

## COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

May 27, 2026

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://public.crohms.org/tmt/agendas/2026/>. 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 summaries from the May 20 meeting; minutes and summaries from May 21, 26, and 27 will be reviewed at the next TMT meeting.

### **FPAC Request for Treaty Flow Augmentation**

Dave Swank, USFWS/FPAC Vice-Chair, reported there has been no request for Treaty flow augmentation proposed from FPAC at this time. The topic will remain a standing agenda item.

### **Lower Monumental Dam Adult Conversion**

Following up on the discussion about Lower Monumental (LMN) adult conversion at the May 26 unscheduled TMT meeting, Doug Baus, Corps, noted that the May 25 [Stipulation Amending the Court's Preliminary Injunction Order](#) had been posted to the TMT website. He reviewed recent spill changes at LMN:

- May 26, spill dropped from 74% to 40% at hour ending 0500, returning to 76% at hour ending 1300.
- May 27, spill was 80% at hour ending 0400, reducing to 38.9% at hour ending 0500 and holding.

*[Facilitator's Note: The Corps clarified after the meeting that the data are reported at "hour ending"; a data point for 0500 is the average for the preceding hour.]*

Some Salmon Managers expressed concerns that the posted notification was not structured like a normal System Operational Request (SOR), noting that from their perspectives, the document was confusing and lacked the usual signatories, justification, and format. It was suggested that future emergency-operation documents be clearly labeled as a notification and followed by a separate SOR. It was also suggested that NOAA consider submitting SORs following the normal process in the future, rather than the Corps submitting an SOR to itself. The Corps clarified that the posted memo was a United States Government (USG) document, not a Corps-specific request.

Kelsey Swieca, NOAA, reviewed the DART adult conversion tool and Fish Passage Center (FPC) passage indicator. The group discussed nine consecutive days of "black dots" for Snake River Chinook at LMN and slower-than-predicted passage in the broader reach. Jay Hesse, NPT, emphasized that the tools indicated slower passage, not necessarily a fish delay emergency; they should trigger closer review, not automatically be treated as an emergency condition. The group reviewed hourly and ladder-count data, with some Salmon Managers noting the one day of 8 hours of reduced spill did not produce a clear passage response as some expected. Also reviewed were juvenile passage indices (including sub-yearling Chinook, which are increasing and expected to rise further due to hatchery releases), flow projections, temperatures, and weather forecasts.

Data/tools posted into the meeting chat:

- [DART Hourly Adult Fishway Counts with River Environment](#)

- [FPC Smolt Daily 2026 Passage Index \(with Average Daily Proportion for Past Years\)](#)

From NOAA’s perspective, there have been seven consecutive days of adult delay, and they consider the delay real even if not a full blockage, and NOAA believes a short-term operational adjustment was justified to address it while balancing juvenile impacts. Adult delay might have implications for survival and reproduction even though the exact threshold is not fully established in the literature. They view the operation as a way to optimize passage conditions for both adults and juveniles and believe a return to the 125% TDG cap spill 24 hours/day on Friday, May 29, could be appropriate.

Several Salmon Managers reiterated that the spill reduction did not appear to clearly improve adult passage and that other factors could be responsible; they again questioned whether the situation should be considered an emergency. CBTYN, NPT, WA, and CTUIR expressed support for ending the reduced spill as soon as possible, or at the latest by Friday, especially with additional sub-yearling passage expected soon. OR opposed the way the operation had been framed as a response to a fish emergency and emphasized that the black dot tool was meant to prompt conversation rather than declare an emergency. From OR’s perspective, the operation is unnecessary and OR prefers an immediate return to the planned FY26 FOP operation.

TMT Members were polled on the AAs’/NOAA’s path forward, reverting to the up-to-125% TDG cap spill 24 hours/day on Friday, May 29 (ending the 3-day reduced spill operation), with some providing rationale for their polling response:

TMT Member	Polling Response	Rationale ( <i>Optional</i> )
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Support	NOAA remains concerned about observed adult delay and the possible survival/reproduction impacts, even though the exact threshold is not fully understood. Based on the information discussed today, NOAA was comfortable reverting to the 125% gas cap spill on Friday, May 29; from their perspective, this operation best optimizes passage for both adults and juveniles.
Oregon	No Objection	OR reiterated that from their perspective, the black dot tool is not meant to signal a fish emergency, but a signal that the TMT needs to be communicating; the operational change was not warranted. OR preferred returning to the planned FOP 2026 operation as soon as possible, or as the group has decided, Friday.
Washington	Support	From WA’s perspective, the black dot method is not the best metric for assessing passage, it does not incorporate enough biological context. WA also reiterated concern about framing this situation as an emergency, while acknowledging that passage appeared slow; more discussion is needed on better thresholds and metrics. They appreciated the group working through this scenario.
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation	Abstain	CTCR had nothing further to add.

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	Support	CTUIR appreciated the discussion, and requested that moving forward, TMT strive for processes with clear SORs and well-defined justification.
Confederated Bands and Tribes of the Yakama Nation	Support	CBTYN thanked TMT for the discussion, emphasizing that it was productive and helpful. From their perspective, the outcome aligns with what may have happened if the COE had followed the 2026 FOP language, and they were appreciative of NOAA’s explanation of its reasoning.
US Bureau of Reclamation	Support	USBOR had nothing further to add.
US Army Corps of Engineers	Support	USACE deferred to NOAA on the decision.
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Support	USFWS views the discussion as a learning opportunity. The reduced-spill period could help the TMT learn more about how spill affects passage at LMN, especially since the effects there are less well understood than at other projects.
Idaho	Support	From ID’s perspective, the situation did not rise to the level of an emergency. They emphasized that TMT should better match the tool to the problem and not rely on a “black-and-white” response reaction and acknowledged that the situation offered a chance to learn more about fish behavior.
Montana	Support	MT typed their rationale into the meeting chat: “This topic is far downstream from my wheelhouse, and I feel my input is far less critical than those offered by my TMT counterparts. The potential that we might be polled, and my basic curiosity, compelled me to read as many associated documents as I could to have some understanding of these issues and prepare a reasonable response. What I learned gave me an appreciation for the confusion expressed by others (an understatement I’m sure). I understand why NOAA was compelled to implement a targeted, albeit experimental cessation of spill to help move adults. The bimodal migration of adults (fast and slow migrants) apparently necessitates a review of metrics used for emergency responses of this type in the future. The fact that there are wild and hatchery smolts in the system at this time, it makes sense that operations revert back to normal spill up to the 125% gas cap. Montana supports the proposed action.”
Nez Perce Tribe	Support	From NPT’s perspective, timely passage of adults is important, deviations from expected passage should trigger close examination, and any action must consider all species and life stages in the context of healthy and abundant fish stocks. They supported continued collaborative monitoring and assessment.

Bonneville Power Administration	No Objection	BPA deferred to NOAA’s assessment of the situation.
<i>The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, The Spokane Tribe of Indians, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes were not present to register a polling response.</i>		

*Action Agency Implementation*

Doug reported the USG would move forward with reverting to the 125% gas cap spill operation 24 hours/day on Friday, May 29. TMT Members discussed improving future process and data/tool interpretation, including a possible future FPAC conversation with DART staff about the adult-delay tool and how emergency triggers should be defined.

**Non-Court Ordered Operations Review**

*Storage Reservoirs:* Chris Runyan, USBOR, reported on Bureau of Reclamation projects:

- **Hungry Horse (HGH):** Inflows increased over the last couple of days, averaging 13.3 kcfs yesterday. Outflows increased from 6.7 kcfs to 10 kcfs to preserve reservoir space ahead of expected higher stream flows this weekend. Midnight elevation was 3,551.6 ft (8.4 ft from full).
- **Grand Coulee (GCL):** Inflow yesterday was 155.4 kcfs, outflow was 119.6 kcfs, and midnight elevation was 1,268.5 ft. The project is expected to continue refilling toward 1,286 ft by July 2 for the July 4 holiday, then top off at 1,289.5 ft for the Lake Roosevelt incremental storage release program.

Catherine Dudgeon, Corps, reported on Corps of Engineers projects:

- **Libby (LIB):** Midnight elevation was 2,403.87 ft, 1-day average inflow was 36.6 kcfs, with current outflow at 25 kcfs. LIB is operating its sturgeon pulse and holding outflow at 25 kcfs.
- **Albeni Falls (ALF):** Midnight elevation at the Hope gauge was 2,059.16 ft, 1-day average inflow was 44.7 kcfs, with current outflow also 44.7 kcfs. ALF is gradually refilling, with outflow split between 34.1 kcfs through powerhouse and 10.6 kcfs through spillway.
- **Dworshak (DWR):** Midnight elevation was 1,591.31 ft, 1-day average inflow was 10.10 kcfs, and current outflow is 1.7 kcfs. DWR plans to hold that minimum outflow through May.

