

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

June 1, 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.

Adult Passage

Tom Lorz, CTUIR/FPAC Vice-Chair, explained that the group was meeting due to recent adult delay concerns. Lower Monumental Dam (LMN) operations were discussed last week and now TMT is looking to passage conditions at John Day (JDA).

Discussion on JDA centered on DART adult delay tool outputs, including the "black dots". Salmon Managers noted the "black dot" trigger at JDA is set at 45% rather than 50% and emphasized that the tool looks different depending on which release group and reach is selected. Kelsey Swieca, NOAA, added that the north ladder on the spill side has had persistently low passage for much of the spring spill season; this year's ladder split is more extreme than usual, with most fish using the south ladder on the powerhouse side. There was a recent drop in passage on the south ladder as well.

Jay Hesse, NPT, and Tom noted that from their perspectives, recent black dots appeared to correspond more with a reduction in south side passage than with the already low north ladder counts; recent concern could be a project-wide passage efficiency issue rather than only a north ladder issue. Kelsey noted that from NOAA's perspective, the uptick in north ladder passage appears to coincide with roughly a 10% reduction in spill around May 23–27, potentially indicating a hydraulic response worth considering.

Kelsey added into the meeting chat: https://www.cbr.washington.edu/dart/query/adult_hourly

Operational Clarifications

In response to a query from CTUIR, the Corps noted they have not tracked any significant turbine operational issues or major unit outages; from their perspective the project is operating in accordance with the Fish Passage Plan (FPP) unit priority. Some Salmon Managers asked for a clearer summary of which units have been operating over the past two weeks and whether any priority units have been offline long enough to matter. The Corps noted they did not have a formal summary prepared; they will follow up on this and other questions raised about whether the JDA "bubblers" would be installed this year, and about the spill pattern / spill distribution across the spillway (including whether change in spill pattern might influence ladder distribution).

Flow and Environmental Conditions

The group discussed a recent flow drop and a concurrent spill reduction, with some Salmon Managers expressing concern that these changes may have altered tailrace hydraulics and adult passage behavior. In response to a query if JDA flows would remain stable over the next 5-7 days, the Corps referred to the NWRFC forecast, and noted the ESP will be available later today. ID noted that from their perspective, the recent drop in forebay elevation of about 1.5 feet at JDA likely affected outflow and tailrace dynamics, which could influence whether the priority units stay online and how fish approach the ladders. NOAA added that JDA is experiencing above-average water temperatures, around 15.5°C; ladder temperature differentials are present, especially in the south ladder. After the group reviewed travel-time

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tables, it was noted that fish were arriving later than expected. NPT emphasized that from their perspective, this is not a passage blockage, but a longer-than-expected arrival timing issue.

Passage Timing and TMT Perspectives on Delay

The TMT reviewed DART travel-time and delay tables for fish released above McNary (MCN) and above Lower Granite (LWG). It was noted that adult spring and summer Chinook travel from The Dalles (TDA) to JDA has historically been relatively consistent, however recent travel-times appear slower than expected compared with past averages. NPT highlighted that, for the more detailed tables, the recent pattern showed intermittent periods where fish took longer than expected to arrive, including instances of 3 to 5+ days longer than expected in the most recent sequence. NOAA noted that the slower-than-predicted passage was more pronounced for the Snake River PIT-tag group than for the broader MCN group; they cautioned that sample sizes in some of those “bins” were small. WA added that median travel-time tools for mid-Columbia, upper Columbia, and Snake stocks do not suggest a significant system-wide slowdown; focusing on one reach or ladder can miss the broader context.

Kelsey noted that from NOAA’s perspective, the situation is a real delay at JDA, especially for Snake River species. They are concerned about the low spill-side passage and extreme ladder split and believe there may be a spill/flow-related hydraulic issue in the tailrace. The data suggest a moderate reduction in spill could improve passage on the north ladder; they do not see operational or recreational-fishing factors that might explain the pattern. Tom shared perspective that the bigger issue is the recent decline in south ladder passage, not just the chronically low north ladder counts. He emphasized that the ladder split has been present all season; some of the apparent change might relate to flows or other factors. Additionally, changes to south-shore entrances from last year could potentially be relevant. Erick added that from OR’s perspective, the DART black dot tool is a conversation starter, not an emergency signal by itself; he advised against over-interpreting sparse/inconsistently applied data. Charles Morrill, WA, added that WA disagrees with NOAA’s/AA’s expression of urgency, as spring Chinook adult migration is nearly over. He added into the meeting chat:

Adult Upstream Reach Travel Times

- [Adult Chinook Snake River Spring/Summer ESU](#)
- [Adult Chinook Snake River Fall ESU](#)
- [Adult Chinook Upper Columbia River Spring ESU](#)

Process and Next Steps

NPT suggested continued data gathering with a possible decision as early as tomorrow or no later than Wednesday; noting the concern originated from State and Tribal Salmon Managers, not just AAs. NOAA was uncomfortable waiting until Thursday and requested a timelier path forward. The group reviewed the standard TMT process for an SOR and agreed that NOAA would submit an SOR for deliberation at an unscheduled TMT meeting on June 2, at 10:00 AM PT, following an FPAC meeting to review the SOR.

- **ACTION:** NOAA will prepare an SOR and distribute by COB today.
- **ACTION:** FPAC will review the SOR tomorrow morning, TMT will reconvene afterward to continue the discussion and determine whether an operational change is warranted.
- **ACTION:** The Corps will follow up on 1) a summary of recent unit use, 2) whether any unit changes lasted more than an hour, 3) if JDA bubblers will be installed this year, 4) a summary of spill distribution across the spillway, and 5) any other notable changes that may affect JDA passage.

