



FISH PASSAGE CENTER

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MEMORANDUM

To: Fish Passage Advisory Committee (FPAC)
From: FPC Staff
Date: July 11, 2017
Subject: Action Notes from July 11, 2017, FPAC meeting

On July 11, 2017, FPAC met via conference call for its weekly meeting. The following people participated in the meeting:

Paul Wagner (FPAC Co-Chair NOAA)
Tom Lorz (FPAC Co-Chair CRITFC)
Alex Saint (FPC)
Brandon Chockley (FPC)
Charlie Morrill (WDFW)
Dave Benner (FPC)
Dave Swank (USFWS)

Erin Cooper (FPC)
Jay Hesse (Nez Perce Tribe)
Jennifer Graham (Warm Springs Tribe)
Kyle Dittmer (CRITFC)
Michele DeHart (FPC)
Sheri Sears (Colville Tribe)

AGENDA ITEMS

Approval of Notes

- FPAC notes from June 27 were approved with the following changes: The notes read on page 3 that Paul Wagner (NOAA) stated that because it is only two days towards the end of the migration season, it [swapping 30% and 40% spill treatments at JDA during period of June 28 through July 2] is probably not a substantial detriment to fish passage. Paul Wagner (NOAA) stated instead that the operation would likely be neutral or beneficial because the peak in fall chinook passage has not likely occurred just yet and the timing

of the 40% spill will match the juvenile peak passage. This change has been added to the notes.

- FPAC Notes from June 20 were approved without changes.

Water Supply/Flood Control

- Dave Benner (FPC) provided a summary of the current reservoir operations and water supply forecasts, snowpack estimates, and ESP runoff volumes. See the attached document.
- Jay Hesse (Nez Perce Tribe) pointed out that, unlike other areas, inflows on the Clearwater River are below average and temperatures in upper Clearwater are in mid-70s.. Salmon River flows are above average, temperatures fairly warm as well but not sure if warm enough to be a concern for sockeye.

Weather

- Kyle Dittmer (CRITFC) provided a summary of weather conditions and water year status. See attached.

Juvenile Fish Passage Status

- For passage indices on July 11, 2017, please see the attached document. For updated indices, use the FPC website.

Adult Fish Passage Status

- For adult counts on July 11, 2017, please see the attached document. For updated counts, use the FPC website.

Spill Update

- For spill and TDG from July 4 to July 10, please see the attached document. For updated information, please use the FPC website.

Dworshak Operations

- Jay Hesse (Nez Perce Tribe) stated that he left yesterday's TMT call under the impression that COE would increase flows by more than 500 cfs but not exceed TDG of 121%, but operations seem to reflect that they are not even meeting 120%. He thought the COE would release more water than they have so far. Charlie Morrill (WDFW) was of the same opinion. Paul Wagner (NOAA) pointed out that it may be too early to tell this, as new operation has not occurred during peak temperatures yet.
- David Swank (USFWS) had a call with the hatchery and reviewed GBT exam results. There have been few signs of GBT in on-station coho. Some concern given that these fish are smaller than those examined in the spring. The long term impact of TDG is still an unknown. TDG at the hatchery is currently 103%. Hatchery personnel will continue with weekly GBT samples on Mondays.

- Dworshak Hatchery is also considering modifying the oxygenation system to reduce TDG. Currently, two banks are used for spring Chinook, A-bank and B-bank. Only A-bank has oxygenation system which is used to reduce TDG levels. The hatchery is considering changing configuration of B-Bank to go to recirculating system, which may help reduce TDG.
- Charlie Morrill (WDFW) asked if feeding activity was monitored, Dave responded that it was. Fish still aggressively feeding and seem normal.
- Jay Hesse (Nez Perce Tribe) reported on in-river GBT sampling ~10 km upstream of Lewiston, ID. TDG levels are 103-105% and no gross signs of GBT were observed last week. The report from this week's sampling not yet available.
- Jay Hesse (Nez Perce Tribe) spoke with Idaho Power re: flow projections and what they will be doing. They are now passing the flow augmentation water from the Upper Snake River (~5 Kcfs/day) over 20 days (go into early August). From now to end of August, average flows will be ~17 Kcfs (12-22 Kcfs range). Idaho Power estimates that decrease of 5 Kcfs flows from Hells Canyon would actually lead to increased temperatures at Lower Granite (less than 1° F), as water from Hells Canyon is currently lower in temperature than flows coming out of Salmon River. If increased flows from Hells Canyon, may be able to decrease temperatures at Lower Granite by 0.3-0.4° F.

