

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes for September 9, 2004 FPOM Meeting.

1. The meeting was held at the Customs House, Northwest Division Headquarters, 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
Bob Cordie	USACE	541.298.7406
Cal Sprague	USACE	503.808.4305
David Clugston	USACE	503.808.4751
Larry Beck	USACE	541.374.8801
David Wills	USFWS	360.604.2500
Tom Lorz	CRITFC	503.238.3574
Tammy Mackey	USACE	541.374.4552
Scott Bettin	BPA	503.230.4573
Paul Ocker	USACE	503.808.3726
Miro Zyndol	USACE	541.506.7823
Bill Hevlin	NOAA	503.230.5415
Larry Basham	FPC	503.230.4287
Robert Stansell	USACE	541.374.8801
John Skidmore	BPA	503.230.5474
Paul Peloquin	USACE	503.808.3887
Rick Martinson	PSMFC	509.296.8989

2. The following handouts were distributed:

- DRAFT AGENDA, FISH PASSAGE O&M COORDINATION TEAM, NORTHWESTERN DIVISION, CUSTOMS HOUSE, SEPTEMBER 9, 2004.
- CENWP-OP-B, 09 September 2004, MEMORANDUM FOR: FPOM MEMBERS, SUBJECT: Bonneville Lock and Dam Fishway and Construction Activities Report for September 2004 FPOM meeting.
- CENWP-OP-B, Draft, Updated 8/11/04, MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD, SUBJECT: BONNEVILLE DAM WINTER FISHWAY MAINTENANCE 2003/2004. (A revised version, updated 9/28/04, is included with these minutes.)
- Date: September 9, 2004, Fish Passage Operation and Maintenance Meeting, The Dalles/John Day Status.
- PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE DIFFUSER #9 GRATING AT JOHN DAY DAM TO SMALLER GAP SIZE.
- MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD, 22 Sep 2004, FROM: Sean Askelson, TITLE: John Day North Fish Ladder Diffuser 16 (Control Section) Grating Analysis. (Not handed out at the meeting but provided with these minutes as a follow-up.)
- Fritts, A.L., and T.N. Pearsons. 2004. Smallmouth bass predation on hatchery and wild salmonids in the Yakima River, Washington. Trans. American Fisheries Society. 133: 880-895. (Photocopy of first page.)
- Naughton, G.P., and D.H. Bennett. 2004. Predation on juvenile salmonids by smallmouth bass in the Lower Granite reservoir system, Snake River. North American J. Fisheries Management. 24:534-544. (Photocopy of first page.)
- CENWW-OD-M, September 8, 2004, MEMORANDUM FOR: FPOM Members, FROM: Rex Baxter, SUBJECT: Description of Fish Passage Plan Task Group. (Draft for review.)

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

- 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.

(September 2004) – Rex B. mentioned last month's discussion about possibly controlling bass at the dams by removing them from the separators, samples, and dewatered areas...people had wondered how many bass would actually be available...he looked at 1997 and 1998 data from LWG, LGS, LMO, and MCN (separators and samples) and found that about 500 bass could have been removed (killed) each year...with so few fish it is not worthwhile trying to control them in this manner. Steve Richards asked how big are these bass? Rex said most were rather small and taken from sample troughs. Larry Beck asked doesn't WDFW have a fairly liberal bass limit? Steve R. said the most liberal limits are in salmon passage corridors...5 bass/day in the Snake River. Cal S. said the Corps' policy is to return predatory fish to the river whenever found. Scott Bettin asked where is the Corps' written policy that prohibits controlling predatory fish at the dams? Nobody had a definite answer...Office of Counsel perhaps? Rex said that pikeminnow were killed at the Walla Walla District's juvenile fish facilities for a few years in the early 1990s, shortly after the bounty system began. Scott Bettin asked why did it stop? Rex could not remember why.

- (August 2004) – 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.

(September 2004) – Rex B. asked for ideas about providing dates of lethal take to the USFWS (Tara). Cal S. said we should contact the Corps project biologists for their input. David W. said USDA/Wildlife Services personnel should also be involved. **STATUS:** Rex and Cal will poll the project biologists.

- (August 2004) – Task Group Updates: [paragraph deleted from September minutes]...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.

(September) – Rex B. wanted to confirm that chairmen appointed last month were willing to serve. Larry Basham said he would serve as chairman of the Adult Fish Facilities Task Group. Tammy M. said the same for the Lamprey Task Group. Dave H. was absent again but he later said okay to chair the Juvenile Fish Facilities Task Group.

4. Construction Updates:

Portland District – See handouts. At BON...Tammy M. said gantry crane 3 is being constructed...it's "outrageously huge."