Questions or Comments from Non-TMT Members

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

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**An unscheduled TMT meeting will be held on June 2 at 10AM PDT.
The next regularly scheduled TMT meeting will be on June 3 at 9AM PDT.**

**Columbia River Regional Forum
Technical Management Team
OFFICIAL MINUTES
Monday, June 1, 2026**

Today's unscheduled 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. Adult Passage – Tom Lorz, Umatilla/FPAC Chair

a) Fish Manager Concerns and Discussion

- There were a lot of discussions about adult delays and Fish Managers (FM) thought it would be prudent to check in today.
- There were things of interest at the end of last week.
- FPAC met this morning to go over some comments and take a look at the data, and they wanted to check in with TMT afterwards.

b) Lower Monumental (LMN)

- Last week there were modifications made at LMN for adult delay and FMs are currently reviewing that operational change and seeing how that affected adult passage.
- FMs will probably share some data on that with TMT in the future.

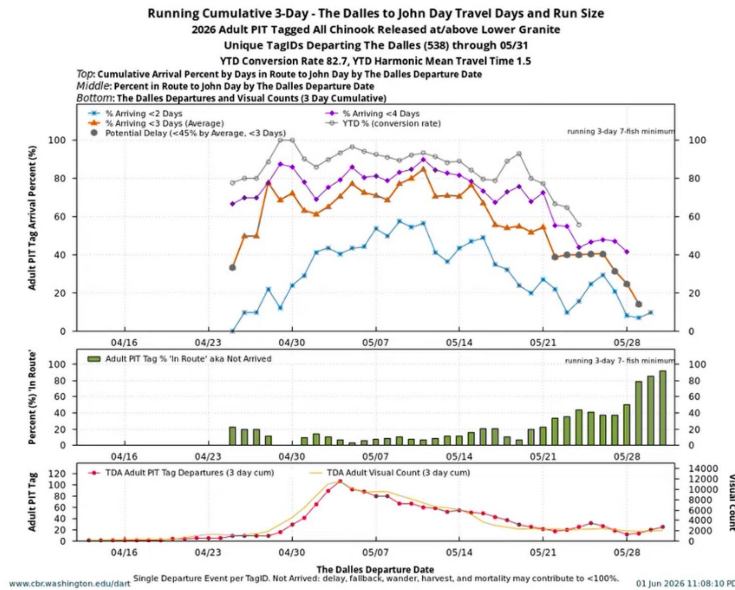
c) John Day (JDA)

- Looking at the system, FMs noticed that JDA has had some interesting passage issues this year.
- There seems that have been slower passage on the North Shore and depending on which way you use the DART tool you can see a few black dots or more that gave them pause.
- This is a topic that FMs wanted to get to today.

Stranz said that she had heard Lorz say that he was looking at the modifications from last week and probably would be bringing in some data in the future. She asked if there was a need for conversation on LMN at this point or should we shift it to JDA.

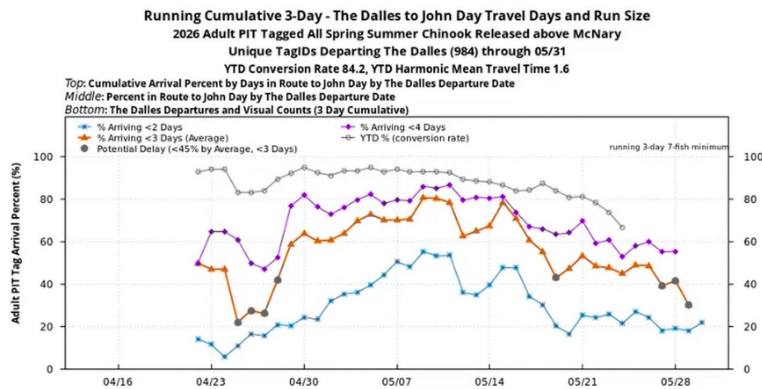
Lorz said that he thought we want to stay focused at JDA because the LMN operation is done and the FMs do not see any more black dots there. It seems to be operating well from the FM's standpoint, we seem to be doing okay. He said that they are not looking for any more modifications there. He was just giving his other colleagues a chance if they wanted to add anything on LMN we could do that briefly and then TMT should probably jump to JDA, so we are not here until 4:00pm.

d) Running Cumulative 3-Day – The Dalles (TDA) to John Day (JDA) – Lorz



- JDA Black Dot Trigger: 45%
- The last three days there has been a drop off.

e) Running Cumulative 3-Day – All Released above McNary (MCN) – Lorz



- The DART tool allows you to change the release group population from just looking at fish released above LWG, you can also look at all fish released above MCN. JDA has a fair number of fish from the Mid-C.
- This method shows fewer black dots because it is a larger population, more PIT-tags to consider and less likely to be biased toward smaller populations.
- This information was what triggered FPAC to have a meeting today. At FPAC there was a difference of opinions about the severity of this. Lorz said that he thought the vast majority of FMs are concerned but viewing this as an imminent issue but some FMs did view this as more timely.

f) Hourly Adult Ladder Splits (14-day) – Swieca

| [Kelsey Swieca \(Unverified\) 11:10 AM](#)

| https://www.cbr.washington.edu/dart/query/adult_hourly

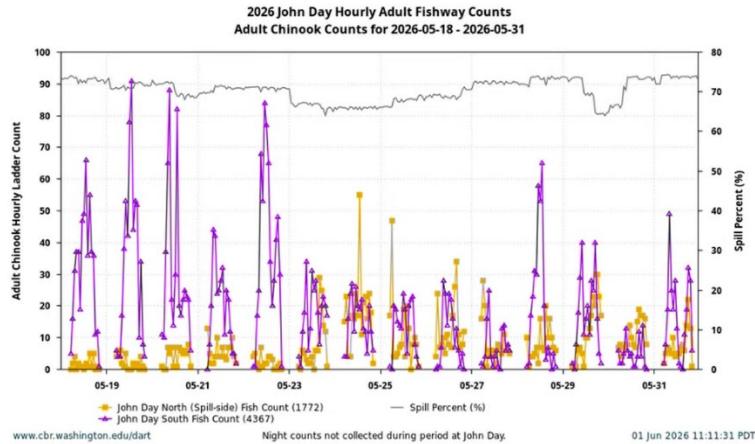


Figure: 2026 John Day Hourly Adult Fishway Counts. Adult Chinook Counts for 2026-05-18 - 2026-05-31. Night counts not collected during period at John Day.

