

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

July 20, 2022

Facilitator's Summary

Facilitation Team: Emily Stranz & Colby Mills, 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; it is not intended to be the "record" of the meeting. Official minutes can be found on the TMT website: <http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/agendas/2022/>. Suggested edits for the summary are welcome and can be sent to Colby at colby@dsconsult.co.

Review Meeting Summaries & Minutes – Official meeting minutes for the June 10, 15, 22, 29, and July 13 meetings, as well as the facilitator's summaries for June 29 and July 13, will be reviewed at the August 3 TMT meeting.

Treaty Fishing – Aaron Marshall, Corps, reported on an extension request for summer season treaty fishing, as described in SOR 2022-C1 (posted to the TMT website). The request is for July 18-21 and July 25-28, from 0600 hours to 1800 hours at Bonneville, The Dalles, and John Day. Action Agencies are implementing the SOR extension as requested. Tom Lorz, (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation/CRITFC) noted that the extension request is due to catch numbers being under the harvestable amounts.

Summer Juvenile Transport – Scott St. John, Corps, reported on the Corps' Walla Walla District summer juvenile transport plan for lower Snake River projects, as stated in the 2022 Fish Passage Plan (FPP) and Fish Operations Plan (FOP). Per the FPP and FOP, the current plan is to begin collecting fish for truck transport on August 1, with trucks departing on August 3 from Lower Granite, Little Goose, and Lower Monumental dams, to the release point at Bonneville. The FPP Appendix B states that collection for transport from Lower Monumental will stop when the daily collection is less than 50 fish for 3 consecutive days.

Jonathan Ebel, IDFG and FPAC Chair, relayed a recommendation from FPAC to not transport from Lower Monumental this summer given the results from the consensus study (as conducted in 2020). In response to inquiry, Kelsey Swieca, NOAA, confirmed that NOAA supports the recommendation to not collect and transport fish from Lower Monumental this summer (it was noted, for the record, that NOAA is a member of FPAC). Jonathan suggested revisiting the Lower Monumental transport plan for future years during FPP change form conversations.

- **ACTION:** The Action Agencies will discuss FPAC's recommendation internally and report back to TMT at the July 27 meeting.

Dworshak Dam Operations – Jon Roberts, Corps, updated the TMT on operations at Dworshak Dam. The project is discharging at full powerhouse capacity. Discharge ended up being lower than last week's estimates, and the project was able to come down faster based on modeling and analysis to conserve as much water as possible. Elevation remains in the top 10 feet of the pool (will cross over in the next day or so) as the project continues to draft.

Temperatures at Anatone and Orofino are slightly above 68 degrees F (due to ambient heat this week), Jon anticipates those temperatures to cool down slightly Friday and Saturday, and rise again. The Lower Granite tailwater has drifted to 67 degrees F, and is expected to stay in 67-67.5-degree F range over the next few days. Stratification in the Lower Granite forebay is setting up between the 10-20-meter mark, which is ideal for this time of year. Currently, the 15-meter mark is fluctuating as incoming water mixes

in the pool, as is typical in the summer. Temperatures at the top of the pool will fluctuate throughout the day based on ambient air temperature and solar radiation; changes in flow through different outlets also contribute to fluctuating temperatures.

Regarding Lower Granite fish ladder temperatures: 4 of the 8 gauges are offline. Due to temporary Water Quality staffing shortages, Jon anticipates these likely won't be repaired until the first week of August, but should be available for Doble testing in August and the start of broodstock collection at the end of the month.

Jon reported heat is forecasted in the region today and tomorrow, and a significant heat wave next Monday that is expected to extend through Friday. Additionally, warm temperatures are forecasted at Lewiston, possibly reaching 104 degrees F by the middle of next week.

Jon and his team modeled three scenarios for operations during the extended heatwave:

1. Running just the powerhouse: temperatures would reach and not fall back below 68 degrees F;
2. Ramping up slowly over the weekend by 1,000 cfs/day: temperatures would reach 68 degrees F;
3. Ramping up faster, but still close to 1,000 cfs/day.