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

Walla Walla District – Rex B. said the most significant item involved AWS pumps 2 and 3 at MCN...they have been out of service for quite some time...fixing pump 2 has been delayed from early September to November 1 due to contract issues...no bidders the first go-round due to tight timeframe, concern about liquidated damages, and doubts about a specialized tool to be provided by a third party...a second contract is to be awarded tomorrow according to the schedule Rex had. Tom L. said if no bidders on the second try, we need a regional meeting to discuss the matter.

5. Fishway Status Updates:

Portland District – See handouts. At BON...Tammy M. said DSM1 was taken out of service on September 7...modifications are done...STSs will be put in units 2 and 3 next week for adult fallback. Scott Bettin asked if we had switched to powerhouse 1 priority. Tammy said no...two units are running at PH1 due to fish numbers...will stay with that until 25,000 fish are passing the dam...the B2CC was shut down on August 31 and no fish were in there, or slime to make walking difficult...see her winter maintenance schedule handout...the only ladder going down this year for any length of time is the WA shore ladder, for PIT tag installation. Bill H. asked if adult fish were stacked up in the PH2 ladder. Tammy said the fish counters are still "whining" about the numbers of fish they have to count...but still about a 60/40 split which is normal. Rudd T. said there would be no spill for Spring Creek fish in 2005 or 2006 according to a recent agreement. David W. said the agreement would be reconsidered if hydroacoustic data showed that too few fish were passing through the B2CC...a single release in March is anticipated. Tammy said the TIES are still in and will remain until work is done with unit 16.

At TDA...Bob C. said the north and south crowders need new limit switches...have been ordered...things are being adjusted manually for now...minor PLC issues at east entrance. At JDA...an issue with low tailwater at north entrance...weir depth slightly out of criteria on occasion...planning is underway for changing diffuser grating gap (see handout and memo from Askelson)...STS camera inspections completed and no big problems...SMF will be taken OOS September 15...gull numbers recently dropped dramatically...big problem with immature birds...one more week of lights-out/lights-on testing will be done at the SMF primary dewaterer before shutdown...based on recent experience at BON, an ROV will be used at TDA/JDA for fishway inspections...Rock Creek riparian fencing is moving ahead...fall Chinook and winter steelhead spawn there according to Yakama biologists...an easement along the John Day River has been fixed to keep cattle out.

Walla Walla District – Rex B. said the transport program is going routinely...barging ended mid-August...now trucking on alternate days...fish are being released from a barge in mid-river. Tom L. asked if releases were being done near dusk...some concern about bird predation...but bird numbers have dropped off lately. Rex said releases take place as soon as the trucks arrive...usually during daylight...often lots of birds around when the MCN truck releases fish due to high numbers of juvenile shad on board...testing of primary dewaterer at LGS will soon be vibration tested to determine the reason for cracking of I-beams, probably in late September [now October]...he will provide the test plan to fish agencies...north powerhouse loading at MCN continues...Brad Eby recently asked to cease this. Rudd T. interjected that RCC has already been involved and he thought that north powerhouse loading would probably end today...tailwater temps are currently 67-68 F. Larry Basham expressed concern that maybe temps were still at/above 70 F. Rudd said he would check temps again and take action as needed. Rex continued...at LGS the lights in the adult channel under the spillway will be changed out today...this requires shutting down all AWS pumps for a few hours so that workers can access the lights via raft. Somebody asked what is the push for restoring normal powerhouse operation at MCN? Rudd said one factor is to have loading at the south end of the powerhouse for adult fish attraction.

6. Research Updates:

Portland District – See BON handout. At BON...Tammy M. said temps at the adult trap have been below 70 F so trapping has continued...at least one picketed lead has been raised at all times so that fish can pass.

At TDA/JDA...Miro Z. said Battelle and USGS research ended in August and they are dismantling equipment...University of Idaho continues to download radio-tracking data...USGS is still tracking sturgeon in TDA forebay.

Walla Walla District – Tom L. asked if operations at the LGR adult trap had been clarified. Rex said about two weeks ago he gave the Nez Perce Tribe and WDFW the go-ahead to do their run reconstruction work and broodstock trapping, and they did start...last week Dave Hurson had some concerns about the lack of a Section 10 permit and questioned simply having a generalized letter of permission from NOAA Fisheries...the Corps had a conference call with NOAA about the matter and NOAA agreed that, strictly speaking, a Section 10 permit was in order...they agreed to work toward having such permits in place in 2005...in the meantime it was agreed that the work could continue. Tom also wondered about the status of a NOAA proposal to recapture selected PIT-tagged fish [to obtain scale samples from fall Chinook]...Scott Dunmire (Corps, Walla Walla) had asked for comments from CRITFC on this proposal about two weeks ago...there is concern this may impact work that is already going on...has the Corps made a decision? [No] Tom, David W., Larry Basham, Bill H. and others discussed this further...this NOAA study is still up in the air and needs more regional coordination.

