

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM
January 3, 2018
DRAFT Facilitator's Summary
Facilitator & Notes: Emily Stranz and Nancy Pionk, 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. Official minutes can be found on the TMT website: <http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/agendas/2017/>

Chum Operations

Doug Baus, Corps, updated the TMT on the NWRFC water supply and climate forecasts. He noted the April to August water supply forecast for The Dalles with 5-day QPF is 100% of average (88maf). The water year (October 1, 2017, through January 1, 2018) precipitation for the Columbia and Snake Rivers was near normal: 91% of normal for the Snake River Basin above Ice Harbor Dam and 96% of normal for the Columbia River Basin above The Dalles.

The climate forecasts for the Pacific Northwest predict near normal temperature and near normal to above average precipitation for the 6-10 day outlook and above average temperature and near normal to above average precipitation the 8-14 day outlook. Current hourly tailwater at Bonneville Dam is 15.7ft with 185.8 kcfs outflow.

Doug also updated the TMT on a sunken vessel downstream of the Bonneville Dam. The vessel is a 45-foot recreational tug which sank after suffering an engine fire on October 31, 2017. The vessel is in the navigational channel near the Oregon shore in close proximity to Ives Island. At this point, the Action Agencies are continuing to operate in accordance with the current chum operation to maintain a minimum Bonneville tailwater of 11.8 ft. at all hours. If a request to modify the operation is received, the request will be coordinated with TMT. No request has been made at this time.

A question was raised as to whether there might be a request to drop the tailwater elevation to salvage the vessel. The details of the salvage operation are not currently known and are difficult to predict as the Corps is not the responsible party and there is a diversity of facets involved in any salvage operation. It was suggested that the Corps could provide the Coast Guard with information on the chum operation and suggest a window for possible operation changes with the least impact to chum. Paul Wagner, NMFS, noted that the chum are doing fine at this time and that as they begin to emerge into fry, the impact of dewatering redds increases. The Corps will continue to keep TMT apprised of this situation. This topic will be added to the next TMT meeting agenda.

The next scheduled TMT meeting will be a Face-to Face meeting on Wednesday, January 17, 2018.

**Columbia River Regional Forum
TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM OFFICIAL MINUTES**

January 3, 2018
Minutes: Pat Vivian

1. Introduction

Representatives of Washington, Montana, Oregon, the Nez Perce Tribe, BOR, BPA, NOAA, the COE, USFWS, CRITFC/Umatilla, Idaho and others participated in today's TMT conference call chaired by Doug Baus, COE, and facilitated by Emily Stranz, DS Consulting.

2. Chum Operation

Baus and Paul Wagner, NOAA, gave an update on the chum incubation operation at Bonneville Dam, which calls for a minimum tailwater elevation of 11.8 ft during all hours.

2a. Bonneville Dam Current Hourly Data. Total project outflow is 185.8 kcfs. The current tailwater elevation is 15.7 ft.

2b. NWRFC Current Water Supply Forecast at The Dalles. The current water supply forecast for April-August at The Dalles is 88 maf, which is 100% of average.

2c. NWRFC Water Year Summary Tables. Water year (October 1, 2017, to January 1, 2018) precipitation is near normal on both the Columbia and Snake rivers. The Snake basin above Ice Harbor is at 91% of normal with 6.3 inches of observed rainfall (normal is 7 inches). The Columbia basin above The Dalles is at 96% of normal with 8.6 inches of observed rainfall (normal is 9.1 inches).

2d. NWRFC Climate Forecast. The 6-10 day temperature and precipitation outlook indicates a probability of near-normal temperatures and normal to above average precipitation. The 8-14 day outlook shows a similar likelihood of above average temperatures and normal to above average precipitation.

2e. U.S. Coast Guard News Release. On October 31, 2017, the engine of a 45 ft recreational tugboat caught fire and the vessel sank downstream of BON. The sunken boat is now lodged in the navigation channel near Ives Island just off the Oregon shore. A news release issued by the Coast Guard, linked to today's agenda, provides more details.

Baus reminded the TMT that the COE is currently operating BON in accordance with the provisions for chum incubation previously coordinated at TMT. If the COE receives an operational request for removal of the sunken boat that could affect chum, it will be coordinated with TMT. At present, the COE has no information because removal is up to the Coast Guard and the responsible party, and they have yet to make any requests.

Russ Kiefer, Idaho, wondered whether a drop in tailwater elevation will be requested that could expose chum eggs buried in gravel. Tom Lorz, CRITFC/Umatilla, suggested the COE contact the Coast Guard and provide detail of the chum operation, specifically windows of opportunity when action might be taken with the least risk of adverse effects.

The main issue is accumulation of temperature units, Wagner said, because once the eggs hatch into fry, they are more sensitive to changes in water level. Typically, eggs hatch when the accumulated temperature units reach 500, so the sooner action is taken the better as far as chum are concerned.

TMT will address this issue in more detail at its next meeting January 17 (or sooner if necessary). Norris will provide details on redd depths gleaned in BPA's GPS survey.

3. Next TMT Meeting

TMT will meet next in person on January 17.

Name	Affiliation
Charles Morrill	Washington
Jim Litchfield	Montana
Erick Van Dyke	Oregon
Jay Hesse	Nez Perce
John Roache	BOR
Scott Bettin	BPA
Tony Norris	BPA
Paul Wagner	NOAA
Doug Baus	COE
Julie Ammann	COE
Lisa Wright	COE
Dave Swank	USFWS
Alfredo Rodriguez	COE Walla Walla
Peter Cooper	BOR
Dan Turner	COE
Ruth Burris	PGE
Tom Lorz	CRITFC/Umatilla
Russ Kiefer	Idaho
Tammy Mackey	COE