

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes for August 12, 2004 FPOM Meeting.

1. The meeting was held at the Portland District Office, USACE. In attendance were:

Rex Baxter	USACE	509.527.7124
Steve Richards	WDFW	509.545.2050
Victor Albaladejo	WDFW	360.906.6745
Randy Lee	USACE	503.808.4876
Rudd Turner	USACE	503.808.3935
Scott Boyd	USACE	503.808.3943
Bob Cordie	USACE	541.298.7406
Cal Sprague	USACE	503.808.4305
David Clugston	USACE	503.808.4751
Larry Beck	USACE	541.374.8801
Ron McDonald	USACE	541.374.8344
David Wills	USFWS	360.604.2500
Tom Lorz	CRITFC	503.238.3574
Tammy Mackey	USACE	541.374.4552
Scott Bettin	BPA	503.230.4573
Nanette Seto	USFWS	503.231.6164
Tara Zimmerman	USFWS	503.231.6164
Geoff Dorsey	USACE	503.808.4769
Rick Martinson	PSMFC	541.296.8989
Paul Ocker	USACE	503.808.3726

2. The following handouts were distributed:

- DRAFT AGENDA, FISH PASSAGE O&M COORDINATION TEAM, PORTLAND DISTRICT, ROBERT DUNCAN PLAZA, AUGUST 12.
- CENWP-OP-B, 12 August 2004, MEMORANDUM FOR: FPOM MEMBERS, SUBJECT: Bonneville Lock and Dam Fishway and Construction Activities Report for August 2004 FPOM meeting.
- CENWP-OP-B, 1 September 2004, MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD, SUBJECT: Mid season fishway ROV results for PH1, Main dam and PH2 fishways and comparison of divers vs. ROV inspections.
- Date: August 12, 2004, Fish Passage Operation and Maintenance Meeting, The Dalles/John Day Status.
- THE DALLES/JOHN DAY PROJECT, FISH RESEARCH REPORT, 8/11/2004.
- Date: 8/9/04, Re: Justification for investigating return of dam angling at the lower Columbia dams. [informal memo]
- FISH PASSAGE O&M COORDINATION TEAM, Adult and Juvenile Fish Facilities Status Report, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District, August 12, 2004.
- FPOM – ADULT FISH COUNT PROGRAM TASK GROUP, 8/12/04, Chairman – Robert Stansell. [task group description]
- CENWD-CM-WR-N, August 12, 2004, FPOM meeting, 2004 Columbia River Basin Observed Runoff and Flows.

3. Action Status Updates (meeting dates are in parentheses):

- (June 2004) – Larry Beck said that the SMF dewatering structure has lights...how about turning off lights to speed smolt passage through the structure? Robert S. said at BON when collection channel lights were shut off everything in the channel left. **ACTION:** Bob said they would turn off lights at primary dewaterer and see what happens.

(July 2004) – Bob C. provided a handout that documented lights on/off testing that was done June 17-22...adult fish moved downstream faster with lights off...no clear pattern for juveniles...recommended keeping lights out at all times...project personnel can adapt (carry radios and flashlights). **STATUS:** Complete for JDA. Rex B. said he would have project biologists in the Walla Walla District try similar testing.

(August 2004) – Rex B. said no results from his district yet. Cal S. added that he was concerned about turning lights off versus maintaining security lighting. Bob C. said his security people had no problem with turning off the dewatering structure lights at TDA.

- July 2004 – Avian Abatement Issues: Paul Kokes of USDA/WS inquired about the need for additional bird control efforts at the Lower Columbia dams...they have been working the upper river dams since 1994. Bob C. asked why are we not looking into dam angling, as the tribes once did? Rudd T. said that BPA has increased funding for the sport reward fishery...they are also working with ODFW and revisiting dam angling...may have tribal fishermen again next year. There was also discussion about grebes remaining in the juvenile fish collection channel at MCN...something needs to be done...Rex said there were plans to do a grebe roundup (capture with nets and return to river). **ACTION:** Wayne V. said he would check with ODFW. **ACTION:** Bob said he would contact Skidmore and Bettin. Paul emphasized that his agency is available for additional work.