*Fish:* Kelsey reported yearling Chinook passage continues to decline; the run is past its peak. Counts at Lower Granite (LWG) are down to the tens or a couple hundred/day. Steelhead continue to move through the system in relatively low numbers compared with prior weeks and past peak timing. Sockeye passage is rapidly winding down in the Snake River, with very few fish entering LWG and only tens at Little Goose (LGS). Sub-yearling Chinook are now the dominant group in the system; passage is increasing and will likely rise further with upcoming hatchery releases.

At Bonneville (BON), adult Chinook passage is roughly 800/per day. Steelhead passage is about 20-30/per day. Kelsey noted a significant increase in shad passage, about 15,000 on Monday and about 11,000–12,000 Tuesday. In the Snake, about 575 Chinook are passing/day at (IHR).

Dave reported the adult lamprey run at BON has started but is still very early. The season total is 234 daytime window counts, about 28% of the 10-year average and 93% of last year’s pace. He noted 258 total 24-hour LPS counts and 177 nighttime window counts; lamprey seem to be moving mostly at night.

*Power System:* Tony Norris, BPA, had nothing further to report.

**Set Agenda for Next TMT Meeting**

TMT – May 27, 2026

The group requested the following agenda items for June 3, TMT Members may send additional items to Doug Baus or Emily Stranz. A draft agenda will be posted to the TMT website by Monday COB.

1. Potential FPAC Treaty Flow Augmentation Request (*standing agenda topic*)
2. Other

**Questions or Comments from Non-TMT Members**

There were no questions or comments from non-TMT Members.

**The next regularly scheduled TMT meeting will be on June 3 at 9AM PDT.**

**Columbia River Regional Forum  
Technical Management Team  
OFFICIAL MINUTES  
Wednesday, May 27, 2026**

Today's TMT meeting was held via Microsoft Teams and conference call, chaired by Doug Baus, Corps, and facilitated by Emily Stranz, DS Consulting. Minutes were collected by Andrea Ausmus, BPA (contractor, CorSource Technology Group). A list of today's attendees is available at the end of these minutes.

- 1. Review Summary and Minutes – Emily Stranz, DS Consulting**
  - a) May 20 Summary and Minutes
    - Approved
  - b) May 21, May 26 Summary and Minutes
    - Pending
  
- 2. FPAC Request for Treaty Flow Augmentation – Dave Swank, FPAC Vice-Chair; Pete McHugh, CRITFC**
  - No request
  
- 3. Lower Monumental Dam (LMN) – Adult Conversion – Doug Baus, Corps-NWD; Kelsey Swieca, NOAA Fisheries; Tony Norris, BPA**
  - a) Corps Update
    - The Corps has operations data that they could talk more about today.
    - There was a request to talk about it more in additional conversations today about any new information or the plan moving forward.
    - The Corps attached to the agenda the Spill Operational Adjustment and the Hourly Spill %.
  - b) [Hourly Spill %](#)
    - Operations Data Recap (Spill %)

○ May 26 – Hour 4:	74%
○ May 26 – Hour 5:	40%
○ May 26 – Hour 13:	76%
○ May 27 – Hour 4:	80%
○ May 27 – Hour 5:	38.9%
○ Spill remained at 38.9% through the TMT meeting.	
  - c) [Stipulation Amending the Court's Preliminary Injunction Order \(May 25, 2026\)](#)
    - Baus shared that the Corps had attached to the TMT agenda the link to the stipulation described at the May 26 unscheduled TMT meeting.

Jay Hesse, Nez Perce, thanked Baus for the update and getting the stipulated order posted. He said that he thought that would be helpful for the group. He asked Baus if there was any discussion about providing a more normally structured SOR to build off of the notification that was posted yesterday.

Baus said that he thought as far as the current format of the documentation that had been posted, just to highlight that he thought that we all recognize that there is a timeliness to how things have been moving: one, things have been moving quickly; two, there has been a holiday weekend; three, it creates its own unique circumstances where operations are being coordinated through the court. So, combining a lot of those variables, and just commenting on the documentation in the form it is currently, it is what it is. He told Hesse; to be more specific, he did not have an alternative format for what was being posted to today's agenda. He said that what was posted today is the same document that was posted yesterday and he did not have any additional document to replace that with. He said that was what we currently have at this time.

Hesse said that it was his preference and suggestion for the future and maybe it could be applied to today, but he would certainly like it considered for the future if this repeats, is that the notification that was posted yesterday would simply be that notification of a spill operation adjustment and that it not be classified as an SOR request. And that the follow up action to an emergency change in operations be an SOR structured similarly to how SOR's are typically done and that we could act on that relative to the emergency action. He said that was his suggestion for the future. Given that there was not a new document for today, he asked if he should assume that this notification is the Corps' SOR for deliberation.

Baus said yes, that was fair, the format is what it is. He said if that was the preference moving forward, and this is deemed an SOR, we would continue today's conversation as it relates to moving forward to listening to what TMT members have to say, checking in on real-time conditions, and if there was a recommendation to do something different moving forward then we could have that conversation today.

Hesse requested an update on fish movement since yesterday.

Baus said that he wanted to clarify that it was a USG document, it is not just a Corps, just to highlight the process, to be as transparent that it is a USG document.

Hesse said that was really helpful, because a typical SOR has the authorship and signatories to that and so that is not apparent in this one. He thanked Baus for clarifying that.

Tom Iverson, Yakama Nation, said that he was going to suggest it would have made a lot more sense for NOAA Fisheries to submit the SOR, because as Baus pointed out yesterday, it was awkward for the Corps to send an SOR to itself but it certainly would have made a lot more sense for NOAA Fisheries to submit a formal SOR in the traditional structure. He said this was just for thinking about moving forward.

Stranz said that we could spend some more time talking about the process in a process meeting if that was helpful for everyone.

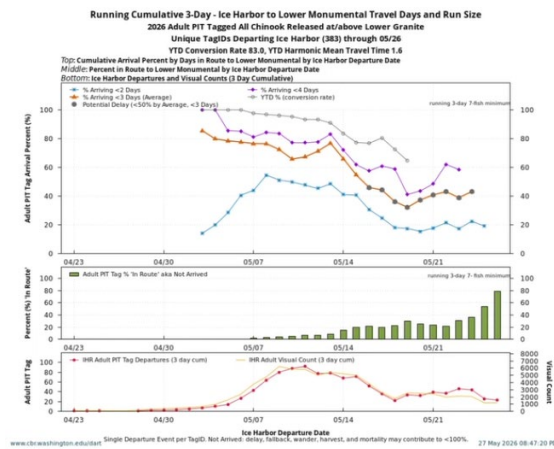
Kelsey Swieca, NOAA, thanked Iverson and Hesse for the feedback. She said that that NOAA heard what they were saying and this process had been a little confusing and a

little murky and she thanked them for their patience as we try to navigate these kind of confusing waters for those representing at TMT. She said that although Baus was correct that there have not been modifications to the written document NOAA did hope to engage in a more substantive conversation and are looking forward to being able to do so.

Stranz said that she also heard Baus say open to listening to recommendations from other TMT members. She asked if there was someone who would like to walk TMT through some of the conditions and what they are seeing as far as fish passage goes.

Swieca said that NOAA had not really put someone on point for this conversation, or this portion of an update. She said that she could do a portion of it but then she recommended that we open it up to others adding additional data.

d) DART Adult Delay Tool Ice Harbor (IHR) to LMN Reach – *Swieca*



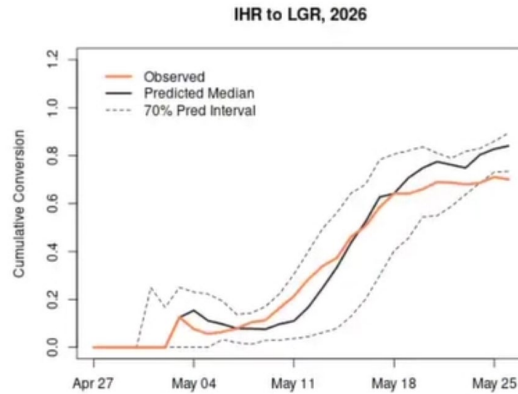
- Per this tool a delay is indicated by a gray dot on the orange line.
- At this point in time there have been nine consecutive days of what is considered adult delay per this tool of Snake River Chinook at LMN.

e) [FPC Passage Indicator](#)



- This tool is based on a lot of similar data to the DART tool.
- The orange line (observed) is outside of the prediction interval.

- Swieca’s understanding was that we are seeing slower than predicted passage through that reach when the orange line falls out of the prediction interval.
- We have been seeing that in the IHR to LMN reach for a portion of time.