- Swieca provided a link to the DART website which allows you to look at each of the North and South Ladders independently.
- It shows the Adult Chinook hourly passage for the North Fish Ladder (spill side) and South Fish Ladder (powerhouse side) with an overlay showing the spill percent line.
- There has been low passage at the north ladder (spillway side of JDA) for the majority of the Spring Spill season.
- It is not abnormal to have a difference in the proportion of fish that use each ladder, but what we see is more extreme than typical at JDA with the vast majority of the fish passing the project on the South side as opposed to the North side.

g) TMT Discussion

Jonathan Ebel, ID, said that there was a lot of complexity here and he was not going to go to what he just noticed about this figure relative to spill percent, but you can put this relative to spill volume and flow volume as well. As ways to gain information about what is going on and potential solutions to a problem if it exists.

Jay Hesse, Nez Perce, said that he wanted to highlight two things that he saw out of this. One was relatively consistent spill percentage, some fluctuations with a reduction in the recent day with lower flows, certainly a small dip there in one day, but this is more than a one-day trigger in this. He said that generally what he saw was the low passage at the North Ladder, which is atypical and has been as Swieca accurately described, going on most of the season. He said that he believed that in the recent days where the black dots have shown up that is more of a reflection of reduced South side passage and fish on that side, which is the powerhouse side. Hesse said that he thought how we choose or look at managing total passage needs to be thinking about the totality of the project and what he thinks is a reduction in South side passage efficiencies in the last few days.

Tom Iverson, Yakama Nations, said that he had the same observation as Hesse, but he would have gone the other way and said an increase in passage in the North side ladder. If you start seeing the first few days in this particular chart, the first seven days are very low and the last seven days are quite a bit higher and much more balanced between the ladders. For whatever reason the North side ladder does not appear to be performing as it had the previous couple of weeks.

Swieca said that she wanted to add to both Hesse and Iverson's observations, she heard where they were coming at with their perspective on this. She said that she just wanted to point out the increase in passage on the North side, those points tend to coincide with what would be about a 10% reduction in spill percent from about May 23 to partially May 27. She said that she wanted to put that out there because it was something that NMFS is keeping an eye on and looking at is a potential response to that. She said that there is a relationship between that and flow, absolutely, but she wanted to put that out as something they are looking at.

Stranz said that Chris Runyan, Reclamation, had added an aerial image of John Day from May 31 for everyone to see.

| *Chris Runyan (BOR) (Unverified) 11:16 AM*



| *Image of John Day from 5/31*

Runyan said that he was not super familiar with all this, so he just grabbed a satellite image from yesterday to try to understand what everyone was talking about. He asked if that ladder that was having less fish was near the spill or on the other side.

Swieca said yes, it would be the spill side.

Lorz said that the orientation of the map would be North on the top and South on the bottom, so the spillway is on the North and the powerhouse in on the South.

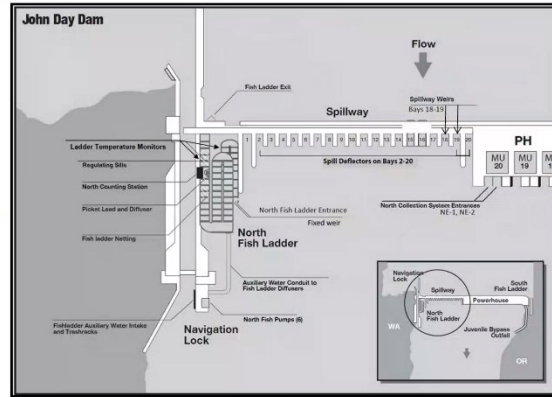


Figure JDA-2. John Day Dam Spillway and North Fish Ladder.

Swieca said that she thought there were some questions from the FMs regarding potential turbine prioritization. This might be a good time to dive into that. She said that she did not know if Lorz wanted to lead that discussion or where that conversation originated from.

Lorz said that one thing FMs did want to discuss was over this past short period of time, when we saw a large flow dip as well as when we saw the reduction spill FMs were also wondering about unit prioritization because they know that units go off and on. He asked if people had looked back at unit priorities. He asked if there had been any maintenance issues or that kind of stuff. He said that he had noted that spillbay 6 had been dogged off to a certain kcfs, so that spill bay is not following the FPP spill pattern. He asked if there were any other differences this year than years past. He asked the Corps for clarification.

Baus said he would respond generally. He said that the Corps was doing the best that they could today to come prepared. However, they did not know what was going to be discussed today. But to get at this issue regarding JDA, it was his understanding that the Corps was not tracking any significant issues regarding turbine operations or other operational issues that could be playing into this conversation. He said that was a bit general, but he wanted to highlight, he did not have any significant unit outages or anything to communicate.

Lorz said so the Corps had not really looked at it but Baus was not aware of any.

Baus said yes and no. He said that he had nothing prepared formally for Lorz today, however, he wanted him to know that they had been kicking the conversation around a little bit this morning because they were tracking it somewhat and they were not tracking any significant issues associated with unit availability and/or modification to unit priority that would play a role in this conversation.

Hesse asked Baus if FMs could get a summary of which units have been in operation over the last two weeks.