7. Task Group Updates: Rex reiterated that all task groups needed to put together a short description of their groups...last month Robert S. provided a draft description of the Adult Fish Count Task Group, comments still welcome...Rex handed out a draft memo describing the Fish Passage Plan Task Group, comments welcome. Cal S. said he would do one for the Shad Fishery Task Group. Robert S. gave an update on the Adult Fish Count Task Group...both count stations at TDA are now using the new counting system (computer keypads, etc)...a goal is to have all three Portland District dams using the new system by October...hopefully, Walla Walla District will implement in 2005.

8. BPA: Discussion of Dam Angling/Predation Control Program for 2005 and Beyond: John Skidmore addressed the group...there is currently no dam angling...it is a component of the Northern Pikeminnow Management Program...a reward incentive recently began as a result of summer spill discussions...sport reward ends this year on September 25...currently on track to catch 260,000 fish this year...5-year average is 200,000...the associated exploitation rate on fish >250 mm this year is about 16% compared to a 12% average...the incentive program had a definite effect on the exploitation rate...data is obtained from every fish (length, etc)...\$1.2 million was added to the program this year, half for reward incentives...if/when dam angling is scoped for 2005 the mid-Columbia contractor (Tyson Gerald's employer) may be used...they use angling and long-line...another possibility is to control non-indigenous predators in localized areas...need further technical discussion in 2004 to consider ODFW data...if anyone here is interested they can take part...he discussed two studies published in 2004 (see handouts). Miro Z. said that USDA/Wildlife Services is also removing pikeminnow in the mid-Columbia PUD area...he has contacted USDA/WS about doing some pilot work in TDA tailrace, an apparent hotspot. John acknowledged that TDA tailrace had been mentioned many times on other occasions...he wants to get a technical discussion going first, then follow with policy discussion. Bill H. asked about pikeminnow preference for hatchery versus wild fish. John said predation is highest on subyearlings due to their small size, and wild fish tend to be smaller...there is evidence that dead fish are being taken...hatchery/wild preference is difficult to measure...there is uncertainty about the reason for increasing bass numbers...not sure if it is due to pikeminnow removal...he believes the pikeminnow program is providing significant benefits to salmon...one school of thought: consumption of juvenile shad may be helping pikeminnow survive through the winter...another school of thought: juvenile shad densities are so high during the outmigration that pikeminnow are being swamped, leading to better salmon survival...removing a single large pikeminnow has a positive multi-year effect. Miro asked do pikeminnow move/migrate much? John said of the three major predators (bass, walleye, and pikeminnow), pikeminnow are the most opportunistic and, yes, he thinks they move a lot...he favors dam angling but budget and sport reward fishermen need to be taken into account...does not want to unduly perturb sport reward people...if you catch over 500 pikeminnow this year, then you get \$8 per fish above that level...there are about 1,900 anglers taking part this year...the top 20 get over one-third of the total catch...BPA has annual reports available. Rudd T. asked does FPOM now have any recommendations on dam angling?...should BPA build this back into their program? Cal S. said TDA tailrace for

sure. John said dam angling was in the joint Updated Proposed Action [I think that is what he said – Rex]...cost sharing with the Corps would be good. Rex B. asked about people catching pikeminnow outside designated areas and getting money for it. John said this happens...prosecution has been difficult and limited due to chain-of-custody problems (e.g. following somebody and their cooler)...they are now focusing on excluding individual violators from the program...enforcement officers have emphasized more serious violations (e.g. poaching, burglary)...the angling public is quick to notify authorities of cheaters...can also use phenotype to some extent to determine if pikeminnow are caught outside designated areas: they look different...or if an angler has 3,000 fish but none with tags...check station attendants can refuse to accept fish.

9. Lights-Out Considerations for Inciting Fish Movement Out of Passage Facilities: Near the beginning of the meeting, Cal asked about an action item at JDA...did the lights on/off test at the primary dewaterer get done? Larry Beck and others said yes, and the lights have been off for a month or so. Later in the meeting, Bob C. said the FFU had a recommendation for BON to turn off orifice lights a couple of times each night...are there any objections to doing this at JDA?...it would be done once or twice each night for 15-30 minutes each time. Rex B. cautioned that if there are lots of fish in the channel, they would come out en masse and perhaps swamp the separator and PIT tag equipment...it may be better to shut off lights six times each night...once or twice per night would not be a good practice at the collector dams during the peak of the season. It was agreed to go ahead and do it as a test at JDA.

