

**COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM**

August 21, 2024

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: <https://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/agendas/2024/> Suggested edits for the summary are welcome and can be sent to Colby at [colby@dsconsult.co](mailto:colby@dsconsult.co).*

**Review Meeting Summaries & Minutes** – TMT Members approved the official meeting minutes and facilitator's summary from August 14.

**Treaty Fishing SOR** – Kyle Dittmer, CRITFC, presented SOR 2024 C-2 (posted on the TMT website) for the fall season 2024 treaty fishery. The request on behalf of the CRITFC Tribes is to operate Bonneville (BON) and The Dalles (TDA) pools within a 1.5-foot band and the John Day (JDA) pool within a 2-foot band from 0600 hours to 1800 hours August 19-22, August 26-30, and September 2-6.

The forecasted fish run from the Columbia River mouth shows 370,870 adult fall Chinook (near 10-year average), 61,955 coho (below 10-year average), and 122,100 A and B-Index steelhead (below 10-year average) and will create good harvest opportunities for Tribal fishers. CRITFC is sponsoring net flights each week. Data from August 20th show a total of 163 nets: 76 in the BON pool, about 34 at TDA, and 53 at JDA. Kyle noted that more nets will concentrate at BON as the season goes on. Depending on actual dam counts, the Tribes may be looking to fish into October, typically the season is between 4-6 weeks.

Finally, Kyle noted that Tribal fishers are selling to the public through the end of treaty fishing, more details on locations can be found on the CRITFC website.

*Action Agency Implementation:* Aaron Marshall, Corps, reported that the Corps will implement the SOR as requested with the initial 3 week fall treaty season.

**Dworshak Operations** – Willow Walker, Corps, reported on operations at Dworshak Dam (DWR), detailed updates are posted to the TMT website. Local temperatures in Lewiston, ID, last week were generally cool, which was good for river temperatures and stratification in the Lower Granite (LWG) pool. After one warm day the weather dropped back to normal temperatures followed by more cooling.

DWR is currently releasing about 9 kcfs, with a pool elevation of 1,549 feet. Moving forward, flows are anticipated to remain near 9 kcfs. Temperatures at Anatone have been between 72-73 degrees F, around the same at Orofino. The LWG tailwater has been cool, around 66-67 degrees F for the last week, benefitting from cool regional weather. Stratification is good in the LWG forebay, at around 66-67 degrees F at the 15-meter mark. Cloud cover and lower regional temperatures are also helping keep the top of the forebay cool. Willow noted no major changes to the DWR inflow forecast; projections continue to be below average.

Regional 10-day forecasts in the lower Snake and Clearwater areas show no 100-degree F values, with some incoming precipitation that could help boost inflows while keeping things cool with cloud cover. Forecasted temperatures in Lewiston show the coolest weather over the weekend, heading down into the 70s with the precipitation, then returning to the 80s to finish out the month. The beginning of September shows the potential for 90-degree F weather again.

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Temperature modeling results show Anatone and Orofino are expected to trend down with the incoming cool weather.

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

**The next scheduled TMT meeting is on August 28, 2024, at 9:00 AM.**

**Columbia River Regional Forum  
Technical Management Team  
OFFICIAL MINUTES  
Wednesday, August 21, 2024  
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 Summaries and Minutes**

a. Draft Summary & Minutes for August 14

- Summary and Minutes were approved.

**2. Treaty Fishing – Kyle Dittmer, CRITFC**

a. SOR 2024-C2

- Three week opening:
  - Monday, August 19, 2024, 6 am, through Thursday, August 22, 2024, 6 pm
  - Monday, August 26, 2024, 6 am, through Friday, August 30, 2024, 6 pm
  - Monday, September 2, 2024, 6 am, through Friday, September 6, 2024, 6 pm
- Requesting:
  - Bonneville: Operate the pool within a 1.5-foot band during the treaty fishing period.
  - The Dalles: Operate the pool within a 1.5-foot band during the treaty fishing period.
  - John Day: Operate the pool within a 2-foot band during the treaty fishing period.
- Run Size
  - Adult Fall Chinook: ~371k
    - Near 10-year average
  - Coho: ~62k
    - Below 10-year average
  - Steelhead: ~122k
    - Below 10-year average
- CRITFC sponsoring net flights
  - 163 nets
    - 76 in Bonneville pool (47%)