Baus said that he did not have that information right now, but they could share the information that they do have, which is hourly project data, which he assumed Hesse was already tracking. He wanted to highlight that the Corps was operating in accordance with the unit priority per the FPP, JDA-6 John Day Dam Turbin Priority Order.

Table JDA-6. John Day Dam Turbine Unit Priority Order.

Season	Unit Priority Order*
March 1 – November 30 Fish Passage Season	With any TSW spill and Unit 1 available: 5, 1, 3, 16, 14, 12, 10, 8, 15, 2, 11, 7, 4, 13, 9, 6 With any TSW spill and Unit 1 NOT available: 5, 2, 3, 16, 14, 12, 10, 8, 15, 11, 7, 4, 13, 9, 6 No TSW spill (both TSWs closed): 1–4 any order, then 5–16 any order
December 1 – end of February Winter Maintenance Period	Any Order

* When Unit 1 is not available to operate, operate Unit 2 for adult attraction. For all other main unit outages, the paired adjacent unit will be used to comply with requested priority.

Hesse said that it was going to be helpful whether it was during this meeting on in a follow-up to have the actual units that have been in operation over the last two weeks, or a statement that they have been static. He said that it is data that the FMs cannot see publicly and so they are relying on the Action Agencies (AA) to either show them data that it had been consistent or that it has changed. He said that they want to make sure that it had been stable on that side of the powerhouse or understand if there has been a difference, so if the AAs could help educate the FMs on that now or later that was the need.

Baus said like he had indicated to Hesse, again he did not have anything formally prepared today, but he would have to get back to Hesse, and he would leave it at that.

Tony Norris, BPA, said it was the same units have generally been in use the entire two-week timeframe.

Hesse said he appreciated that, but it was the “generally” part that we are talking about.

Norris said the unit priorities are Units 5, 1, 3, 16 and those four units have been used, except for when there was not enough water to run all four of those.

Hesse said that generation has been pretty stable out of the project and so it seems like it has not been a shifting of how many are on, was his guess. He said that what he was hearing, and what he would assume in terms of Norris’ statement about generally being the same, that we have not turned off for a significant period of time one of the priority units and started another one.

Ben Hausmann, BPA asked if they would have received a teletype if we were deviating from the priority units.

Norris said not if one went out of service and it was previously coordinated. He said that he thought that there was one period of time where instead of Unit 3, Unit 4 was on as the adjacent unit.

Lorz asked if they could give the FMs when that roughly was and if it was like a couple hours that would not be a big concern, if it was like a day or two that would be useful information to have.

Stranz asked the FMs to give Norris and others some time to look into that and circle back later today or follow up after the meeting.

- AAs to follow up with information about Units in service during the two-week period in question.

Stranz asked TMT what else they wanted to talk about as far as JDA conditions go.

Lorz said that one question that FMs did have was they saw a low flow drop between May 20 and 31, on May 30. He said that the FMs have not gotten an ESP yet so they were assuming we are going to go back to the flow levels we were at. He asked if that going forward kind of consistent. The only ones they had looked at were the MCN ones, they are just trying to figure out if flows to JDA were going to fluctuate much. Because you also notice when that flow fluctuation spill drop was that their preceding day there was a pretty big drop in adult counts at both ladders. He said that they were trying to see if we were going to see more fluctuations like this, are we thinking it is going to stabilize, are the flows going to be moving up. Until they get the ESP information, they really do not have a good idea. The dangers of having Monday meetings.

Stranz asked who could speak to that at the Corps.

Baus asked Lorz to repeat the question.

Lorz said the long and short are what the flows are going to be doing at JDA the next five to seven days.

Baus said that he would encourage the RFC inflow forecast. It would be the most appropriate tool for that topic.

Lorz said that they just have not seen the ESP traces, so they are just running blinder than normal at this time of day.

Ebel said that Baus just meant to use the forecast center instead of the traces which we did.

Lorz said that his question was, because that was at MCN, and they were wondering because FMs also saw a large pool change at JDA which was unexpected. So that was why they were trying to look at what had happened at JDA, or say The Dalles, some project below this to see if flows were going to be consistent, see more changes. They are just trying to get a handle because the FMs obviously know – as you have large flow fluctuations, and they do not even have to be that large, and you change tailrace hydraulics, adults react to that. He said they are trying to get their heads around if we are expecting to see more of that, it is going to be stable, it is going to be improving.

Aaron Marshall, Corps, said that the Corps would have its ESP forecast product out later this afternoon, but he would encourage others to go look at the NWRFC website. It does have the latest forecast out through the 10-day near term forecast window.

Stranz asked if TMT wanted to look at the RFC forecast right now together.

Ebel said that it might be helpful to clarify what he thought the ask was here, and he did not think that the NWRFC or the ESP are necessarily going to give us this information, the pool at JDA, the Corps dropped the pool, the forebay elevation at JDA by about 1.5 feet over the last day or two. And that is going to influence the flow out in the tailrace dynamics. And that operation whether it would happen again or not further influences the potential recommendations that could come out of this meeting because it does appear, especially when he was looking at and mapping out the four priority units that Norris just

said, depending on how the forebay is operated relative to the inflow would influence whether one of those units is probably online, he was just guessing, or is being used and that influences the tailrace dynamics, which influences adult passage relative. And it all goes back to what are, if there is a recommendation to improve passage of JDA, that goes into the decision making or the recommendation making process here. So to summarize he said that he did not think that information was going to tell the FMs what they need to know to inform a recommendation today.

Stranz asked what other information would help inform recommendations. She said lets look at that.

Ebel told Stranz good question.

