

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

June 1, 2018

Facilitator's Summary

Facilitator: Donna Silverberg; Notes: Emily Stranz, 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/2018/>

Adult PIT-Tag Monitoring Tools

Paul Wagner, NOAA, presented analyses performed over the past week using the FPC and the DART adult PIT-tag monitoring tools. Supporting documents are available on the TMT website. For the past two days the FPC Daily Adult Passage Report notes an upward trend at Little Goose and Lower Monumental Dams. Paul reported that, as of the start of the May 30th through June 1 operation at Little Goose (reduction of spill to 30% in order encourage adult passage at the project), an increase in adult spring Chinook passage was observed. As far as hours of peak entry and passage timing, there is some discrepancy between the counts and DART; according to DART, the majority of the PIT-tagged fish were detected entering the ladder between 8:00-10:00am, whereas hourly counts show peak passage later in the day. Regardless, the fish are moving past the project, with 2,692 on the first day (May 30th) and 2,892 yesterday (May 31st).

Paul shared the Salmon Managers' consensus recommendation to continue the 30% spill operation at Little Goose for an additional day, through June 2nd, at which point the river is forecasted to drop down to 130 kcfs. Salmon Managers expect that, at 130 kcfs, naturally declining in-river conditions will reduce high levels of involuntary spill that should support continued passage. Paul noted that they will expect to see the migration passage trend decrease as time goes on. He also clarified that, if there is a significant decrease in adults passing before expected, there may be a need to revisit the operation. When questioned as to whether they should continue the operation through the weekend to ensure adult passage success, Salmon Managers pointed to the balance between helping alleviate adult delay, while still facilitating juvenile downstream passage. Dave Swank, USFWS, shared that from his agency's perspective, there are emergency adult delay situations, (for example the 2015 sockeye delay); however, because they do not see that the current spring Chinook delay as an emergency, they want to err on the side of caution and provide equal benefit for adults and juveniles.

Doug Baus, Corps, reported that the COE will implement TMT's recommendation and continue the 30% spill operation at Little Goose on June 2nd from 0400 to 1200 hours, then increase spill to pass inflow from 1200 to 1600, then increase spill as necessary to draft back to MOP from 1600 to 0400. The operation is scheduled to end on Saturday, June 2.

- **ACTION: The COE will continue the above stated Little Goose operation through Saturday, June 2nd.**

The Dalles Boat Incident

Aaron Marshall, Corps, reported on a boat engine failure in The Dalles Dam spillway forebay on May 31st. Taking human health and safety emergency actions, the project closed all spillbays for 15 minutes while they towed the boat to safety. Spillbays 3 and 4 remained closed for an additional 25 minutes after the boat was removed in order to inspect for damage; no damage was reported. During this time, forebay elevation increased by 1.4ft, which was 0.1 feet above the maximum operating range. The project increased flow through the generators above 1% in order prevent from filling even further. After the spillway returned to service, spill was increased to get the forebay back within the normal operating range. The project was back to normal operations within one hour.

The next TMT meeting is a conference call Wednesday, June 6, at 9:00am.

Columbia River Regional Forum

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM OFFICIAL MINUTES

June 1, 2018

Minutes: Melissa Haskin, FLUX Resources

1. Introduction

Representatives of BPA, Corps, BOR, Washington, USFWS, CRITFC/Umatilla, Nez Perce Tribe, Oregon and others participated in today's TMT meeting chaired by Doug Baus, Corps, and facilitated by Donna Silverberg, DS Consulting.

2. Adult Pit-Tag Monitoring Tools– Paul Wagner, NOAA

At the May 30, 2018 meeting, TMT coordinated an operation to reduce high levels of involuntary spill at Little Goose to 30% from 4am to noon for three days (May 31–June 1) in an effort to improve adult fish passage. According to monitoring tools from DART and FPC discussed at the May 30 meeting, fish were moving slower than expected, particularly at Little Goose where the tools indicated fish were being delayed. Today's TMT meeting mainly centered on whether or not to continue the operation to improve fish passage.