- We are also seeing that in the broader IHR to Lower Granite (LWG) reach that is also appearing in the adult delay tool where we currently have two black dots in the Snake River reach from IHR to LWG.

Hesse asked for Lisa Wright, Corps, to scroll down to the bottom of the FPC Passage indicator page. He said that Swieca had touched on this in terms of what this tool is characterizing, but there is a statement right there in terms of “How do I assess passage?”. He said that he would reiterate the point here for this tool and for the black dots, that neither one of these inherently indicate a fish passage emergency. He said that he thought both of these, and was specifically written here, highlight that these characterizations are indicating slower than expected passage and that should trigger a more detailed look and deliberation on the details and severity of that slower passage. He said that he wanted to point out that footnote and indicate that he thought that same context applied to the DART tool as well.

***How do I assess passage?***

*If observed conversions fall below the predicted interval, this indicates slower than expected passage given the current operational conditions individual fish characteristics, and environmental conditions. A more detailed look at fish present, hydrosystem operations, and flow patterns may be warranted*

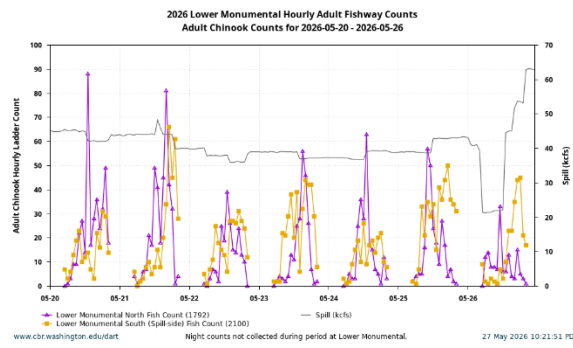
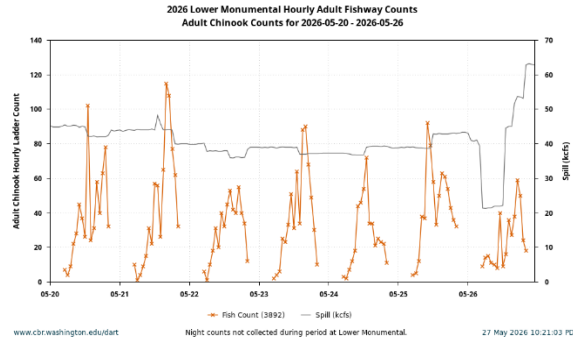
Swieca thanked Hesse and said that she suspected that part of TMT’s conversation will be discussing some of those additional considerations that are highlighted in this tool that are also highlighted in the delay tool, specifically hydro operations, flow patterns, etc. Swieca asked if Jonathan Ebel, ID, was comfortable just looking at the ladder count table so we do not have to navigate Wright through the FPC site.

Ebel said that he was looking at the hourlies, and he thought that it was up to Swieca, because the hourlies do show that yesterday’s operation did not do much. The 24-hour report and look at the south ladder or even look at both ladders, but it was up to her.

Swieca said that she thought that Tony Norris, BPA, had put the link that Swieca was going to in the chat.

- | Tony Norris, BPA (Unverified) 10:20 AM
- | [DART Hourly Adult Fishway Counts with River Environment | Columbia Basin Research](#)

Stranz said that she thought that Norris had put the link to another way to visualize these data, which is the DART hourly.



f) [COE Adult Count Queries](#) – 24-hour Report LMN South Ladder – Ebel

Lower Monumental South																													
Ladder Name	Location	Ladder ID	Count Date	Species	Hour 01	Hour 02	Hour 03	Hour 04	Hour 05	Hour 06	Hour 07	Hour 08	Hour 09	Hour 10	Hour 11	Hour 12	Hour 13	Hour 14	Hour 15	Hour 16	Hour 17	Hour 18	Hour 19	Hour 20	Hour 21	Hour 22	Hour 23	Hour 24	
Lower Monumental South	Lower Monumental	11	May 24 2026	chinook	3	1	2	11	19	21	14	27	9	23	19	15	27	23	14	9									
Lower Monumental South	Lower Monumental	11	May 25 2026	chinook	3	1	9	39	23	38	31	36	19	47	43	49	54	40	36	33									
Lower Monumental South	Lower Monumental	11	May 26 2026	chinook	12	4	3	3	4	3	7	4	17	33	28	39	46	51	27	22									
Average	Lower Monumental	11	CountDate	chinook	6.0	2.0	4.7	17.7	15.3	20.7	17.3	22.3	15.0	34.3	30.0	34.3	42.3	38.0	25.7	21.3									

- Ebel said that you need to look at it combined with the North Ladder, it is combined in what Norris put up. Ebel said that he likes to look at raw data.
- During the reduced spill period we did not see a ladder shift, but we did see a change in the hourly passage, where fish were not moving through the South Ladder in the morning when spill was reduced which was curious.
- Looking through the data, in past as times, we have seen when spill has been reduced in the morning fish suddenly move, as other times, they do not, this is one of those times they did not immediately move.
- Another data point in attempts to better understand why and when to predict it would happen at LMN.

Swieca asked Ebel if he could specify when he said “fish did not move” during the reduced spill period, what exactly he was meaning by that.

Ebel said that she just saw it through the South Ladder. He said that he meant that they did not move, they shifted. They seemed to shift a little bit toward the North Ladder and then they use the South Ladder in the afternoon, they changed their pattern a little bit, but what we saw was that it is different than what he thought a lot of people expected. Which is when you reduce spill and all a sudden a thousand fish move past the dam. But if spill is not the thing that is holding them up then changing the operations is not going to move them and that is what we saw yesterday.

Swieca said that she was just trying to get clarity on saying “fish did not move”, it is not an entirely accurate statement because \_

Ebel said some fish moved, some did not. Yesterday we did not see the response that some folks were looking for given the change in operations.

Stranz asked if other people had different observations from the same data.

Ebel said that he knew that Chris Peery, Corps, often looks at the hourly data and the ladder splits as well.

Stranz asked what Swieca or other Fish Managers (FM) wanted TMT to know or see here.

Swieca said that she would open it up to others if there were other sources of data that they wanted to form the baseline of this conversation before we move into it. They are welcome to bring that up now.

Hesse asked to look at the juvenile passage ladder counts. He said that this visual is helpful for the hourly, but maybe the daily window counts would be good and then also looking at the juvenile fish passage indices would be helpful as well.

g) FPC Adult Salmon Counts – Hesse

- LMN (5/26): 384 Adult Chinook
  - Associated with the flex spill operation.
- LMN (5/25): 697 Adult Chinook
  - Associated with min-gen spill the rest.
- LMN (5/24): 428 Adult Chinook

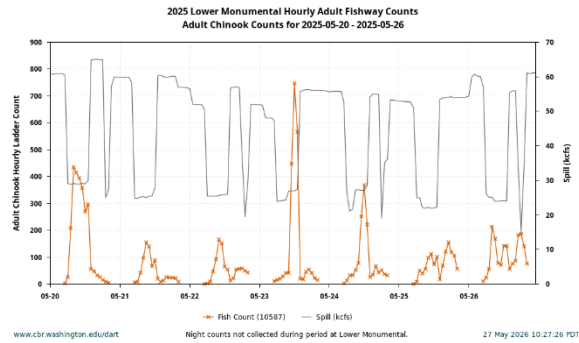
Hesse said that it is important to him to look at fish actively moving or fish that are coming from IHR, so he always looks at the previous day or two at IHR when looking at this graphic. Understanding the 384 is twice as much as the 165 one day before and a little bit less than the two days before.

- IHR (5/25): 165 Adult Chinook
- IHR (5/24): 486 Adult Chinook

Hesse said that he puts that in the box of maybe moving some of the fish that had been there longer than a day, but not a huge pulse of fish by any means.

| Tony Norris, BPA (Unverified) 10:27 AM

| 2025



Pete McHugh, Umatilla/CRITFC, said that he and Tom Lorz had caught up this morning and concur with the general sentiment that we are not seeing a real observable response in relation to the operation.

Charles Morrill, WA, said that he would concur that we are not seeing a response. He said that the other thing he would note is that we do see fish that travel slower, and we do see fish that probably, under some opinions, are definitely delaying in the passage, but this is not atypical behavior of Spring Chinook. The indices do suggest that passage is slower. Morrill asked if that was harmful. He said that he did not believe so. The data that we have typically shows high conversion over the course of the season and he thought this was part of the innate behavior of these fish at this point in time this year.

Swieca said she wanted to add that from NMFS' perspective, she thought right now, at this portion of the conversation, we are just putting all the data on the table, and then we can put all of that together into agency perspectives, or NOAA would put that all together into an agency perspective a little later in the conversation. She said that she thought now they were just hoping to set the baseline for that conversation.

