

**MEETING NOTES FOR JOINT MEETING
COWLITZ FISHERIES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AND AD-HOC GROUP**

Friday, March 13, 2015 from 1:00 – 4 PM
2025 NE Kresky Ave., Chehalis, WA

Attendees

Tony Crocco	Ad Hoc Group
Stan Bartle	Ad Hoc Group
Donald Glaser	Ad Hoc Group, FOC
Bob Reid	Ad Hoc Group, CPR – Fish
Randy LeDuc	Ad Hoc Group, CCA
Terry Turner	Ad Hoc Group
Jack Tipping	Ad Hoc Group Candidate
Ruth Peterson	Senator John Braun’s Office
Shannon Wills	Ad Hoc Group, FTC Tech Rep for Yakama Nation
Mark Johnson	WDFW
Peggy Miller	WDFW
Cindy LeFleur	WDFW
John Serl	WDFW
Ann Weckback	Lewis County
Pat Frazier	Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board
Michelle Day	NMFS
Jim Pacheco	WA Dept. of Ecology
Monika Sundbaum	Tacoma Power
Keith Underwood	Tacoma Power
Mark LaRiviere	Tacoma Power
Lyn Wiltse	PDSA Consulting (facilitator)

Next Joint Meeting

March 26 from 9-11 AM at the Veterans’ Memorial Museum, 100 SW Veterans Way, in Chehalis (preceding the Cowlitz River Fisheries & Watershed Conference at the same location).

Initial APR (Annual Project Review Public Meeting)

March 26 from 6-8 PM at the Veterans’ Memorial Museum, 100 SW Veterans Way, in Chehalis (following the Cowlitz River Fisheries & Watershed Conference at the same location).

Welcome / Introductions

We thanked everyone for attending this joint meeting of these two groups who share a common concern for the long-term health and viability of fish in the Cowlitz River. After introductions, we thanked Ann Weckback for hosting this meeting. The facilitator reviewed meeting purpose, ground rules, and asked for any additions to the agenda. The meeting goals included:

- Getting to know each other
- Understanding each other’s interests and responsibilities

- Engaging in productive dialogue about those interests
- Building trusting relationships

Meeting Topics

We reviewed the list of topics that Cindy solicited from the Ad Hoc Group members in advance of this meeting and prioritized which to discuss first. Items not covered at this meeting will be first on the list at our next meeting on March 26.

List of Potential Topics:

- Steelhead recycling (how many and when)
- Mayfield Net pens
- Plan to abandon volitional upstream passage / 650K lb. cap / Upper Cowlitz satellite ponds
- ISIT (In-Season Implementation Tool) Model
- Cottonwood trees in fishing area
- Fishery Proposals (Note: As these are under WDFW jurisdiction, they were discussed separately immediately following this meeting.)
 - Allow retention of wild fall Chinook
 - 2 pole endorsement
 - Expanded use of barbed hooks
- Steelhead research
- Drought update
- Roles and responsibilities of FTC and Ad Hoc Group

Discussion of Topics

1. Cottonwood trees in fishing area: These were removed today. There was great rejoicing!
2. Drought Update: This is one of the worst droughts on record. Tacoma Power has impounded as much water as possible to keep the reservoir full to protect fish, recreation, and cultural resource interests. There is currently a 70% probability of refill. They are currently generating at 4,100 cfs and plan to drop to 3,100 cfs on April 1 and then, as needed, reduce to 2600 in May. Pulsing flows are continuing. Full pool at Riffe Lake is 778.5'. Target reservoir elevations are:

July 1 Elev. Target: 778'
 June 1 Elev. Target: 778'
 May 1 Elev. Target: 772'
 April 1 Elev. Target: 772'

3. Steelhead Research: Jack introduced a potential research project that called for an experimental design by raceway.

Next steps: This proposal will be sent to the FTC for future discussion. Note: This will be the first time the proposal will be shared with the FTC.

4. Steelhead Recycling: Mark and Cindy demonstrated the ISIT model and how various inputs into the model yield very distinct outputs. For example, stray rates:
 - a. 0.5% = 6,300
 - b. 1% = 2,800
 - c. 2% = 1,000
 - d. 4% = 131

Cindy explained that there was another step that was needed to estimate the total number of fish that could be recycled. The next step is to estimate the number of recycled fish that will stray. The numbers listed in a-d (above) may be higher than what would occur. The FTC is constrained by HSRG limits. They are taking a best available science approach in determining which stray rates to use (based on a rolling 5-year average). In the absence of data they tend to take a conservative approach as their responsibility to do everything possible to ensure sustainable populations in the Cowlitz.

Initial Public Meeting: Tacoma Poser Cowlitz Fisheries Informational Meeting

The proposed agenda for this meeting on March 26 was distributed to meeting participants who were asked to review it and provide feedback / suggestions. There were no suggested edits.

An invitation was made for a member of the Ad Hoc Group to join Keith and Cindy in making opening remarks at this meeting. There were no volunteers during the meeting. After the meeting Stan volunteered to make the same remarks that he made at this meeting about the collaborative nature of these two groups coming together to work on mutually beneficial solutions.

Meeting Evaluation

All agreed this was an excellent first meeting of these two groups and that much information was shared within the three hours.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM at which time a subgroup met to discuss fishery proposals with WDFW.