Scenario 3 reflects the current operation moving forward, based on concerns that the incoming heat wave could intensify or become more widespread, leading to Lower Granite forebay temperatures getting too high and needing too much water to recover. Jon reminded the TMT that water takes 3 days to reach the forebay once sent. Dworshak will send water this evening and tomorrow to arrive in time for the heat wave on Monday. The Corps will adjust and modify operations as needed to minimize additional spill and conserve water as efficiently as possible.

In response to a query, Jon clarified that the Lower Granite temperature modeled and temperature projected reflects how well the model is converging as a projection moving forward.

Adult Sockeye Update – Jonathan provided an update on Snake River adult sockeye passage. He noted that the Lower Granite trap temperature is oscillating between 65-68 degrees F daily. In terms of passage, not much has changed since last week except for conversion rates. As of 0715 (PT) this morning, the PIT-tag expansion abundance estimate increased slightly at Bonneville (2,901), and is closer to normal at Lower Granite (1,638).

Conversion from Bonneville to Lower Granite has increased to the normal range (in recent years) of 0.57. Travel times show that fish are moving slower in the lower Columbia River, and faster in the Snake River, when compared to last year's conditions (likely due to the relationship between water temperature and flow).

Questions or Comments from Members of the Public – There were no questions or comments from members of the public.

The next scheduled TMT meeting is on July 27 at 9:00 AM.

Columbia River Regional Forum
Technical Management Team
OFFICIAL MINUTES
July 20, 2022

Minutes: Andrea Ausmus, BPA (contractor, CorSource Technology Group)

Today's TMT meeting was held via conference call and webinar, chaired by Doug Baus, Corps, and facilitated by Emily Stranz, DS Consulting. A list of today's attendees is available at the end of these minutes.

1. Review Meeting Summaries & Minutes – Minutes for 6/10, 6/15, 6/22. Summary & Minutes for 6/29 and 7/13

- Meeting minutes for 6/10, 6/15, 6/22, and the facilitator summary and minutes for 6/29 have been held until Trevor Conder, NOAA, can have a chance to look them over.
- Additional edits for the summary and minutes for last week (7/13) were held off until next week. Lisa Wright, Corps, explained that the minutes were not posted as they are waiting on the edits of the facilitator summary. Colby Mills, DS Consulting, will get the edited version of the summary to Wright.

Questions and Comments:

None

2. Treaty Fishing – Aaron Marshall, Corps

- The Action Agencies received a request from CRITFC for an extension to the summer season treaty fishery.
- Requested dates of Monday – Thursday (7/18 – 7/21) and Monday – Thursday (7/25 – 7/28) at Bonneville, The Dalles, and John Day.
- Action Agencies are implementing as requested for this week and plan to for next week.

Questions and Comments:

Dave Swank, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, asked why the extension request was made and if it was due to the higher than expected run sizes.

Tom Lorz, Umatilla Tribe/CRITFC, responded that it is due to catch numbers and harvestable amounts. They have not hit their harvestable triggers yet and will continue fishing until they hit it or feel that they may go over.

3. Summer Juvenile Transport - Scott St. John, Corps NWW

Scott St. John, Corps, gave an update on Walla Walla's summer juvenile transport plan. Fish Passage Plan (FPP), Appendix B, section 3.2.1, states that summer transport operation should begin in coordination with TMT.

- Current plan is to begin collection of fish for truck transport on August 1 from Lower Granite, Little Goose, and Lower Monumental. The first trucks will be departing (depending on numbers) on August 3 to the release point at Bonneville.
- St. John mentioned that there are questions about Lower Monumental. According to Fish Passage Plan, Appendix B, 4.6.6, "collection of fish for truck transport will stop when daily collection is less than 50 fish per day for 3 consecutive days."
- Coordination and changes were made to the Fish Passage Plan on January 11, 2018 and no amendments have been made to FPP since then.

Questions and Comments:

Jonathan Ebel, Idaho, told St. John that this was discussed at FPAC yesterday (7/19) and their recommendation is to not transport from Lower Monumental (LoMo) due to the lack of results from the consensus study. This is the same as what was done in 2020.