(August 2004) – Wayne V. was absent but he provided an email from Dave Ward dated August 4 which said that ODFW had no plans to pursue dam angling...they would likely restrict their involvement to evaluating such work. Bob C. said he got information from Roy Beatty at BPA...they had planned to fund dam angling this year but the idea was dropped...ODFW is determining consumption rates below TDA this year...if there is a problem should we push for dam angling? See Bob's handout for details. Extensive discussion regarding removing bass from fish samples, separators, dewatered areas...maybe target them by dam angling...it was agreed to focus on pikeminnow first...it was also agreed that we would invite John Skidmore to an upcoming meeting for a pikeminnow update.

4. Construction Updates:

Portland District – See handouts. At BON...Tammy M. said the corner collector's PIT tag detector work is on hold...the design may not be feasible. Tom L. added that the detector works okay when dry...when watered up detection drops considerably...possibly a water quality problem due to inadequate cleanup at the test facility.

At TDA/JDA...Bob C. said there was nothing to report.

Walla Walla District – See handout. Rex discussed Oregon shore AWS pumps at MCN without elaboration.

5. Fishway Status Updates:

Portland District – See handouts. At BON...Tammy M. said everything is normal...mid-season inspections were done by ROV...she is now working on the winter dewatering schedule.

At TDA/JDA...Bob C. discussed his handout without much elaboration.

Walla Walla District – See handout. Rex B. discussed the handout without much elaboration.

6. Research Updates:

Portland District – See handouts. At BON...Tammy said very little research was going on...water temps were 73.2 F at the adult trap recently so trapping stopped. Tom L. added that CRITFC has been assured by TAC that the information needed is critical, so CRITFC will continue trapping at the higher temps per the FPP...there is no other way to get the information.

At TDA...Bob C. said things are winding down and briefly discussed the handout. At JDA...Bob said USGS had to sample juvenile fish when temps were up to 72 F in order to get enough fish. Tom L. said CRITFC has concerns about both high temps and large sample sizes being taken in order to get enough fish for tagging. There was general concern about the sheer numbers of fish being sampled/handled system-wide...Rudd T. said this should be dealt with through the permit process.

Walla Walla District – Rex B. said Chris Peery’s crew was trapping fish in the south ladder at IHR, outfitting them with data tags, and recapturing them in the trap at LGR...nothing else to report.

7. Caspian Tern Research Presentation by USFWS: David W. introduced Nanette Seto and Tara Zimmerman of the USFWS migratory bird office...they deal with permitting (e.g. lethal take) and are also working on a collaborative EIS with the Corps and NOAA F. Nanette gave a PowerPoint presentation dealing with Caspian terns, East Sand Island, Rice Island, alternatives in the EIS, etc...the USFWS/Corps ROD is expected in 2005...for details see <http://migratorybirds.pacific.fws.gov/CATE.htm> . Paul O. asked her to provide her PowerPoint file to those present and she agreed to do so. Tara followed up with a permit update...USFWS can no longer issue blanket permits due to regulation changes and public controversy...USDA/Wildlife Services has been given (will get) more specific permits...the USDA/Corps EA is presently out for public review...after the EA is done (November?), that will provide a basis for a 2005 permit...timing of lethal take is a critical item...bird groups insist on lethal take only as needed...Tara will write sections of the permit dealing with lethal take in relation to protecting specific stocks...**ACTION:** Tara needs help from FPOM to identify the best timing for lethal take.

8. Task Group Updates: At the outset of the meeting, Rex B. gave a brief overview of task group issues that we have discussed in recent months (see previous meeting minutes)...descriptions of current task groups are still needed (“one-pagers”)...he has one in draft form for the FPP task group that will be provided after some further revision...Robert Stansell has provided a one-pager for the adult fish counting task group (see handout)...comments welcome...Rex said further that the idea of having a “Bonneville Winter Spill Task Group” had been raised at last month’s meeting...any further discussion? Larry Beck suggested that we discuss this later under agenda item “Bonneville Project Issues”...all agreed...Larry also said fish counters at TDA were getting some training on the new fish counting system. Victor A. provided more details and said the counters would start on Saturday.