Stranz thanked Swieca for that, TMT has time for it all and sometimes it is really helpful to have that structure.

| *Ben Hausmann (Unverified) 10:30 AM*

| *Wanted to clarify that the "expected" response in fish movement that has not yet been observed was based on previous years' responses like what Tony posted from 2025.*

| *Not tracking the "missing" info.*

Erick Van Dyke, OR, said that the revolving baseline info had not incorporated all the information that had been shared, even after yesterday's special meeting details and memos that describe what could be understood about how individual fish behave have introduced other reasons why you might see delay in a subset of a cohort that does not fit the actual conversion cohort that is used to make a rational statement about passage. The conversation so far is only searching out others to provide those details that have already been provided while not identifying them as information that is important to make this decision. That is a problem in his eyes.

Stranz said that she was not 100% sure that she was tracking what it was Van Dyke was saying, but if there was more that TMT wanted to look at we could. She said if there were specific memos or things that he would like to pull up we have time for that.

Van Dyke said that there had not been an advancement of the information that was provided in yesterday's meeting, that was not there. He asked why it was not. He said that he asked Stranz because frankly that conversation happened yesterday and included other information that had not been included here today. He asked why that was not here.

Stranz said that she was not sure what information he was talking about here. She said that he needed to be more specific with her and then TMT could look at it.

Van Dyke said that he guessed his comment about the machines not learning is real. When a piece of information, specifically that some individuals can be tracked with their PIT-tag progress, starting at Bonneville (BON) that were slow to begin with. It is almost like we want to disregard certain details that are part of the information set. Because of this particular process which is seeking out others to tell you why the information is there, while the others seem to just omit it from their memories. He said that he was concerned about that.

Stranz said that she thought that she might be just slow right now, because her intention \_

Van Dyke said that it was not about Stranz at all, that is not part of our protocol, it is about the steps that happened yesterday that are absent today. There was no advancement in the information.

Swieca asked Stranz if she could clarify. She said that she could hear Van Dyke's frustration. She said that what TMT was doing right now was in direct response to Hesse's question about if we could see what was happening with the fish right now, which he had asked at the start of this meeting. She said that she thought that there was still a lot of this meeting to come and we are just trying to address that specific request from Hesse to look at what is happening right now and what happened yesterday now.

Stranz asked for TMT to keep going. She thanked Swieca for that. She said for TMT to keep going and see if we could not get to what Van Dyke was requesting. She said that she thought next TMT was going to visit the juvenile data and get a sense of what was going on over there.

h) [Juvenile Passage Data](#) – Hesse

- \* *Passage indices are not absolute estimates of juveniles passing the projects, it is a relative abundance tool to look at for each group of juveniles.*
- \* *Lower Monumental and Ice Harbor are not listed in this, you have Lower Granite, Little Goose, McNary and Bonneville.*
- Yearling Chinook (Spring/Summer)
  - LWG Index shows a significant drop of 2-3000 down to several 100 (in terms of the passage index).
  - Yearling Chinook are showing a decreasing passage index.
- Combined Subyearling Chinook (Fall)

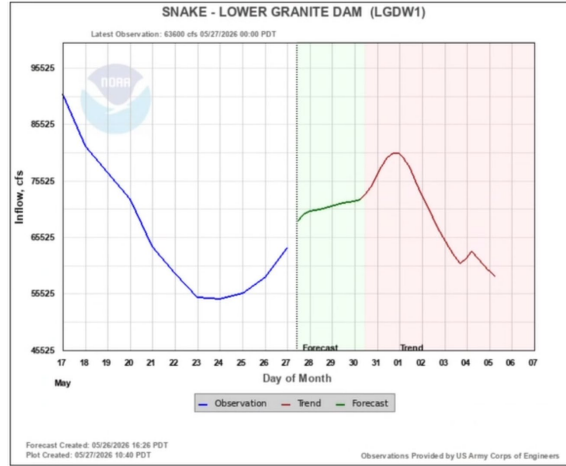
- LWG Index shows passage indices started in the tens of thousands, dropped a little, but is now increasing back up to a similar level.
- Passage indices at LGS are a little different, it staggered a little but is still showing significant of fish going downstream.
- Coho
  - Passage indices are flat and decreasing at LWG and LGS.
- Steelhead
  - Different numbers, tens of thousands, but decreasing down.
  - Higher numbers in terms of a passage index than the yearling Chinook but a decreasing trend.
  - Still significant numbers of fish are present.
- Sockeye
  - Sockeye are typically a tight group of fish going downstream
  - Recently at LWG and LGS, the group of Sockeye were seen making its way through the system with very low passage indices.
- Juvenile Fall Chinook Releases
  - Still occurring in the basin.
    - May 27
      - Luke's Gulch (South Fork Clearwater)
    - May 28
      - Captain John Rapids (Snake River, upstream of Lewiston/Clarkston, ID)
    - June 3
    - June 9
    - June 11
  - Subyearling Chinook passage indices were the highest group of all and Hesse expects the numbers to increase as the hatchery release groups make their way downstream.

Van Dyke said that he wanted to remind TMT that this particular information is not a reflection of abundance, it is a relative timing tool to understand density in a relative way.

i) [10-Day Meteorological Forecast](#) – Hesse

- Moderate temperatures and no heat spikes or heatwaves predicted.
- Some cloud cover.
- Not super-hot but not cold.

j) [LWG 10-Day Flow Forecast](#) – Hesse



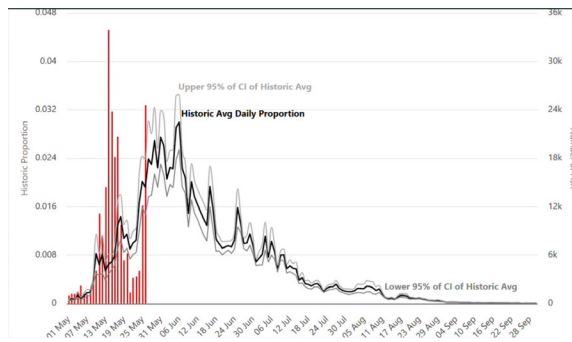
- Flow projection highlights that flows had increased from a couple of days ago and are reentering a flow band that at FPAC discussions was flagged as a potential covariant of interest in being related with slower passage.
- Flow Band: mid-50 – 70 kcfs

k) [FPC Smolt Data – LWG Daily Indices – Subyearling Chinook](#) – Morrill

| Charles Morrill (Unverified) 10:41 AM

| [https://www.fpc.org/smolt/smolt\\_queries/R\\_smoltdaypassindexhistoricproportion\\_resultsv7.php](https://www.fpc.org/smolt/smolt_queries/R_smoltdaypassindexhistoricproportion_resultsv7.php)

- Morrill posted a link from FPC that mirrored what Hesse was shared, the releases of subyearling Chinook, passage indices, and the expectation based on typical timing. Morrill felt it was appropriate to share in the course of this discussion.



- There are still subyearling Chinook to come and this shows another picture of the abundance levels that we would anticipate seeing coming into the System.

l) Water Temperatures – Hesse

- LWM tailrace (May 26): 57°F

m) FPC Snake Water Temperatures – *Morrill*

- Although temperatures are very reasonable in the Snake, looking at the tailrace temperatures on FPC, temperatures have been following the same path as they did in 2015 at this point in time.
- There may be some thermal accumulation of stress that has not shown up so far but could be another factor in terms of fish behavior and fish response.
- The fish currently above MCN would have experienced a potentially higher temperature than normal but still within the range of what would be expected for “migration condition” through the lower river corridor.

n) DART 50% Passage Thresholds – *Hesse*

- The DART Tool is a three-day running metric that signifies the black dot
  - There is a table below that looks at the daily passages that Hesse uses.
- Of the groups of PIT-tag fish passing IHR on a daily passage:
  - 3 groups have met their 50% passage date on Day 1; within 1 – 2 days.
  - 14 groups have occurred within two days, or on Day 2.
  - 17 of total days are within the established non-black dot days.
  - 6 days of fish achieving the 50% passage threshold on Day 3.
  - 1 day where the 50% passage threshold was achieved on Day 5.
  - 1 day where the threshold was not achieved to date, greater than six-day window.
- There were 8 (9 today) consecutive black dots on the three-day.
- On the individual days there are a total eight, but six of those have been achieved on Day 3, one day after the normal aspect.

Van Dyke said that the conversion rate totals that are provided in the daily are accumulating and if you look closely at those as they accumulate, they continue to increase which is not necessarily fitting the concept that we have a fish emergency because fish are not converting. He said that it was another nuance that accumulating retrospective tools say one thing at one moment in time, even though later, if you refer back to them they will say something different in terms of official metric that we are tracking.

o) Recommendations and Perspectives from Agencies

*NOAA – Swieca*

Swieca said that she would wind us back in time a little bit and then talk about NMFS’ thought process on this issue as it was developing. Regrettably she did not feel like she had the liberties to discuss that yesterday, so she was hoping to remediate that today and provide a little bit of additional perspective understanding that this group has a range of perspectives on the impacts of adult delay. She said that she would lay out NMFS’ thought process here and then we could open it up for others to lay out their thought process as well.