St. John appreciated the recommendation but stated that he wishes that this coordination occurred during the Fish Passage Plan change timeframe so that project staff did not have to go through preparing for transport to begin on August 1; truck, hotel reservations, and travel orders. However, he understands that the low numbers of fish transported at Lower Monumental is an issue. St. John asked if NOAA also had any input. Kelsey Swieca, NOAA, responded that NOAA is in agreement with FPAC's recommendation.

St. John asked Ebel if this is FPAC's recommendation moving forward or just for 2022.

Ebel said it's for 2022 and that future years should be addressed by revisiting the FPP.

St. John reiterated that the 2022 recommendation from FPAC and NOAA is that there be no summer fish transport from Lower Monumental, and that we will revisit summer transport operations with a Fish Passage Plan change form this summer.

Doug Baus, Corps, understands the FPAC and NOAA recommendations and the Corps can implement the change from the FOP and FPP. More discussions at FPOM through the FPP change process can occur in the future.

St. John agrees but would like to add that the Lower Monumental numbers later in the season warrants having a discussion on a more flexible plan for years that have larger collections or weather conditions that warrant using truck transport.

Scott Bettin, BPA, asked if the decision about 2022 could wait until next week. He suggests the Action Agencies take some time to discuss the recommendations from FPAC and NOAA and report back to TMT on the decision next week (7/27).

St. John and Denise Griffith, Corps Lower Monumental, said that project has completed preparations to start truck transport on August 1 and does not require any more work to get ready. Deciding this week or next to cancel transport from Lower Monumental is fine.

4. Dworshak Dam Operations - Jonathan Roberts, Corps NWW

a. Hourly Project Data

- Dworshak is discharging at full powerhouse capacity. No spill is occurring right now.
- The spill from last week was reduced after modeling showed it wasn't necessary. Based on modeling and analysis, the spill did not have to go up quite as high as modeled last week and was able to come down faster to conserve as much water as possible.
- The reservoir is within the top 10 feet and will draft below that in the next day or so with the higher discharges.

b. Current River Temperatures

- Snake River (Anatone) and Clearwater River (Orofino) are slightly above 68°F right now (7/20). They have bumped higher with the heat earlier in the week. We are anticipating them to cool over Friday and Saturday with rise again.
- Currently the Lower Granite tailwater temperature has drifted up to a little over 67°F. We are expecting it to stay within the 67 – 67.5°F range over the next couple days.

c. Current LWG Forebay Temperature

- The stratification of the forebay is beginning to set up nicely between the 10 and 20 meter mark. Which is ideal for this time of year.
- Currently, the 15-meter mark is fluctuating as different water arrives and mixes within the pool.
- The top of the pool will fluctuate due to ambient air temperature and solar radiation throughout the day, as well as from flow passing through different outlets during the day.

d. Current LWG Fish Ladder Temperatures

- The link to these data was added so that TMT can begin looking at the temperature at different locations in the fish ladder and fish trap.
- Four locations are not currently reporting temperatures: Tailwater Observation Deck, Entrance, Fish Trap, Diffuser. Four of the eight gauges are out of service and they are having problems getting them online. Water quality staff is currently out sick and will be for the next week or so. We are not anticipating service before the end of July. They are looking at it as highest priority to get the gauges back online so that it is ready for brood-stock collection (second week of August) and Doble testing (end of August).

e. 10-Day Regional Weather Forecast

- Heat in region today (7/20) and tomorrow (7/21).