Further discussion involved selection of task group chairmen...Adult Fish Facilities (Basham, chairman – he was absent)...Bonneville Winter Spill (Bettin, chairman)...Juvenile Fish Facilities (Hurson, chairman – he was absent)...Lamprey (Mackey, chairman, plus members Clugston, Lorz, Wills, Stansell, Sprague, Cordie, Baxter). We need to confirm that those absent are willing to serve.

9. Bonneville Operations Issues: Tammy M. discussed recent use of a rented ROV for inspecting PH1 and PH2 adult fishways...the company provided an operator...the cost was <\$2,500 and cheaper, easier, and safer than using divers...it was also done to explore options and avoid taking fishways out of service...she showed video and sonar images taken by the ROV and provided several copies of the DVD to those present. Bays 1 and 18 spill for adult attraction after September 1...Cal S. asked should spill continue? Larry Beck said the FPP indicates that FPOM is to determine this. Scott Bettin asked should we continue spill in August for adults if the judge rules to shut off juvenile spill?...he assumes we would continue...FPOM should have a decision in place. Rudd T. said the FPP provides for daytime spill for adult attraction through August...hours would be 0500 to 1930. It was decided to continue daytime spill at least through September, with further discussion at a subsequent meeting. B2 corner collector operation following termination of spill...Rudd said this would be discussed at FFDRWG tomorrow...operation this year is sort of in a testing mode...what to do after August 31? Cal said we should discuss Cascade Island exit operation because it relates to operation of the corner collector. Tammy said they want to have the CI exit open as of September 1...the WA shore ladder goes down December 1 so might as well leave CI exit open...this might alleviate having large numbers of fish going through WA shore ladder in September...an issue is how to close the CI exit later by juggling picketed leads...also need to set up a counting system. Various people discussed use of “split flows”, fallback, and the need for visual counting versus video counting. David C. questioned the need to open the CI exit. Tammy said it is a crowding issue...this issue has been around for some years. Victor A. said crowding is mainly a problem in September. It was decided to put off opening the CI exit until 2005, and to further discuss operation of the corner collector at tomorrow’s FFDRWG meeting. Rudd asked if there were any more comments regarding the corner collector. Tom L. responded that he had reviewed additional information and felt it might benefit juvenile fish to operate the corner collector after spill ends.

Paul O. asked about lamprey at BON...is there a way to account for lamprey passing the new lamprey passageway? David C. said there is a mechanical counter that works fairly well but probably provides minimal estimates...there is some question about how and if to incorporate these counts into the regular ladder counts...depends on how many lamprey pass the new route.

10. Water Flow Forecast: Rudd T. discussed his handout...since it is July there are no more forecasts...the 30-year average is based on 1971-2000 data...TDA actual was better than expected but still only 77% of average...Grand Coulee 80%...LGR 70%...DWK 90%...Brownlee 51%...Libby 73%...Hungry Horse 85%...Observed Spring Flows/BiOp flows in kcfs = LGR 70/85, MCN 202/220, Priest Rapids 126/135...DWK is now 43 feet below full...TMT wants to provide September flows from DWK...federal agencies have appealed Judge Redden's ruling regarding spill at mainstem dams...cannot speculate on what will happen...BON spillway discharge errors are being corrected...for example, for now if you see 85 kcfs discharge on daily reports that means that about 75 kcfs is actual spill...the Corps will determine histories of spill and provide corrected data to researchers and others. Rudd agreed to provide summer flow information next month.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: September 9, 0900 hours, Portland District Office. LATER CHANGED to Northwest Division Office (Custom House), USACE, room 118, but same date and time.

Minutes prepared by Rex Baxter