10. Bonneville Main Unit Circuit Breaker Work in '05/'06: Tammy M. said PH2 is getting new main unit circuit breakers...this is important to discuss now because in '05/'06 they are also putting PIT tag detectors in the Bradford Island ladder which means PH2 will be the priority powerhouse...need suggestions now on which units to do first...units 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, and 18 will get new breakers from October 1, 2005 to the end of January 2006...units are done in pairs and it takes 4-5 weeks for each pair...she suggests 11, 12 in October and 17, 18 in November...would therefore have end units operating in the winter when only one ladder is operating. Tom L. suggested doing 17, 18 first in case something goes wrong, then 11, 12, then middle units...would like to talk with Gary Fredricks about it...how long will PIT tag work take? Tammy said all winter. It was agreed to go with Tom's recommendation.

11. Bonneville P2CC Operations for Language Addition to FPP in '05: Cal S. asked about results of discussions regarding operation of the P2CC during spill. Rudd T. said details on routine operation need to be added to the FPP, now that it has been turned over to the project...what should the operation be?...some research results to guide operation should be available at the annual AFEP program review in November. Long discussion by various people regarding Spring Creek release, discharge from spillway end bays, downstream flow patterns, mid-Columbia PUD dams, adult fallback, etc. Rudd asked for recommendations for the 2005 FPP...he suggested operating the P2CC when there is fish spill and when testing is needed. Scott Bettin suggested operating the P2CC at certain hours of the day...although it cannot be easily turned off and on at this time...a new device (crane?) to do so would quickly pay for itself. More to come.

12. Fish Passage Plan Revision Process for 2005 – Draft Revision Submittal Due September-November at FPOM: Cal S. reminded people to submit comments in time for inclusion in the draft FPP. Larry Basham added that the meeting minutes provide a record of relevant action items and so forth [or should]. Rudd T. said that comments would ideally be submitted before/at the October FPOM meeting...he will send e-copies of the present FPP to Cal and Rex B. for revision.

13. Water Flow Forecast: Rudd T. said DWK is still being drafted to meet 1520 feet by September 15...then to minimum flow...Libby is being drafted to be 20 feet below full by the end of September in accordance with an agreement between the State of Montana, NOAA F, and TMT...Grand Coulee is now refilling to get 1283 feet by the end of September...LGR flows around 20 kcfs yesterday...MCN around 112 kcfs yesterday...the National Weather Service climate outlook is above average temps with precipitation close to normal...ocean cycles are looking okay for salmon over the long-term but there are indications of an El Nino forming over the next few months...IHR, LMO, and LGS pools came out of MOP last week...LGR pool remains at MOP +1/+2.

14. High Mortality Rates at Lower Monumental: Bill H. asked about the high mort rates at the juvenile fish facility. Rex B. said the rates have been over 20% at times for about three weeks...but fish numbers have been very low...apparently due to columnaris...WDFW says that around 25% of subyearlings show outward signs...debris is not likely a problem because there is so little...some dead fish show no signs of disease or injury...fish are being

trucked in saltwater...there are also signs of columnaris at LGR and LGS but mort rates are not nearly as high. Bill wondered if it was partly due to the fact that LMO fish have already passed through turbines at LGR and LGS, plus high water temps at LMO.

15. Bonneville Spill: Rudd T. said spill continues from bays 1 and 18...0500 to 1930 hours...looking for recommendations [?]. . .will get feedback from Scott Bettin. [Tape and notes inadequate. -- Rex B.]

16. Change of Diffuser Grating Spacing at JDA to Aid Lamprey Passage: See handout. Miro Z. discussed the proposal to change the spacing at diffuser 9...wants to do it this winter as a test...why diffuser 9?...because it has a single discharge chamber and single intake, both with 1-inch bar spacing...he is still awaiting the hydraulic analysis. [The hydraulic analysis was provided to me via email on September 29 and is being provided with these minutes. – Rex B.]

17. Caspian Tern EIS: David W. provided the website address to access the Caspian tern EIS being developed by the USFWS and discussed at the August 12 FPOM meeting. See <http://migratorybirds.pacific.fws.gov/> > Caspian Terns > NEW Draft Environmental Impact Statement > Summary.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: October 14, 0930 hours, Bonneville Dam Auditorium, BBQ/pot luck lunch.

Minutes prepared by Rex Baxter