- There is a significant heat wave across the region starting on Monday (7/25) of next week. The heat wave will continue to build and (ideally) peaks on Wednesday. Thursday and Friday continue to be quite warm throughout the rest of the forecast.

f. Weather Forecast for Lewiston, ID

- With the heat wave coming in we are taking a closer look at the local forecast temperatures.
- Local temperatures will also be high with a potential 104°F forecasted for the middle of next week in Lewiston, ID.

g. Dworshak Operation Scenario (posted Wed 7/20 8:45am)

- Different temperature modeling scenarios due to the forecasted heat wave, current river temperatures, and current stratification within the reservoir.
- Scenario 1) Powerhouse only: It shows temperatures approaching and then crossing the 68°F mark. It does not return under the 68°F mark after.
- Scenario 2) 1 kcfs Daily Ramps to 13 kcfs: Ramping up slowly over the weekend with 1 kcfs shows staying right at 68°F.
- Scenario 3) 2 kcfs Daily Ramps to 13 kcfs: Ramping faster; current operation that we are looking at and moving forward with based on forecasting and with concerns that the heatwave may intensify or become more widespread. This concern is for an increase in temperature of the forebay and in turn the amount of water to bring the temperature back down.
- The water takes three days to get to Lower Granite and so we are releasing the water preemptively to have the water there for Monday and the beginning of the heatwave. Having reasonable water supply we are releasing this evening and tomorrow to have the water get there on time.
- We will make adjustments, as well as, look at other operations, as always, to modify and minimize any additional spill, as well as, to conserve water as efficiently as possible.

Questions and Comments:

Ebel appreciates the update and is glad we have the water. He also appreciated the Corps' attention to it.

Swieca asked for a clarification of the Lower Granite temperature modeled and temperature projected.

Roberts explained that the graph shows a range of how well the model is converging as a projection moving forward. If it spreads out more than half a degree the model is not converging well from a numerical statistical perspective. The model works retraining on the last ten days of data. It is an indication to show how well the model is tracking.

5. Adult Sockeye Update - *Jonathan Ebel, IDFG*

As Jonathon Roberts noted, the trap temperature data aren't reporting on the Corps website. Ebel has access to alternative probes to the data and the temperature is oscillating between 65 – 68°F (MAX) daily.

Ebel provided an update of adult Sockeye expansion numbers, travel times, and conversion rates.

a. PIT-Tag Expansion Numbers (8:15 MDT)

- PIT-tag expansion abundance estimate increased a little at Bonneville. Later arriving fish do not typically make it to Stanley Basin at high rates but it did bump up 100.
- Lower Granite PIT-tag expansion is agreeing more closely to normal to window counts.

b. Conversion rates

- Bonneville to Lower Granite has increased to what would be considered normal range of .57.
- Normal does not include 2021, 2015, 2013.

c. Travel Times

- Fish are moving slower in the Columbia River and faster in Snake River. Slower travel in Columbia is probably do to the cooler temperatures.

Questions and Comments:

None

6. Public Comments:

None

7. Set agenda for next meeting - **July 27, 2022**

- Update from Action Agencies regarding juvenile transport
- Adult sockeye update from Jonathan Ebel, ID
- Dworshak update from Jon Roberts, Corps

Today’s Attendees:

Agency	TMT Representative(s)
Army Corps of Engineers	Doug Baus (chair), Lisa Wright, Julie Ammann
Bonneville Power Administration	Tony Norris, Scott Bettin
Bureau of Reclamation	Joel Fenolio
NOAA Fisheries	Kelsey Swieca
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Dave Swank
Washington	Charles Morrill
Oregon	Erick Van Dyke
Idaho	Jonathan Ebel
Montana	Brian Marotz
Nez Perce Tribe	Jay Hesse
Umatilla Tribe/CRITFC	Tom Lorz
Colville Tribe	Kirk Truscott
Warm Springs Tribe	
Kootenai Tribe	
Spokane Tribe	

Other Attendees (non-TMT members):

Corps – Jonathan Roberts, Ashlynn Tate, Scott St. John, Dan Turner, Alexis Mills, Denise Griffith
 DS Consulting – Emily Stranz (Facilitator), Colby Mills
 BPA – Andrea Ausmus (notetaker, Contractor with CorSource Technology Group)
 Clearing Up – K.C. Mehaffey
 Columbia Basin Bulletin – Mike O’Bryant
 Chelan PUD – Jay Fintz, Kate von Reis Baron
 Portland General Electric – Ruth Burris
 Oregon DEQ – Marilyn Fonseca