Going into the weekend we had observed a number of days of adult delays based on both the DART adult delay tool and the FPC passage indicator. They were both indicating that there was slower than expected passage in the IHR to LMN reach. When it was Monday, at the end of the holiday weekend, Swieca believed that we were at seven consecutive days of adult delay of Snake River Chinook in that IHR to LMN reach. At this point in time that had resulted in slower than predicted passage through the broader Snake River reach. She said that we could see that both of the tools are showing some type of delay in the IHR to LWG reach and so the conclusions that NMFS have drawn about, like she had mentioned about the presence of adult delay in their perspective on it incorporate both the DART adult delay passage tool and the FPC passage indicator, understanding that the both have baseline similar data.

She said that they do acknowledge that this has not been a full blockage. Fish are still passing LMN, but we are seeing slower than predicted passage and NMFS tends to be more concerned about that slower than predicted passage than some other entities. So, NMFS took that understanding, after observing seven days of what they consider to be delay of Snake River Chinook and they looked into the environmental conditions that were currently in play (as TMT has discussed today, environmental conditions have been relatively mild) and NMFS did not expect the delay to be occurring because of some hot temperatures in the ladder or some issue like that. NMFS was not aware and continues to not be aware of any operational issues that could be causing the delay, and in addition to those two things, they were not aware, continue to be not aware of any active state fisheries that could be impacting the data and the conversion from IHR to LMN. She said that it was NMFS' perspective at that time was that the adult delay could be ameliorated with what they consider to be fairly minimal impacts to juvenile passage given that the majority of Snake River Spring migrants, yearling Chinook, Steelhead, and Sockeye, had already moved through more of the Snake River.

She said that they recognize what Hesse raised today, and what was discussed yesterday, that subyearling Chinook passage is increasing and will likely increase further with hatchery releases planned in the next couple of weeks. She said that they do note that the spill that is occurring, even during the 40% block for that subyearling passage is likely higher than what the subyearlings will pass through the projects with during that Summer spill operation coming up within the next month.

Additionally, NMFS still believed that there was a fair chance that this operation would conclude prior to the big bump in expected subyearling passage due to those hatchery releases within the next couple of days. She said that it was her position, and continues to be their position, that passage for both adults and juveniles can be optimized with targeted issue-specific operations when adult delays are observed. She said that they understand that this are different perspectives about the magnitude delay needed to incur survival and reproduction cost, and that issue is not fully understood in the literature. There is some evidence to suggest what could be considered moderate delays at certain projects if they accumulate over broader reaches could have impacts to survival and reproduction to the spawning grounds.

So that led NMFS to their position of advocating for a very targeted, what they hope to be, short-term and issue-specific operational adjustment to address the observed adult delay at those projects after observing it for seven consecutive days. Swieca said that

NMFS was open to the conversation about when and what makes sense moving forward from here and they hope to focus the conversation today on that.

She said that she thought that we had not seen an immediate response in the data to the lower spill. She said that NMFS is still fairly confident that given an additional day, which would be today, there would still be a chance that we may see that response and passage to this spill, which is why historically we would have done this operation for more than one day. She said that they are open to continuing that conversation with folks and would like to hear the input about what the recommendation would be from some of the other FMs about when it made sense to revert back to the 125% TDG gas cap 24-hours/day operation.

She said that was a lot of information and a lot of perspective, she just wanted to give folks a better understanding. She said that she thought that most of the FMs on this call at a minimum understood NMFS's perspective on adult delay. She said they and NMFS understand that there is a debate about the magnitude of delay and when action should be taken about that delay. She said that she thought from NMFS' perspective they felt that we had let the delay run out for seven days and we were not seeing a lot of improvement come Monday and so NMFS felt it was prudent to make the operational adjustment to try to ameliorate the condition and they considered the impacts to juveniles in doing so.

She said that she would pause there and emphasized that she thought that a very productive conversation today would be to focus on moving forward, how and when we decide that it made sense to revert back to the 125% TDG – 24-hour operation.

Stranz asked if any TMT representative would like to provide perspective on how and when to revert back to 125% or any other suggestions for moving forward.

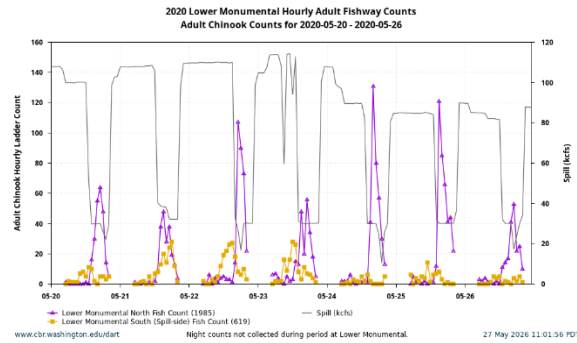
*Yakama Nation – Iverson*

Iverson said that first he wanted to say that he really appreciated the response from Swieca. He said NOAA's logic, laying it out, explaining it the way that Swieca did helped a lot to understand why NOAA felt like we needed to do something. He said that he appreciated that.

He said as far as how long we do this before we go back to the injunction spill, he did not think we should wait too long but he appreciated that another day, let us see what happens today. He did not think that we should rely on the DART tool to determine when there are not three dots in a row and then we can turn it back on. He said that did not think that was a reliable metric. He said that he would like to discuss giving it a day or two and if there was not a significant increase in passage to go back to the injunction spill.

Swieca asked for a follow up. She asked if we do not see the expected response, however we decided to measure that and quantify that, and place parameters around that, what would be the recommended approach for\_ She asked if we go back to the 125% TDG gas cap were we going to continue to keep an eye on it and if there was a point that Iverson and his folks would be wanting to explore other potential causes or was the recommendation just let it ride.

| *Tony Norris, BPA (Unverified) 11:02 AM*



Iverson said first off, he did not speak for our folks, he said that he was the least technical savvy on this topic. He said that he did think that we should engage in a very thoughtful and thorough conversation. He said that he guessed that his conclusion in listening to this and observing what was going on, is that he did not believe spill was the driver and while we cannot find another driver, he thought that we had not spent enough effort on that. He said that he thought Ebel had done some good work at looking at flow bands where it appears there are certain flow levels and spill combinations where we see slower migration. He said that he also thought that the spill bay alignment is something else that we should be looking at and considering. If we saw a decrease in adult passage in certain ladders when we decreased spill it may be because of which gates we are using or whatever. He said that he did not want to get that far, what he would like to see is getting the spill back on for the juveniles that are coming. If we are not seeing a clear response after today (he might even say after tomorrow) but if there was not a clear jump in passage then clearly he does not believe that it is the spill that is slowing the fish down, he thought it was some other parameter and he would like to explore what those other parameters might be. But turning the spill on and off does not allow us to do a proper evaluation of this spill and he did not think that we are going to get to 125% TDG spill cap because we are going to have declining flows, which means declining spill percentages, and he was not sure that it was necessarily the gas cap spill that would be a limiting factor. He said that he hoped that helped, it was a little rambling.

Swieca said that it did. She said thank you and thanks for the clarification, it is up to the 125% gas cap.

*Nez Perce – Hesse*

Hesse said that he wanted to slip back into the technical stuff. He said that we did not highlight what TDG levels were in the background information. He said that he thought that was important. He said that they have averaged or existed between 115 – 121% TDG during this last month and so we have not had enough water to meet the 125% TDG spill cap level. He said that it was important for folks to understand where we have been at there.

| *Ben Hausmann (Unverified) 11:04 AM*

| *I mentioned yesterday and want to reiterate, DART staff are willing to discuss the delay tool and potentially modify it to alleviate anyone's concerns. I'm hearing*

*concern over the use of that tool so it feels we need to explore what tool people WOULD be comfortable using.*

Hesse said that it was important as we continued to look at the data to understand that and expectation for fish moving with a reduced 40% aspect that in the past year or two when we have done this, we have not seen a quick response in fish passage in a large push of fish through, he did not think that we saw that yesterday in a significant way. He said that we would take a look at the data from what occurs today, but that type of not seeing fish clear, when we go to the 40%, is one that makes me think harder about what the mechanisms at play are and then how do we manipulate those to get fish to pass. He said that we did not put up a graphic and/or talk about the spill levels across this entire migration period and being the same during the front end when we did have passage occurring within the two-day trigger and the same levels occurring when the black dots were appearing. It is not an obvious connection to that to that aspect of spill percentages, a very narrow band in terms of spill percentages in the relative sense but certainly not indicative that when you get to 78 – 80 that you have a problem because we had slower than expected passage occurring under the similar spill levels within that. He said that he would be curious in that discussion for expectations of clearing.

