that only three redds were observed in the Ives Island complex and conditions likely precluded observation of all redds, not all managers are entirely comfortable with the 12.5 elevation.



**Figure 1. Bonneville tailwater elevations and chum spawning time period based on this season's counts.**

- Very clearly a desire for more information with the desire to do what we can to provide adequate tailwater elevations for all chum that spawned below Bonneville. Also a discussion about the observed changes in areas utilized by chum, the responsibilities under the BiOp to provide flows for chum and in the spawning areas addressed by the BiOp.
- Discussion of current weather outlook (drier and warmer) and information shared by Tony in an FYI e-mail to Paul and Charlie yesterday in which Tony noted:
  - The operation is currently requiring ~150 kcfs (forecasting ~1' per day draft from GCL in January).
    - The pulse requires ~10 kcfs per day to support (i.e., a 12.5 would require ~140 kcfs), and

- Reducing the protection level to “no pulse” and a tailwater of 12.2 feet would require ~135 kcfs. This would reduce the forecasted draft to ~.5’ per day from GCL in January.
- **Group concurrence:** Given the information available and the concerns with forecasted flows and refilling Grand Coulee, that moving forward with a target 12.5 with a minimum of 12.2 and no re-wetting going on was acceptable.

### ***Transport COP***

- Final or not Final... The COE provided the first draft in Dec. 2013, a second in Dec. 2014 and the latest in Dec. 2015.
- Russ has just started to review and shared some concerns about the report. For example, this COP contains a Snake River Sockeye transport effectiveness analysis that inappropriately uses results from Oxbow Hatchery smolts. When this evaluation was developed, it was agreed (including the COE representatives) that the transport effectiveness analysis would be conducted only on the Sawtooth Hatchery smolts because their size is closer to that of wild/natural smolts, and past results indicating that transportation is more effective for larger smolts. The Oxbow Sockeye were only to be used to compare overall SARs between the two hatchery release groups. In prior comments, discussions, and written comments, IDFG made it clear to the COE that the larger Oxbow Sockeye were not to be included in any transport assessment. However the COE never replied directly to the comments and included the Oxbow releases.
- Russ also noted that the report, in mentioning improvements in survival, only noted structural improvements at the projects and did not include spill benefits.
- Paul noted that he had submitted a number of comments as well, including notes that many of the tables were not current with the available data and many needed clarification.
- NOAA has not signed off on the COP as final. **Paul will advise the COE in writing that NOAA and the other Agencies do not consider the report final.**
- Both Russ and Paul expressed concern and opposition to separation by size in the update and remodeling of the LGR bypass and JFF... increased handling impacts, debris management and impacts ...
- We also discussed as a possibility a Joint Technical Staff Memo addressing the COP report. Russ will check to see if he has support for this (Tom not present and tribes may be interested as well). This would enable other Agencies to support concerns of those most directly involved/impacted.

### ***Sort by Code***

- CSS request submitted. Agenda item deferred until next FPAC.

### ***Quick summary of Wednesday TMT Conference Call***

- New minimum 12.2: likely not able to achieve levels of 12.3 or 12.4 until later this week.
- Mary Mellema to update water supply forecasts next week. If conditions continue to deteriorate, may have to consider even lower tailwater elevations at Bonneville.

***Coordination***

- TMT Conference Call next Wednesday, January 13, at 9:00 AM.
- FPAC conference call on Tuesday, January 12, at 9:00 AM.
- The next FPAC face-to-face meeting will be on January 19, at 9:00 AM.

These minutes have been reviewed and approved by the Fish Passage Advisory Committee.