

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

November 7, 2018

DRAFT Facilitator's Summary

Facilitator & 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/>

Chum Operation

Doug Baus, Corps, updated the TMT on the chum operation which started on November 2. Bonneville Dam project tailwater elevations have been between 11.5-13.0ft, as coordinated with TMT at the October 29th meeting. Outflows are forecast to be around 121-134kcfs for the next 10-day period. Climate forecasts show higher than average to normal temperatures over the next 6-10 days, with lower than average *precipitation* in the same timeframe. Looking further out, the 8-14 day forecast calls for above average temperatures and below average precipitation; the 30 day outlook is for above average temperature and above average precipitation.

Paul Wagner, NOAA, reported that on Oct 22, 60 chum were observed and on Oct 25, 137. These chum were reported to be both green and ripe, however, no redds were sighted. Scott Bettin, BPA, reported recent survey data (not yet posted) that showed 93 chum on Nov 1 and 40 on Nov 5; additionally, there were 1,300 Chinook estimated in the Hamilton Creek area. A total of 14 chum have passed Bonneville. *Charlie Morrill, WDFW, noted he joined WDFW staff on the survey on Oct 29th and none of the chum observed in prior surveys were found and none were observed. Four sea lions were observed closer to the islands than mid channel between Ives/Pierce and the South Shore Bank.*

The group discussed the railroad bridge construction and pile driving that is happening near Hamilton Creek, noting that it would be helpful if Charlie could consult internally for more information on when the pile driving will be complete. Those who visited the creek observed that the pile driving is disruptive to the chum and is causing increased sedimentation on the spawning grounds.

Additionally, the Corps provided an update on removal of the sunken tugboat off of Ives Island, noting that contractors were not able to remove the boat this year and will plan for removal next year. Salmon Managers asked that the boat *be* removed prior to chum spawning season.

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, the November 21st TMT meeting will be a conference call. The Facilitation Team will work with TMT to find a good time for the November Process meeting.

This summary is respectfully submitted by the DS Consulting Facilitation Team. Suggested edits are welcome and can be sent to Colby at colby@dsconsult.co.

Columbia River Regional Forum

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM OFFICIAL MINUTES

November 7, 2018

Minutes: Melissa Haskin, FLUX Resources

1. Introduction

Representatives of NOAA, Corps, WA, MT, ID, BPA, Colville Tribe, and others participated in today's TMT meeting chaired by Doug Baus, Corps, and facilitated by Emily Stranz, DS Consulting. See the end of these minutes for a list of attendees.

2. Chum Operation

Doug Baus, Corps, Paul Wagner, NOAA, and Scott Bettin, BPA, updated TMT on chum operations that began on Friday, November 2. The Corps is operating Bonneville Dam outflows to provide a tailwater elevation in the range of 11.5 ft to 13 ft during all hours. A full explanation of the operation is available on today's agenda.

As of 0700 this morning, Bonneville Dam outflow was 131 kcfs and the tailwater elevation was 11.9 ft.

Inflow forecasts predict steady conditions for the chum operation with inflows at Bonneville expected to be 121 kcfs to 134 kcfs over the next 10 days.

The NWRFC 6-10-day weather forecast shows above average to normal temperatures for the Columbia Basin, above average temperatures west of the Cascades, and normal temperatures east of the Cascades. The 8-14 day forecast shows above average temperatures and below average precipitation. The 30-day forecast calls for above average temperatures but a probability of higher than average precipitation in Washington, northern Idaho and Montana.

Paul Wagner, NOAA, reported that 60 chum were observed on October 22 and 137 on October 25. Since then, there has been one survey where zero chum were observed.

Charles Morrill, WA, reported that the counts from October 22 and 25, were "green" and "white" fish in areas where they normally don't spawn. Those fish have not been observed since and it's uncertain where they went or if they spawned. He hopes the situation gets better but noted the water outlook is not fantastic.

Scott Bettin, BPA, said that 93 chum were observed in the Hamilton area on November 1, and 50 on November 6. The extra water for the chum operation has fall Chinook spawning in the area as well, with 1,500 observed.

Bettin inquired about work on the railroad bridge near the spawning channel where he and others observed pile driving recently. Charles Morrill, WA, said he will look into it.

Also of note was the operation to salvage the sunken Tug Diane that sank last fall downstream of Bonneville Dam in the federal navigation channel. Recently, the Corps hired a contractor to remove the vessel; however the removal attempt was unsuccessful. The Corps is required to maintain safe navigation so it will look into removing it in the future, most likely prior to the 2019 chum operation.

6. Next TMT

The next TMT meeting is conference call on November 21, 2018 at 9 a.m. It was originally planned as an in-person meeting at Corps headquarters but is now a conference call.

Today's Attendees:

TMT Members:

Agency	TMT Representative
Army Corps of Engineers	Doug Baus (Chair), Lisa Wright
Bonneville Power Administration	Scott Bettin
Bureau of Reclamation	Joel Fenolio
NOAA Fisheries	Paul Wagner
US Fish & Wildlife Service	N/A
Washington	Charles Morrill
Oregon	N/A
Idaho	Russ Kiefer
Montana	Jim Litchfield
Nez Perce Tribe	N/A
Umatilla Tribe	N/A
Colville Tribe	Sheri Sears
Warm Springs Tribe	Jen Graham
Kootenai Tribe	N/A
Spokane Tribe	N/A

Other Attendees (non-TMT members):

DS Consulting: Emily Stranz (facilitator)
Flux Resources: Melissa Haskin (notetaker)
Clearing Up: K.C. Mehaffey
Columbia Basin Bulletin – Mike O'Bryant