In terms of how we move forward. The information that is in the USG notification is inadequate for him to be supportive of that and not have to object somehow just from the content that is summarized. He said that a big part of that is the lack of acknowledgement of subyearlings. He thanked Swieca for acknowledging that verbally here. He said that he would clarify that there are significant numbers of subyearlings passing now, we expect more with those hatchery releases occurring, but still a significant number present under the current operations and those are both natural production and hatchery releases. He said that he did not think that we were in this window waiting for fish to arrive, it is waiting or expecting more than we currently have of those subyearlings.

Hesse said that there was other information in the current notification for justification that he believed was technically incomplete or inaccurate in ways, and so how we structure this moving forward and that content is something that he was going to struggle with. He said that he wanted to communicate that it would be hard to be supportive of an operation in that we identify through this discussion if this justification remains static in this document. He asked them to think about ways to modify or expand this out to be more inclusive, typical to an SOR development within the FPAC process.

Hesse said in terms of moving forward, and currently the flex operation is currently ongoing, he was motivated to find a time frame where that was stopped as soon as possible, but certainly no longer than Saturday being the last day because he thought the hatchery juvenile releases could be potentially arriving at that point, as early as Sunday. He said that the earliest possible was given that we already have a bunch of subyearlings there.

Hesse flagged a little bit of knee jerk reaction to Swieca's justification that the 40% spill level is still better than what occurs during the summer. He said that it was a true statement but there was nothing magical about 40% being adequate or the best that we can provide for those fish. Historically subyearlings go out during both Spring and Summer spill operations and he thought that the general opinion is reducing PIT powerhouse passage for any of these fish has long-term benefit in their SARs. Looking to maximize surface passage or spillway passage for those Fall Chinook regardless of the 40% summer spill level in that.

Washington – Morrill

Morrill said that he strongly agreed with what he had heard Hesse say. He said that one of the things that he had done over the last few hours yesterday was to go back and look at the DART tool all the way back to 2014 and almost every year you see, with the exception of some, you see dips or black dots show up, yet the overall conversion is still very high, typically better than 93 – 96% in the IHR to LMN. So, there is obviously some difference among years, there is a difference in the condition. Morrill said that he appreciated what Swieca shared. He said to him it was not an emergency. There is definitely slower passage this year. He posed the question of if we have all the environmental variables or understand exactly why, he did not believe so, but his sense in going forward is we watch this closely. He said that would agree with Hesse, he would want to end this operation at the end of three days, especially if we are not seeing any response because there is something more to then what we are looking at right now. Whether it is something intrinsic with the fish, something that have been exposed in the earlier portion of the migration, or whether it is stock specific Morrill said that he did not know but he would not be supportive of continuing this going forward past the three-day window.

Umatilla - McHugh

McHugh said that he wanted to express thanks to Swieca, as others had already mentioned, for bringing the subyearling considerations into the trade-offs that we have been exploring here. But also, express support for the paths that Iverson, Hesse, and Morrill have supported to end the operation as soon as possible, particularly if we do not see a response and given that we have more subyearlings coming down the pipeline here shortly.

Oregon – Van Dyke

Van Dyke said because this operation is being characterized as a response to a fish emergency, Oregon continues to see it as a change that was falsely advertised. Using a single piece of information and what we were seeing in the documentation is that is continuing. He said that he did appreciate that Swieca had taken an opportunity to provide us additional information with statements that appeared to list about eight information components that would have been appropriate to include in this conversation from the start. But what it really comes down to is the black dots were not advertised as a signal of a fish emergency when they were negotiated, instead the black dots were meant to signal conversation in this process. He said because of that Oregon's real position is that there is the hope that operations will return to the planned FOP 2026 details, recognizing that as soon as possible language is something that may be anticipated. However, we still recognize that by changing the operation as it had been changed the noise in understanding what is possible in our observations has been distracted and there will be no way to really avoid that. People's impressions of what they think they might see or what would have seen when it does not happen is being characterized as well. We just need to do it longer to wait to see if it happens, that is not a really good management strategy in Oregon's view. He said that he was not sure that he was trying to be unique and where Oregon stands on what we do moving forward but he was trying to clearly indicate that the foul had already occurred and the information that was being used was not really fully vetted past a tool that was never meant to indicate a fish emergency,

simply to put us in a space to talk about it. He said that he hoped that was helpful but he suspected that Swieca would have thoughts to share.

Stranz wanted to acknowledge what Ben Hausmann, BPA, had added into chat about having the DART staff participate in conversation with TMT to hear and potentially address TMTs concerns with the tool. She said that was a standing offer. She thanked Hausmann for that. She asked if there was anything else that TMT would like to share, we had not heard from everyone yet. She asked if there was any other perspective.

Summary - Stranz

Stranz summarized what she had heard from Oregon, Yakama, Nez Perce, Washington and Umatilla, which was a request to go back to the 125% TDG Gas Cap as soon as possible.

Stranz asked about Swieca's process question circling back to Hesse.

Swieca said that she was curious because this was sort of a unique situation and a unique type of SOR process. She said that Hesse had indicated that he was in a kind of funky position where even if he came to agreement with the path moving forward he would still have to object to the SOR if we decide to vote on it because he disagrees with the content contained in it in the justification. She said that she was wondering, she said that she thought that we had dealt with situations like this in the past, where we have some shifting based on the written document after a conversation occurs and that can be expressed via comments in polling. She asked if that was accurate.

Stranz nodded.

She said that she understood people's level of comfort may differ with their ability to do that and ensure that their comments are attached to the written document appropriately but she was highlighting that she did not think that was necessarily a unique situation where someone will disagree with some of the content and the justification provided in the SOR but may be okay with the plan moving forward. She asked if that was to Stranz' recollection as well.

Stranz said that she thought so, she thought that people could add to and provide rationale in their polling responses to supplement the justification.

Swieca asked for clarification. She asked if TMT was polling on this. She said that may be a question for the Corps.

Ebel asked for further clarification of what we were polling on, if we were polling.

Stranz said that TMT had talked yesterday about doing polling on the notification/SOR that was provided yesterday which we could do if there was a need to do that. She said that the suggestion that she heard from TMT members who had provided input so far would be not to continue implementing this SOR because the SOR does not have an end date specified on the current operation, so it makes it a bit confusing. She said that TMT could also pause and write up another path, a suggested path forward based off the input that we have heard and could do a polling on that. She said that we have got a lot of options. She said whatever felt like it made the most sense. She asked Baus had any process suggestions from the Corps' perspective.

Baus said no, no comments at this time.

Swank said so at this point it was not important to him if TMT polled on the document that was provided yesterday, it sounded like what was more important at this point was figuring out a recommendation for moving forward.

Dave Swank, USFWS, said that we are in the unusual situation where the operation has already been implemented, we are on Day 2 of it, so given that he was not sure if it was really necessary to have a formal vote on it. To him it seems like what the real critical thing was to make sure that everyone had the opportunity to express their opinions and make a recommendation and get that on record if they choose.

Ebel said that he was looking forward, he would like to poll on what the Corps intended to do in the coming days. He said that he would like a statement from the Corps on what the plan is after today. He said that he suggested or recommended that we poll on that. He thought that was the most productive thing to do.

Baus said that he wanted to highlight that the Corps would be deferring to NOAA Fisheries as far as the path moving forward. He said that he would pivot to see if NOAA Fisheries had any recommendations on moving forward.

Swieca said what she heard from a number of folks and what Stranz had summarized previous was that there was a general desire to return to the up to 125% TDG gas cap 24 hours/day. Some folks said as soon as possible, some said no later than Friday, and then some folks said no later than Saturday as a hard line. She said that from NMFS' perspective, given that this operation had already gone for two days, they would like to see one additional day worth of data to see if the adult delay had been ameliorated after the implementation of two reduced spill blocks. NMFS was comfortable reverting back to the 125% TDG gas cap 24 hours/day no later than Friday, they are comfortable with doing that if we see a clearance tomorrow, they are also comfortable doing that if they do not see a clearance tomorrow because they are interested in engaging the conversation about other potential compounding factors if we have not seen that clear after what would be three days of implementing the operation.

| Charles Morrill (Unverified) 11:25 AM

| that is helpful Kelsey 😊

| I concur with reverting back to 125 % no later than Friday ...

Stranz told Swieca that was very helpful. She said what she thought should be TMT's next step would be to take a ten-minute break. She asked if Swieca could put what she had laid out there into text so that people could see it on the screen as we do a polling and then we would come back and do a formal round of polling on that suggested operation.

Swieca said that was fine and she would be happy to do that. She said that she wondered if any of the other Action Agencies had input that they needed to provide on whether or not that suggestion was implementable or not.