Paul Wagner, NOAA, noted that passage at Little Goose, Ice Harbor and Lower Monumental had "nosed up," indicating that the operation was working.

Hourly passage: The DART figure of ladder entry hour of PIT-tagged fish showed 50% of entry detections occurred by 8am on May 31, which was different than the hourly visual counts that didn't peak until later in the day. This may be due to the timing of visual counts that begin at 0500 hours.

Counts: The most current fish count data available at the time of the meeting indicated there was still a differential between Lower Monumental and Little Goose of approximately 6,000 adult spring Chinook. Wagner estimated that the differential was approximately 3,000 less than before the operation began. Jay Hesse, Nez Perce, estimated the actual differential was likely much less, in the neighborhood of 2,500.

Hourly data: Flow and spill are trending down.

Spill on May 31 ranged from 38.0 to 79.3 kcfs (29.5%-46.7%), and the 24-hour average was 54.6 kcfs (37.3%)

By June 3rd, spill is expected to drop to the 30% range and will not need additional management effort (unless it goes above 30% again and a delay is observed).

Discussion on whether to continue holding spill at 30%

TMT discussed whether or not to continue holding spill at 30% for one extra day (June 2).

Doug Baus, Corps, expressed confusion as to why TMT would only consider extending a working operation by a day. If it worked, he said, he was not sure why TMT would want to end the operation on June 2. If we extended the 30% operation longer (e.g. through June 4) we would be able to gather more data as well as helping fish keep their momentum. Baus thought the operation discussion would be about going through Monday (June 4) and said it would make sense to hold operations through Monday (June 4) to get the additional data and then coordinate future operations.

Wagner replied to Baus saying that the inflow forecast suggests that flows are dropping to the point where the spill percent will naturally be lower starting on June 3.

Dan Turner reported the current spill cap is 26 kcfs at Little Goose.

Action → TMT supported extending the 30% spill operation by 1 day, through June 2, 2018. The Action Agencies will implement the operation as requested.

3. Dalles Dam boat incident – Aaron Marshall

Aaron Marshall, Corps, reported on an incident at The Dalles Dam. On May 31 at 3:45 p.m, a boat with two passengers experienced engine failure and drifted into The Dalles forebay above spill bays 3 and 4. Operators at TDA enacted emergency procedures and closed all spill bays until the boat could be removed. The boat was removed within 15 minutes and all spill bays except 3 and 4 were opened. Spill bays 3 and 4 remained closed for inspection for an additional 25 minutes and were then returned to service as no damage was found. The Dalles resumed normal operations within an hour of the incident.

During the incident the forebay increased 1.4 feet to an elevation of 160.1 ft., or about 1/10 of a foot above the normal maximum operating range. To prevent greater forebay exceedances during the incident, flow to generators was increased and turbines operated above the upper limit of 1% for a brief period.

Hourly data:

1600: Hourly average spill decreased to 176.8 kcfs (above gas cap of 90 kcfs).

4. Next TMT Meeting

The next TMT meeting is Wednesday, June 6 and is a conference call.

Today's Attendees:

Name	Affiliation
Doug Baus	Corps
Lisa Wright	Corps
Scott Bettin	BPA
Tony Norris	BPA
Julie Ammann	Corps
Tom Lorz	Umatilla (CRITFC)
Charles Morrill	WA
David Swank	USFWS
Erick Van Dyke	OR
Dan Turner	Corps
Melissa Haskin	Flux Resources
Donna Silverberg	DS Consulting
Aaron Marshall	Corps
Dave Benner	Fish Passage Center
Paul Wagner	NOAA
Jay Hesse	Nez Perce
Logan Osgood-Zimmerman	Corps
Emily Stranz	DS Consulting
Jen Graham	Warm Springs
Ann Setter	Corps
Eric Chow	Corps