Swieca said that she was going to add a couple of pieces that TMT had not addressed so far is overarching environmental conditions. She said that she could summarize those very quickly. She said that she was not sure that we need to bring the data up or not, and then she would fact-check herself with the others on the call and make sure that she summarizes them sufficiently. She said that what she thought we were seeing at JDA is above average water temperatures, they are at about 15.5°C. We are seeing ladder differentials, differences in the ladder temperature within the ladder, that are fairly meaningful. Those ladder differentials are higher on the South fish ladder than they are in the North fish ladder. The differentials present in the North fish ladder are within what we have observed historically. She asked if there was anything else that FMs wanted to add about temperature to the background of this conversation.

Hesse said that those were the important components. He said that he would have a question on the ladder differentials and whether or not there were plans to do the bubbler in front of the JDA ladder this year or was that just MCN.

Baus said he would have to get back to Hesse on that. He said that he did not know.

➤ Corps to follow up with Hesse about whether there were plans to do the bubbler in front of the JDA ladder this year.

Stranz asked if there was anything else that Swieca was noticing, or other conditions she would like to highlight.

Swieca said that she thought that we hit flow already, we hit temperatures. She said that was all that she could think of but asked if others had additional information that they would like to put on the table.

Hesse said that TMT had not talked about the weather forecast this morning. He said that his general sense was that it is not hot but not cold for the next seven days. And then for him on the detail data, similar to our LMN discussion, he asked Baus to pull up the DART tool and to look up the full group of fish above MCN. He said that had been his default all season long just to maximize sample size for Spring and Summer Chinook. He said that he thought it was the appropriate button to hit which has the three consecutive dots on the three day.

Stranz said that we would keep taking one step at a time. She asked if there was anything else that TMT members wanted to look at or speak to with the data on the screen right now.

Hesse asked if it was limited to this data on the screen.

Stranz asked to let her check, and we could move to something else, but she wanted to check on that since we were starting at.

Morrill said that he wanted to introduce some other data from the DART website that shows mean travel time for groups of fish in the mid-Columbia, the Upper Columbia, as well as the Snake component. Morrill said that it was not a black dot tool, but what it does provide is historical travel time and the current 2026 median travel time for those stocks. Which does not suggest that we are seeing significant “slower passage times”. When we focus on one reach or we focus on the North-South ladder, we overlook the holistic impact of what was happening at a given project versus what was happening system-wide for adult Spring Chinook headed for the natal spawning grounds.

| *Charles Morrill (Unverified) 11:41 AM*
| *DART PIT Tag Columbia Basin ESU & DPS Mean Travel Time Estimates*
| https://www.cbr.washington.edu/dart/query/esu_tt
| *Adult Upstream Reach Travel Times*
| [Adult Chinook Snake River Spring/Summer ESU](#)
| [Adult Chinook Snake River Fall ESU](#)
| [Adult Chinook Upper Columbia River Spring ESU](#)
| *we can look at Snake and Upper Columbia Adult Spring Chinook ESU's by reach*

Hesse said that he thought it was important that we look at the juvenile passage index information because the balance part of all of this is asking how we manage for adults and juveniles. The best shot that we have is MCN and assuming that those numbers are indicative of what was at the next downstream dam.

MCN Juvenile Passage Index

- Yearling Chinook
 - Still present but decreasing over the two-week period.
- Subyearling (Fall Chinook)
 - Looking upstream into the Snake indices were increasing over the two-week period.
 - Not exhibiting increasing trends at MCN, still numbers of fish present.
 - Assumption is that the amount of subyearlings are increasing or would be increasing at JDA.
- Coho
 - During this timeframe, Coho were increasing at MCN and decreasing at the other projects.

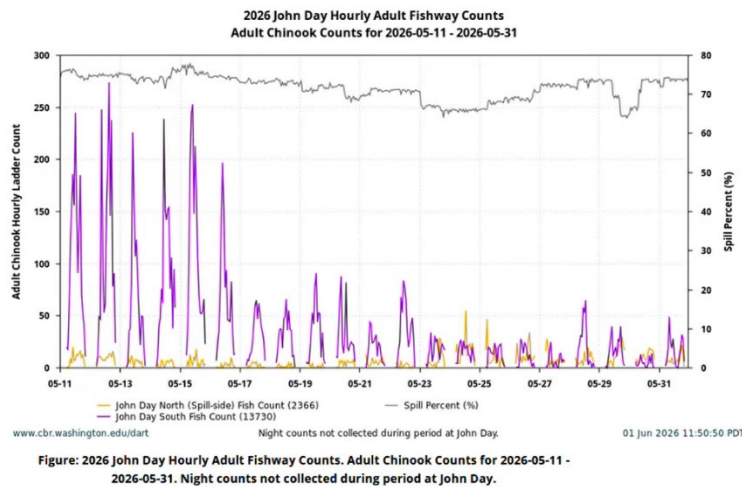
- Steelhead
 - A slight decrease over the two weeks in the Snake.
 - Decreasing at MCN.
- Sockeye
 - Indices going to zero in the Snake.
 - Still present at MCN with a bump up from the previous two samples (up to three to four times higher).

Stranz said that she was wondering, to circle back, Ebel had been thinking about information or conclusions to share. She asked if he had anything that he would like to share out at this point.

Ebel said that he would prefer to restate the observation which was: 1) The region has set expectation on how long it should take adult Spring/Summer Chinook to pass from point A to point B. The instance that we are talking about is from TDA to JDA and that is ~40 km. In the past these travel times for these fish at the population-run level have been relatively consistent. What we have seen in the last couple of weeks is that the Spring/Summer Chinook are traveling a little slower than the expectations that had been set by past observations. 2) The other major observation is the ladder split. The fish have been predominantly using the south ladder, which is an anomaly, and is similar to 2021, another low flow year with a little bit different spill arrangement. But there is another expectation that fish at the population level will be using both ladders and that is not what we have been seeing across the season this year. So that was the other issue that he thought was on the table today in terms of should something be done and if the answer to that is yes, what should be done. And that should be based off what options are on the table. He said that a lot of this data is just being shown to try to set that conversation up so he wanted to make sure that we do not get lost in the data and that we are starting to get toward the end goal of what we are going to do if we need to do something.