Baus said that the first question that would come to light. He said that he appreciated the assessment there, but to him the most significant part was we need to observe a day without a black dot. He said aside from the 'no later than's', the 'Fridays' and the

‘Thursdays’, and the ‘Saturdays’, what he thought he had heard was the most important piece, when we look at the DART tool, we will be able to see one day where we no longer have a black dot. From his perspective that was the priority nugget that he had heard. He asked Swieca to clarify if the priority decision point in the conversation was needing to observe one day without a black dot.

Swieca said not exactly, she said that she thought that NMFS was comfortable reverting back to the 125% 24 hours on Friday in either case. She said that we would expect the spill reduction to be effective within the three-day period given the information that we have today. She said that she thought our plan would be to revert to the 125% and observe following that no later than Friday. She said that actually at this point in time, Friday is as early as that could be implemented. She said that she would write it out so that was especially clear, but she wanted to offer that verbal clarification.

Stranz said regardless of what happens to dots, the operation suggested would be to revert back to 2026 FOP on Friday. She asked if there was anything else from other Action Agencies.

Norris said that could be implemented.

Stranz asked if there were any other questions or clarifications before we ask Swieca to write that out for us all to look at and do polling.

Hesse asked if that operation would be just a standalone statement that we would be polling on and not associated with the justification. He asked if in essence it would be an SOR request, modified, or however you want to say it, similar to how we have done it in the past, that just would not have any associated justification behind it.

Stranz said that she thought that the justification behind it was not in a formal SOR process, it was the conversation that TMT had today, that would show up in minutes. She said that it would not be associated with the notification/SOR that we looked at yesterday, it would be a suggested operation moving forward from where we are right now based off today’s conversation and the reason to poll is just to get everybody’s formal perspective on how to move forward. She asked if that worked and fit with folks’ process-wise.

Morrill said that he would perceive that as an adaptive management decision made in TMT that we are polling on.

Stranz agreed and she said that we do not have to poll on it, it is not something that was necessary, Ebel had suggested it as an option for moving forward so folks feel strongly that we should poll on that operation lets do it, if not, let’s get it in the notes what was going to happen.

Hesse said given the stipulation, he believed that we need to follow the TMT process and associated with some nature of an SOR that are both referenced in that stipulation and as such he thought polling was required.

Stranz said okay, let’s take a break real quick and let Swieca draft something for us all to look at so we know what we are polling on.

p) Operation Change Request

“Revert back to the up to 125% TDG cap spill 24 hours per day on Friday, May 29. This will conclude implementation of 3 days of the planned reduced spill of 40% of river flow for 8 morning hours.”

| *Charles Morrill (Unverified) 11:42 AM*

| *looks fine to me Kelsey*

q) TMT Polling – Support, Object, Abstain, No Objection

Agency	Poll
<b>NOAA</b>	Support
<b>OR</b>	No Objection
<b>WA</b>	Support
<b>Colville</b>	Abstain
<b>Umatilla</b>	Support
<b>Yakama Nation</b>	Support
<b>BOR</b>	Support
<b>Corps</b>	Support
<b>USFWS</b>	Support
<b>ID</b>	Support
<b>MT</b>	Support
<b>Nez Perce</b>	Support
<b>BPA</b>	No Objection

r) TMT Response

Agency	Poll
<b>NOAA</b>	From NOAA’s perspective we were concerned with the adult delay that we were observing. We continue to be concerned that adult delay has implications for survival and reproduction. We recognize that the magnitude of delay needed to occur those implications is not fully understood, nevertheless, we felt it was prudent to make the operational adjustment that did occur following seven days of observed adult delay at this point in time with the information that we have we are comfortable reverting back to the 125% TDG gas cap spill 24 hours/day on Friday, May 29, given the information that we discussed today, the information that we have at hand, and we think that this is an operation that works to optimize passage conditions for both adults and juveniles.
<b>OR</b>	Thanks all, this is a difficult conversation obviously, but I just reiterate the black dot tool was not to signal a fish emergency, it was used to signal that we should be communicating. Oregon believes that this change in operation was really not merited to begin with and thinks that because of that as soon as possible return to operation is preferred and this group apparently has described that as soon as possible time as Friday.
<b>WA</b>	I think at this point in time the only thing I would say is that black dot method only is not the best metric that we have to assess passage. It does not incorporate the biological concerns or metrics. We have concerns with that. We have concerns with the fact that

	<p>this was declared as an emergency. Passage does appear to be slower, looking at both tools. We look forward to additional discussions and looking at the data that we’ve accumulated over the last three or four days and perhaps gain a better understanding of how best to understand slower passage, when it is and when it is not an emergency. But we appreciate the discussion, the difficulties and the challenges that we all go through and working through this scenario.</p>
<b>Colville</b>	<p>Nothing to add.</p>
<b>Umatilla</b>	<p>Probably the only thing I would add is just sort of going forward, echoing what’s been said already, kind of having a process with a more well laid out SOR that does address justification more clearly, but I think we’ve already got that sort of documented and laid out. So, thanks for the discussion.</p>
<b>Yakama Nation</b>	<p>I just want to express gratitude for today’s conversation. I think it was very productive and helpful for me. I really believe if we’d have had this same conversation on Monday or Tuesday we may or may not have ended up in a very similar spot, but I think today’s conversation is consistent with what we viewed as the 2026 FOP language on this topic and what occurred from Friday to Monday was not, but glad we ended up where we did. I think we will be able to learn something from this and appreciate NOAA today providing the information they provided and the logic and explanation of where the head was at, that helped a lot. Thanks.</p>
<b>BOR</b>	<p>Nothing to add</p>
<b>Corps</b>	<p>The Corps defers to NOAA on this conversation.</p>
<b>USFWS</b>	<p>Personally, I kind of have been viewing this as a learning experience. I mean, we obviously know high spill can be an issue for passage at LGS. I think we just don’t know as much about its effect at LMN. So, we’ll have three good days of data with reduced spill. And I hope we take it as an opportunity to learn more about passage at that project.</p>
<b>ID</b>	<p>So, this is a tough one. I’ve got a lot of thoughts on this, but I will keep it brief. So, I think what’s learned here is that I mean the passage issues are clearly important, adult passage and juvenile passage. And with this one we need to acknowledge the complexity of adult Chinook behaviors under different conditions, and I think the best way to learn about that is to not alter operations and to try to let these things ride. So, a little bit different than what Dave just said. And you know I’m glad we arrived in a spot_ In Idaho’s technical perspective is that probably didn’t rise to an emergency that, we know an emergency when we see it, this was not it, so that was a little bit frustrating. That we had to go through this and we’ll keep learning about this, and we need to be open to embracing the complexity and matching the tool to the problem and not go with these black and white types of reactions. So, I guess, more to come. We’ll have to keep trying to figure out why these fish do what they do when they do it, so thanks.</p>

<b>MT</b>	Marotz posted his reply in chat: This topic is far downstream from my wheelhouse, and I feel my input is far less critical than those offered by my TMT counterparts. The potential that we might be polled, and my basic curiosity, compelled me to read as many associated documents as I could to have some understanding of these issues and prepare a reasonable response. What I learned gave me an appreciation for the confusion expressed by others (an understatement I'm sure). I understand why NOAA was compelled to implement a targeted, albeit experimental cessation of spill to help move adults. The bimodal migration of adults (fast and slow migrants) apparently necessitates a review of metrics used for emergency responses of this type in the future. The fact that there are wild and hatchery smolts in the system at this time. it makes sense that operations revert back to normal spill up to the 125% gas cap. Montana supports the proposed action.
<b>Nez Perce</b>	I think timely passage of adults through the Columbia River System is important to the Nez Perce Tribe. And deviation from predefined thresholds of expected passage should be used to trigger close examinations of the situation and potential actions to address but that must be done in a way that takes into consideration all of the species and all of the life stages, and in the context of achieving healthy and abundant fish stocks again. I think that collaborative monitoring and assessment of mechanisms and options for understanding and altering fish passage rates should continue and given the discussions of the last few days, there's room to improve on how we're doing that and I am encouraged by today's discussions and look forward to remaining engaged in that as we move forward either on this issue of future ones that are different. Thanks.
<b>BPA</b>	Deferring to NOAA's assessment of the situation.

a) Corps Response

As far as moving forward, based on today's conversation, the US Government will move forward on implementing the requested operation to revert back to the 125% TDG gas cap operation 24 hours a day on Friday, May 29.

- | *Ben Hausmann (Unverified) 11:58 AM*
- | *With multiple fish managers stating that the DART delay tool is not the best metric to use for these situations, I would like to ask that moving forward, we get clarification on what tool(s) IS best.*

Stranz said that she and Hausmann were on the same page. She was going to follow up and see if there was interest in moving forward with Hausmann's suggestion of having DART present and having a conversation with TMT, maybe at a process meeting in June or July. She asked if that was something that TMT members would be interested in.