- 34 nets in The Dalles pool (20%)
- 53 nets in John Day pool (33%)
- As the season progresses more of the nets will gravitate towards the Bonneville pool.
- At this time the Tribes are looking to be fishing into September, possibly into October. It depends on what the dam counts will be and how well it aligns with the forecast. Typically, it is a four-to-six-week season.
- The Tribes are asking for minimal bounce and stabilized flow from the Action Agencies.
  - Having stabilized flow within the flow bands is important for anchoring and setting up the fishing nets and to ensure better Treaty fishing.
  - Dittmer said that he has noticed better compliance in the last ten years.
- **Action Agencies will implement as requested with the initial three week Fall Treaty Fishing Season:**
  - Monday, August 19, 2024, 6 am, through Thursday, August 22, 2024, 6 pm
  - Monday, August 26, 2024, 6 am, through Friday, August 30, 2024, 6 pm
  - Monday, September 2, 2024, 6 am, through Friday, September 6, 2024, 6 pm

Bonneville: Operate the pool within a 1.5-foot band during the treaty fishing period.  
The Dalles: Operate the pool within a 1.5-foot band during the treaty fishing period.  
John Day: Operate the pool within a 2-foot band during the treaty fishing period.

Dittmer also noted that all the Tribal Fishers are selling their salmon to the public again. He said that this is the second year in a row after the pandemic. Dittmer pointed to the CRITFC website, [critfc.org](http://critfc.org) and there is a tab about Salmon Sales [[Harvest - CRITFC](#)].

### 3. Dworshak (DWR) Temperature Augmentation Update – Willow Walker, Corps-NWW

#### a. NOAA NWS Climate Data – Lewiston, ID

- There were cooler temperatures last week that helped river temperatures and with the stratification in keeping the top of Lower Granite (LWG) forebay cool.
- There was one very warm day and a few that were just outside the ‘normal’ weather band.

#### b. DWR Current Hourly Data

- Releasing: 9 kcfs
- Elevation: 1549 feet
- Current Operation: Keep flows at 9 kcfs.

#### c. Snake and Clearwater Rivers Temperature Data

- Anatone: 73 – 72°F

- Orofino: 73 – 72°F
- LWG Tailwater: 66 – 67°F
  - Over the last week LWG has been benefiting from cool regional weather.

d. LWG Forebay Temperature String

- Cool water stratification is pushing up to and past the 15m water mark.
- There is no ‘red’ temperature indications at the 0.5m mark.
  - There has been cloud cover and cooler temperatures keeping the top of the forebay cooler.

e. STP Extended DWR Inflow Forecast

- No major changes
- Trending just below average.
- Predictions are looking to continue the trend.

f. 10-Day Regional Weather Forecast (Aug 22 – 31)

- Some 80 – 90°F days but no >100°F forecasted.
- There is some precipitation coming into the region.
  - Will provide a small inflow event which will help things stay cool.
  - The clouds will also help block some of the solar radiation.
- Coolest temperatures are expected to hit over the weekend.

g. Weather Forecast for Lewiston, ID

- Tomorrow will be warm.
- Expected to get down to ~70°F over the weekend with cloud cover and some precipitation.
- Temperatures will increase to the 80s and then the 90s into the beginning of September but there are no 100°F days expected

h. Temperature Model Run Results – updated August 13 @ 8:10am

- Anatone and Orofino are expected to trend down with the cooler weather coming in.
- The Corps is running **9 kcfs** out of DWR, which is less than the powerhouse capacity.
  - This is because with the cooler weather we are not needing as much water to keep the river and LWG tailwater measurement cool.

**4. Set agenda for next meeting – August 28, 2024**

- a. Dworshak Update
- b. Dworshak Board

**Today’s Attendees:**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>TMT Representative(s)</b>
NOAA Fisheries	Trevor Conder
Oregon	Erick Van Dyke
Washington	Charles Morrill
Kootenai Tribe	
Colville Tribe	Dennis Moore
Umatilla Tribe	Tom Lorz (CRITFC)
Yakama Nation	
Bureau of Reclamation	Chris Runyan
Army Corps of Engineers	Doug Baus (Chair), Julie Ammann, Lisa Wright, Aaron Marshall
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Dave Swank
Idaho	Jonathan Ebel
Montana	Brian Marotz
Spokane Tribe	
Nez Perce Tribe	Jay Hesse
Warm Springs Tribe	
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes	Tom McDonald
BPA	Tony Norris, Ben Hausmann

Other Attendees (non-TMT members):

COE – Tiffany Stoeckig-Dixon, Willow Walker, Jessika Solleder Alexis Mills

BPA – Tammy Mackey

CRITFC – Kyle Dittmer

Washington Ecology – Thomas Starkey

DS Consulting – Nancy Pionk (Facilitator), Colby Mills

CorSource – Andrea Ausmus (BPA note taker, Contractor)

Clearing Up – K.C. Mehaffey

NPCC – Kate Self

Avista Utilities – Patrick Maher

Douglas Co. PUD – Andrew Gingerich