Stranz agreed and said she was wondering if we can shift there. She said that TMT had looked at a lot of different pieces of information. She asked if Swieca wanted to help TMT shift.

Swieca said that she thought that it was prudent to start shifting the conversation and she was happy to open it up with NMFS' perspective. She asked to display the ladder split with a 21-day date range.



h) Agency Perspectives

NMFS' Perspective – Swieca

As Ebel, and others, have mentioned from NMFS' perspective there is a delay in fish passage at JDA, we are seeing that delay be more extreme for Snake River species. I believe that we've seen 9 days of black dots which NMFS would consider to be a delay in passage at that project for Snake River species and then we have also seen 3 days for all individuals tagged above MCN. That is concerning to NMFS, and we would like to ameliorate delay at that project.

In looking at the data, trying to discern what makes sense operationally and to rule out any other potential issues we came across what is observed on the screen here, which is abnormally low adult passage on the spill side of JDA for the duration of the Spring season and that has not occurred to this magnitude under different operations at the project and that is concerning to NFMS. We look at total passage across the project but it also important from our perspective to ensure that there are multiple passage opportunities and both functioning ladders at the project to ensure the safe and timely passage of individuals through that project. So, we observed in this figure that we have been seeing abnormally low fish passage and a higher than typical ladder split with many more individuals passing the project on the powerhouse side as compared to the spill side. In addition to that, we saw that when spill percent dropped about 10% around May 23, we did see a bump up in the passage on the spill side of the project again. That did coincide with the change in flow as well, we fully acknowledge that, to us that indicates that there may have been a shift in the tailrace hydraulics that allow for additional passage on the North ladder on the spill side of the project.

NMFS's thought process at this point in time is that we've seen meaningful delay at the project, we are seeing potentially something occurring in the tailrace that is spill and flow related, we are seeing some indication that a moderate reduction in spill may prove effective at this project based on the data we've observed about a week ago with about a 10% reduction in spill percent and coinciding with an uptick in passage at the North ladder. Again, we recognize that there's been a broader slowing across both ladders at the project. It is our opinion that we should have two functioning ladders, and we acknowledge that ladder splits have existed

in the past, but they are much more extreme under the operation that has been carried out this year.

Looking at environmental conditions and operational constraints NMFS is not aware of any concerns operationally that could be causing the low passage on the North side of the ladder or low passage in the project in general. And we are also unaware of any recreational fisheries occurring that could be contributing to a data issue that would appear as delay that wasn't actually delay. So we are not seeing and we feel that we have adequately ruled out with the information that we currently have those two aspects.

Umatilla's Perspective – Lorz

Appreciate Swieca's viewpoint, I differ shockingly enough a little bit. Our biggest concern is while it is troubling to have the North shore ladder not passing as many fish as we all might like, our bigger concern is that as you can see in here it's like the South shore went from passing decent numbers of fish to much lower numbers of fish and that's when we start seeing the black dots. That wasn't so much that the North shore has been passing fish all year, it's that something changed at the South shore and that's why we're trying to focus in on other things, per se, than just focusing solely on the North shore and what would that do. And that's why we're taking a look at flows, unit outages, unit operations. I know that this year and last year we changed South shore entrances a little bit because of concerns about the fish pumps, I'm not saying that's driving this, but that's another variable in this that should be considered.

So we are looking more for a bit of a cautious approach on this from a different standpoint, just because that's why we try to get more into the flow issue because that's where we see some of the bigger, more interesting changes we saw was when we were changing flows around and that's why we're trying to get a better understanding about what's going on with that. At this point, we would exercise caution and not make a recommendation on operational changes quite yet. We are not at the threshold of concern that Swieca is obviously at.

Stranz asked Lorz if he was speaking on the behalf of Umatilla or FPAC.

Lorz said Umatilla and he would let other people make their own judgments on that.

Yakama Nation's Perspective – Iverson

Consistent with what Lorz pointed out, if I overlay the DART tool, that seems to be the trigger for this conversation, the ladder differentials weren't part of triggering the DART tool. The black dots came in the last four days. There were no black dots when those ladder differentials were so extreme. And so, I am having a hard time connecting the two together. When I look at when the at when the ladder differentials were more consistent with each other was when the black dots came up so that's a logic path I'm really struggling with.

One thing jumps out at me as I look at the top of the graph and the spill percentage that's been bouncing around a little bit over the last couple days, and maybe it is flow and operations that is causing this black dot delay. I certainly don't think it's spill and the argument that with the reduction in spill we saw more equal ladder distributions, well yeah, and that's when the black dots showed up. So I'm

missing some of the logic in this and I'm really trying to understand what a solution might be and what the metric of success is for any action that is taken.

Swieca asked to clarify. She said that she thought the lack of temporal adherence to the black dots that Iverson was seeing may be an artifact of looking at a certain release group on the DART adult delay tool.

Hesse and Lorz asked for clarification.

Swieca said from what Iverson said it was her understanding that he was looking at the adult delay tool for all individuals released above MCN. She said that she would implore an expanded conversation to also include the individuals above LWG release group in the conversation.

Iverson said that he was looking at both of them. He said that the black dots in the last few days there had not been a big incident except for percent spill that had gone up and down fairly dramatically.

Ebel told Swieca that if she looks at just the Snake River fish it is a smaller sample size and it is right at the threshold for a lot of that period. He said that was what he thought Iverson was getting at. He said that he thought that Iverson was focused on the rapid decline in two- to three-day conversion rate versus that relatively stable period that existed despite being slightly below that threshold that existed for a little bit while before that.