Fall Chinook Transport

- Similar to 2016, FPAC resumed discussions on whether transportation from Snake River transportation projects should be terminated or switch to trucking only from LGS and LMN after bypass system at LGR is shut down on August 1st. FPAC submitted an SOR to terminate transportation at all projects after August 1st (SOR #2016-2) but never came to fruition because construction at LGR was postponed. The 2016 SOR relied on NOAA Fall Chinook Report and CSS Report.
- Paul Wagner (NOAA) reported on the updated Fall Chinook Transportation Report, indicating that there is a benefit to transport after July. Brandon Chockley (FPC) pointed out that this conclusion is based on fall Chinook surrogates, which no longer exist. Paul reiterated that these surrogates were supposed to represent wild/natural fall Chinook.
- Michele DeHart (FPC) suggested specifying a later date for a more thorough discussion. Discussion will occur at next week's face-to-face meeting. FPC will distribute NOAA Fall Chinook Transportation, Tiffani Marsh memo on late transportation (Sept. and Oct.), and 2016 CSS Annual Report for FPAC to review for discussion on this topic next week.

Ice Harbor transmission response

- Paul Wagner (NOAA) reported on a 1 hour spill reduction, notice sent out on Friday. NOAA not concerned about 1-hour reduction but does want to continue receiving these types of notices.

Installation of screens at Lower Snake bypass projects in 2018

- Paul Wagner (NOAA) stated the proposal will be presented to FPOM on Thursday. NOAA had a question about whether sampling would be just PIT-tags or would it be

what currently occurs under SMP? If doing a comparison, then do the comparison on the whole program. Jay Hesse (Nez Perce Tribe) clarified that earlier sampling would be consistent with what occurs under the normal juvenile bypass system operations.

- Jay Hesse (Nez Perce Tribe) has received comments from Brandon Chockley (FPC) and Erick Van Dyke (ODFW), and will update the memo to reflect those comments. Jay does not think those comment will change the basic recommendation.
- Brandon Chockley (FPC) made clarifying questions regarding his comments, suggested that if sampling is moved to one month earlier this sampling would occur at same frequency and level as currently occurs in April.
- Michele DeHart (FPC) assured that as long as a decision is made soon, we will meet budget deadlines.
- Jay Hesse (Nez Perce Tribe) will try to have an updated write-up out July 12.

RSW operation at Lower Granite

- Paul Wagner (NOAA) shared that a suggestion to remove the operation was shared yesterday. He expects it to be discussed at tomorrow TMT as well. Removal of RSW at LGR is expected to decrease tailrace temperature by $\sim 1^{\circ}$ F.
- Tom Lorz (CRITFC) expressed concern that if RSW is turned off, forebay temperatures may increase, particularly at the surface which may cause adults to not leave the ladders. COE was supposed to do a model to quantify this effect but FPAC members are as yet unaware of the results from this modeling effort. The “shower” at the ladder exit should help with getting fish out of the ladder. Tom Lorz warned that if you make the forebay too warm the ability to cool ladder with pumps may be impacted, especially since flows from Dworshak cannot be increased..
- Brandon Chockley (FPC) warned that shutting the RSW down would cause any passing juveniles to be routed through the powerhouse (bypass or turbines) or traditional spillbays, all of which have lower survival rates than the RSW. Dave Swank (USFWS) asked if it was reasonable to assume a greater portion of juveniles would route to the powerhouse as opposed to the other existing spillbays. Brandon stated that the RSW was placed in spillbay 1 in order to attract as many juveniles away from the powerhouse as possible. Paul Wagner (NOAA) stated that we do not know what proportions of juveniles are passing via the RSW with surface temperatures of 22° F or other, deeper, routes that are cooler. Erin Cooper (FPC) cautioned against making judgements on fish passage without sufficient data.
- Jay Hesse (Nez Perce Tribe) asked how likely it was to go back to the RSW should it be removed. Paul replied it was entirely possible. Removal of RSW could be a temporary operation.
- Dave Swank (USFWS) and Dave Benner (FPC) did mass balance estimates that indicate that temperature in tailrace should decrease by $\sim 0.6^{\circ}$ F. Dave Benner pointed out that this may be increase as the proportion RSW goes up. As flows decrease, the proportion RSW will go up, which means the temperature decrease may be as much as 1° F.

- Charlie Morrill (WDFW) pointed out that FPAC members should also consider conversion rates for sockeye adults. Is there currently concern with sockeye passage?

Request for new PIT TAG Data Project/PTAGIS Request

- Charlie recently got a request for a new PIT-tag Data Project to evaluate the effectiveness of pound nets as a stock selective fishing tool near Cathlamet, WA. Approving the PIT-tag Data code is not the issue but Charlie thought it would be worth sharing with FPAC, given that the study may have impacts on other studies. Work was conducted last year and researchers are seeking funding for this year. Not sure if other researchers are aware that work was conducted last year. WDFW is aware of study but is not involved.
- Michele DeHart (FPC) confirmed with Charlie that this was done was last year. Stated that the FPC would like to know if any CSS tags (especially B-Run steelhead) were handled in any way as a result of the efforts in 2016. Charlie will try to get this information for FPC.

LGR Trap

- Tom Lorz (CRITFC) reported that due to dead and dying shad there will be some changes to operations on the adult trap at LGR, the most extreme change being a full dewatering/rewatering every day until shad numbers drop.

Coordination

- FPOM - Thursday, July 13
- TMT tomorrow Wednesday, June 12.
- The next FPAC is a face-to-face meeting on July 18, 2017, at 10:00 AM.

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