Kelsey said that could be something that they could discuss at FPAC next week. DART has come to a FPOM task group a couple of years back and worked with us quite closely on our understanding of the tool and some modifications to the tool per FM requests. She

asked if TMT maybe hold off on that and then the FMs could talk about it at the next FPAC and get back to Hausmann and DART about that.

Stranz said that Tom Lorz was not here to add it to the agenda so McHugh, or Swank, if they could make sure that it makes it to the FPAC agenda and we will do a circle back.

| *Pete McHugh (Unverified) 11:59 AM*

| *sounds good*

Ebel said that he wanted to temper expectations on that real quick. He said to Hausmann's point, they are all pieces of information that put together become an assessment. So he was not sure that you are going to arrive at a tool because it is what the human mind is for and some of the things that we are trained and what we have learned to do after observing all these pieces of information year after year. He said that he wanted to put that out there, that is why some of us are FMs.

Stranz said that we did hear many requests to have more conversations and learning around those triggers. She said that she thought it was a good out of season, year end review kind of conversation. She said that they could start at FPAC and then we could go from there.

Morrill said that Baus did not state a time that they would stop the operation on Friday.

Norris said that the operation just stops. It does not get implemented on Friday. Tomorrow is the last day, so it ends Thursday night after tomorrow's 8-hour block, then you go to the gas cap spill, and you do not implement another block after that.

| *Ben Hausmann (Unverified) 12:05 PM*

| *We moved on before I could respond but, to clarify, there was stated consternation over some data not being considered in this operational decision. While there might not be a single tool that can be agreed upon, it should be relatively easy to list the suite of data that folks feel should be included in the decision-making process. That is what I'm requesting to avoid some of the frustration expressed today.*

#### **4. Non-Court Ordered Operations Review**

##### **b) Storage Reservoirs**

###### *Reclamation – Chris Runyan*

- Hungry Horse Dam
  - Yesterday's Average Inflows: 13.3 kcfs
  - Outflows: 6.7 kcfs
  - Midnight Elevation: 3551.6 feet
    - From Full: 8.4 feet
  - Conditions:
    - Inflows began increasing over the past couple of days.

- Forecast is calling for continued high temperatures (mid to low 80s) over the next couple of days and then HGH has some precipitation moving into the basin over the weekend.
- Streamflow should continue to increase.
- Operations:
  - Increasing outflows to 10 kcfs today to conserve space in the reservoir before outflows may need to be reduced this weekend to help regulate flows at Columbia Falls.
- Grand Coulee Dam
  - Yesterday's Inflows: 155.4 kcfs
  - Yesterday's Outflows: 119.6 kcfs
  - Midnight Elevation: 1268.5 feet
    - From Full: 21.5 feet
  - Operations:
    - Continue to refill and be near to Spring Refill by July 2, in anticipation of the July 4 holiday weekend. After GCL will top the reservoir off.
    - Spring Refill: 1286 feet (July 2)
    - Refill after July 4: 1289.5 feet
      - Half foot from full for the Lake Roosevelt incremental storage release program.

Corps – Catherine Dudgeon

- Libby Dam (Lake Koochanusa)
  - Midnight Elevation: 2403.87 feet
  - Avg. 1-Day Inflows: 36.6 kcfs
  - Current Outflow: 25 kcfs
  - Operations:
    - Operating their Sturgeon Pulse holding outflow at 25 kcfs.
- Albeni Falls (Hope Gauge)
  - Midnight Elevation: 2059.16 feet
  - Avg. 1-Day Inflows: 44.7 kcfs
  - Current Outflow: 44.7 kcfs
    - Outflow (Powerhouse): 34.1 kcfs
    - Outflow (Spillway): 10.6 kcfs
  - Operations:
    - Currently managing outflows to accommodate the higher inflows.
    - Gradually filling the pool.

- Dworshak Dam
  - Midnight Elevation: 1591.31 feet
  - Avg. 1-Day Inflows: 10.1 kcfs
  - Current Outflow (minimum): 1.7 kcfs
  - Operations:
    - Planning to hold that minimum through end of month.

c) Fish

Salmon – Kelsey Swieca, NOAA

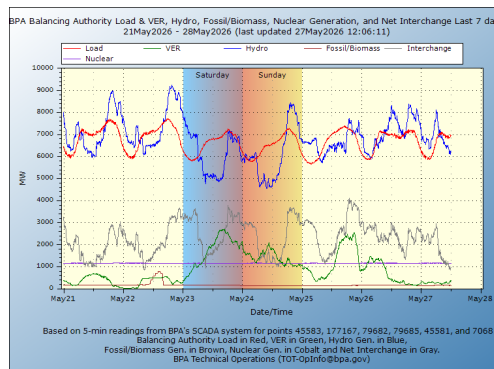
- Juveniles
  - Yearling Chinook and Steelhead are continuing to move through system but in relatively low numbers compared to weeks previous. We are past their peak passage points.
  - Yearling Chinook
    - LWG: tens to a couple hundred per day
    - LGS: couple hundred per day
  - Sockeye passage is rapidly winding down in the Snake River, very few are entering the head of the system at LWG
    - LGS: tens per day
  - Subyearlings are the dominant species, and their passage is increasing within the Snake River and are expected to increase further with the hatchery releases that were laid out.
- Adult Salmon Counts
  - Spring Chinook
    - BON: 800 Chinook
    - IHR: 575 Chinook
  - Steelhead
    - BON: 20-30 Steelhead
  - Shad
    - Meaningful increase in Shad passage over the past couple of days.
    - BON (May 25): 15000 fish
    - BON (May 26): ~12000 fish
    - IHR: A couple of Shad

Lamprey – Dave Swank, USFWS

- Adult Lamprey
  - Have seen the Adult Lamprey Run at BON started a little while ago.
  - Still early in the run.

- BON Lamprey Counts:
  - Daytime Window: 234 (28% of 10-year average)
  - Total 24-hour LPS: 258
  - Nighttime: 177
- Slow start, currently 93% of where we were last year.
- Comparing the Total 24-hour LPS count to the 16-hour LPS count shows the lamprey’s preference to move at night.
- Take Home: Somewhat similar to last year, we are seeing quite a few lamprey moving through the LPS and through the window at night.
- Interestingly, last year we had a large spike early in the run, over 1500 on June 10, then it crashed back down and had low counts the rest of the season.

d) Power System – Tony Norris, BPA



- Nothing to report.

5. Agenda – **Wednesday, June 3, 2026**

Meeting Location: Microsoft Teams

a) FPAC Flow Augmentation Request (tent.)

Marotz asked if the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho had mentioned anything about an update for White Sturgeon.

Stranz said that TMT had seen the presentation from Greg Hoffman. She said that she herself had not heard anything from the Tribe.

Marotz asked what tier we are in for the Sturgeon Pulse.

Swank said Tier 4.

**Today’s Attendees:**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>TMT Representative(s)</b>
NOAA Fisheries	Kelsey Swieca
Oregon	Erick Van Dyke
Washington	Charles Morrill
Kootenai Tribe	
Confederated Tribes of Colville Reservation	Dennis Moore
Umatilla Tribe (CRITFC)	Pete McHugh
Yakama Nation	Tom Iverson
Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)	Chris Runyan
Army Corps of Engineers (COE)	Doug Baus (Chair), Lisa Wright
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Dave Swank
Idaho	Jonathan Ebel
Montana	Brian Marotz
Spokane Tribe (STOI)	
Nez Perce Tribe (NPT)	Jay Hesse
Warm Springs Tribe	
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes	
Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)	Tony Norris, Ben Hausmann

Other Attendees (non-TMT members):

COE – Leah Hamilton, Chris Peery, Catherine Dudgeon, Jessika Solleder, Alexis Mills, Michelle Yuen

BOR – Ryan Fosness

BPA – Carolina Andes, Tammy Mackey, Leah Sullivan

DS Consulting – Emily Stranz (Facilitator), Colby Mills, Nancy Pionk

CorSource – Andrea Ausmus (BPA note taker, Contractor)

Clearing Up – K.C. Mehaffey

FPC – Noah Campbell, Gabe Scheer

Columbia Basin Bulletin – Mike O’Bryant

Energy Keepers – Eve James, Eddie Sparks

GCPUD – Joseph Akers, Eva Stites

DCPUD – Andrew Gingerich

NPCC – Rudy Salakory, Kate Self, Windy Schoby

Energy EPS – Joshua Rasmussen

PGE – Phil DeVol

S&P Global Energy – Kassia Micek

AVA – Patrick Maher, Mike Dillon

CHPM – Chelsea Wickel

Unaffiliated – Mike Buchko