Swieca said that she heard Ebel and she heard Iverson as well. She said that what she was attempting to point out in this conversation was that from NMFS' perspective we have observed adult delay. When we dive into that more closely and look at the period of time over the past ten days or so we can see that when there was a spill reduction which coincided with a change in flow we did see more equal passage at both of the ladders, which could suggest that there was some amelioration of some confounding tailrace hydraulic issue that allowed fish to more effectively enter the spill side of the project. She said that was what she was attempting to convey.

Iverson followed up saying that was exactly his point, with that reduction in spill is when the black dots showed up, the black dots did not go away when we saw that, that was actually when they showed up and that was his point.

- | *Charles Morrill (Unverified) 11:54 AM*
- | *Agree with what Tom Lorz shared !*
- | *fully agree with what Tom Iverson just said*
- | *agreed ... look at Upper Columbia and Snake*

Oregon's Perspective – Van Dyke

I am trying to temper this, but what I am hearing a lot is folks pointing to one thing or another without really having looked at the details of that one thing or another, a lot of reactivity to a single point, whether it's water or detection of a fish or something similar. It's concerning that there's bouncing back and forth between how those are used when the details that are being drawn from are kind of inconsistently applied or available. At this point making a recommendation based on an observation of a single point is not a very strong, vigorous way to go

about things. So, I think if folks really look at more detail about the difference between these groups that Swieca's trying to point out she'll find that there are some subtle information gaps that may actually need some answers too. Just quickly looking at the tag groups that applied here, not the water or the counts, there is some subtle differences on even the Snake River versus Snake River in the aggregate for MCN, which I would not have anticipated. So I think there's got to be some more scouring of the data before you try to apply the use of a tag group that was put together for a different purpose to opportunistically make some statements about how they're behaving one day or another.

And then the details are really hard and scattered to use when bouncing between a DART tool and some other tool. How we are using those ultimately to make recommendations seems to me to be a little reactive at a point where I am not sure it's vigorous enough to feel like difference you're observing are things that you're tracking accurately to these different ideas. So, I guess, all in all, the DART tool seems to have played into this notion that we're going to look at it and respond and talk, but it isn't an emergency when we see a black dot, it's an indicator to have a conversation, which I think we've had.

Van Dyke said that he was not sure where TMT was going today. He asked if TMT would poll on something or if this was a conversation. He asked if the USG was going to have a recommendation that others are not necessarily recognizing as an emergency. He asked where this was going.

Stranz said that she thought that we were working on figuring that out. She said that if there was a recommendation to put on the table she thought we should get that out.

Nez Perce's Perspective – Hesse

I appreciate this conversation. I do want to highlight that the call for the FPAC gathering this morning and for this call came from the State and Tribal fish managers and so there is a level of concern and need for discussion and so, I think there is that commitment here. And I just want people to be aware of the catalyst for that, and it is not wholly being driven by the USG.

Number two is the curiosity or the need for looking at options to improve fish passage on the South shore ladder. So Swieca, I have heard the concerns, I share those about the North ladder, I'm curious about the lack of discussion about the drop of passage on the South ladder and suggestions for improving that.

And then if there is a suggestion on the table to come, will NOAA's metric be only North shore passage or does it actually have to clear black dots holistically from the project. And then my suggestion is because I've heard Swieca say that she was time limited on this, there were still some questions to come on flows and to get better information on those projections this afternoon so, it seems like we should continue to look into this. There is an FPAC discussion tomorrow and I think that we should continue to gather some data and continue the discussion for a need and what knobs to turn as early as tomorrow and no later than Wednesday.

Swieca said that she was time limited, she had a hard stop in less than ten minutes. She said that she thought it was worth having a process check in with the Corps and BPA. She said that she thought that she heard Hesse say for potential something as early as

tomorrow. She said that she was wondering, timewise and process-wise how TMT moves this forward.

Stranz asked if folks comfortable with what Hesse just put out there of continuing to gather data, have more discussion and revisit either tomorrow or for the regularly scheduled TMT meeting on Wednesday. She asked if there was a need for any action for any action prior to that. She said that she was hearing from the majority of fish managers that this was not an emergency.

- | *Charles Morrill (Unverified) 12:07 PM*
- | *gathering data and further discussion ... Yes*
- | *comfortable with revisit tomorrow or TMT Wednesday/. Not an emergency.*

Ebel said that he thought that this call today was good. He said that he thought, given what was said by the Corps, that they were not fully tracking until this morning what this conversation may be about, that hopefully they have sufficient information now to give it some thought and that we should put this on the agenda for Wednesday.

Swieca said that from NMFS' perspective a conversation on Wednesday for a potential operational change not earlier than Thursday is too long. She said that they are observing what they consider to be important slowdown in passage of, particularly the Snake River species, that they think needed to be addressed in a more timely fashion. She said that she thought maybe we have a couple of follow up tidbits from the Corps, and maybe from BPA, she was not sure where we need information back. She said that she thought that NMFS may be prepared to offer a recommendation for an operational change as early as tomorrow once they receive that information. She said that she did not know how we move this forward, but from NMFS' perspective, waiting until Thursday, to even have this conversation again, it is too long.

- | *Ben Hausmann (Unverified) 12:09 PM*
- | *With folks referencing that this is NOT an emergency, I wanted to remind folks of that definition per the WMP. "Unexpected equipment failures or other conditions that result in an interruption of fish protections measures." Page 2*
- | *Charles Morrill (Unverified) 12:09 PM*
- | *I disagree with Kelsey's expression of NOAA's b/ Federal urgency*
- | *we are in the tail end of the Sp Chinook adult migration phase ...*

Stranz said so from NMFS' perspective, changes need to happen before Wednesday's TMT meeting which leaves us either with this afternoon or tomorrow for another meeting.

Hesse said that TMT's established process for SORs and changes is to have a recommendation in by 2:00pm and then a decision the following day. He said that it seemed like we are still on the path to do that, maybe some leniency in gathering the information and having the Corps fully think through any other operational changes or differences that may have impacted the South shore passage and to have NOAA to provide a recommendation by close of business today for FPAC discussion/deliberation in the morning and at TMT process to play out tomorrow that would be consistent with our established guidelines.

Ebel said that there is concern but part of this issue with the ladder split has been occurring all season and the other part, the slow down, it has gotten worse over the last couple of days. He said that he did not share the urgency of an action needing to be implemented tomorrow versus Wednesday versus Thursday. He said that he thought that forcing that type of immediate action takes a number of potential solutions, if you think there is a problem then it could be a solution, potential actions off the table because they are a little bit harder to think through and that the Corps is going to need to think about them.

Aaron Marshall, Corps, said that he wanted clarification. He said that he had heard some requests for information from the Corps and heard some things that folks thought that the Corps needed to think about. He said that he wanted to get some clarity on those requests and what those actions might be.

Stranz summarized:

- Confirmation of the units that have been in use over the last two weeks. If there had been any changes where the duration was more than an hour or so.
- Question about whether the JDA bubblers would be in place this year or not.
- Request for information about the distribution of flow across the spillway in response to the concern about the ladder split, the spill pattern.

Baus told Ebel that in response to the spill, it was his understanding again that the Corps was implementing the FPP spill pattern. That information is all publicly available on the TMT website.

Ebel said that he knew that, he was just thought it was something that, in terms of discussion_ He said that he would just put it out there, if part of the concern is the distribution across the two ladders than something you could alter slightly as a spill pattern and to try to guide more fish over to the North shore instead of having you could bulk it on either side, a little bit. So, there are solutions or there are operations that could be tested that are different, he thought, from what is going to be suggested from NMFS. He said that was his point of taking some time to think this through.

Baus said that the Corps just does not have the ability, so they are implementing the current FPP spill pattern. He said that the Corps did not have the ability nor do they have the capability today to pivot and just modify the JDA FPP spill pattern if that was what he was hearing from the request, he wanted to highlight_

Ebel said what was being suggested was altering the FOP without and SOR.

Stranz said that TMT was working the way towards clarifying the process for moving forward. She asked if that was the direction that Lorz and Hesse were planning on going.

Lorz said that he was, but he did have to correct Baus a little bit. He said that the Corps was not implementing the FPP because Spill Bay 6, so technically you are not following the FPP pattern but that is a structural thing, and we could talk about that more later. He said that he wanted to correct that. He said that he understood Swieca's urgency and that kind of stuff, but he assumed that a SOR could have been prepared or could be prepared

and he strongly encouraged TMT to follow the SOR process. If this was an emergency, then why didn't we see an SOR. IF this was an emergency, then we have got to follow the SOR process, that is what we do, otherwise it gets very chaotic and causes us a lot of headaches.

Stranz asked if it was a possibility to get an SOR by the close of business today so that we can take this conversation back up after FPAC has had a chance to look at it tomorrow.

Swieca said that from NMFS perspective that was okay, but she did need to do a process check with the other Action Agencies (AA) and ensure that was in line with them and their thinking on the process as well.

Stranz asked if any AAs had concern with that process that she had just laid out.

Norris said that it worked for BPA.

Baus said that it sounded okay.

Runyan said that it sounded good.

Stranz said that TMT was going to ask NOAA to put out an SOR before the close of business today. She said that TMT was going to have an unscheduled meeting tomorrow, Tuesday. She said that she would like to request that it happen before 2:00pm so that DS Consulting could support TMT in that conversation. She asked if there was anything else that TMT needed to go over before firming up that plan.

➤ **NOAA requested to put out an SOR before the close of business, June 1, 2026.**

Hesse said that he thought the general list of asks also included a general assessment of operations without the detail given now that the Corps heard the concerns here that they can just make sure there was nothing else wonky that we did not think about. Now that the Corps had heard the concern, see if something else was different just to flag that.

Stranz circled back to Marshall. She asked if he had been tracking the asks to the Corps.

Marshall said yes.

TMT discussed the time for the meeting. Meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, June 2 at 10:00am (Pacific).

2. Next Meeting Scheduled – *Tuesday, June 2, 2026*

Meeting Location: Microsoft Teams

- a) Adult Passage

Today’s Attendees:

Agency	TMT Representative(s)
NOAA Fisheries	Kelsey Swieca
Oregon	Erick Van Dyke
Washington	Charles Morrill
Kootenai Tribe	
Confederated Tribes of Colville Reservation	Dennis Moore
Umatilla Tribe (CRITFC)	Tom Lorz, Pete McHugh
Yakama Nation	Keely Murdoch, Tom Iverson
Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)	Chris Runyan
Army Corps of Engineers (COE)	Doug Baus (Chair), Aaron Marshall, Lisa Wright
US Fish & Wildlife Service	
Idaho	Jonathan Ebel
Montana	
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 – Megan Biljan, Nicholas Bertrand, David Miller, Jessika Solleder, Eric Chow, Tiffany Dixon, Tom Conning, Chris Peery, Patricia Madson, Alexis Mills

BPA – Carolina Andes

DS Consulting – Emily Stranz (Facilitator), Colby Mills

CorSource – Andrea Ausmus (BPA note taker, Contractor)

ODEQ – David Gruen

Columbia Basin Bulletin – Mike O’Bryant

FPC – Gabe Scheer, Noah Campbell, Erin Cooper

Energy EPS – Joshua Rasmussen

NPCC – Windy Schoby

Unaffiliated – Denny Rohr