

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: FINAL minutes for the 28 September 2022 WFPOM meeting starting at 1000 hrs.

**In Attendance:**

Last Name	First Name	Email
Buccola	Norman	norman.l.buccola@usace.army.mil
Budai	Christine	christine.m.budai@usace.army.mil
Couture	Ryan	Ryan.B.COUTURE@odfw.oregon.gov
Flaherty	Ryan	ryan.flaherty@fishsciences.net
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Mullan	Anne	Anne.Mullan@noaa.gov
Reis	Kelly	Kelly.E.REIS@odfw.oregon.gov
Tackley	Kathryn	Kathryn.L.Tackley@usace.army.mil
Sachs	Steven	Steven.A.Sachs@usace.army.mil
Taylor	Gregory	Gregory.A.Taylor@usace.army.mil
Walker	Christopher	Christopher.E.Walker@usace.army.mil
Watts	Joel	Joel.Watts@odfw.oregon.gov
Wertheimer	Bob	Robert.H.Wertheimer@usace.army.mil

**1. Introductions and agenda updates**

No new updates

**2. Approve W-FPOM minutes (August)**

No objections, comments from ODFW have been included.

**3. Action Items – None****4. Updates****4.1. North Santiam**

- 4.1.1.** Marion Forks Hatchery – Grenbemer - All fish are currently on size and marked. The first group of CHS sub-yearlings (BY21) will be brought to Minto during the first week of November.

**4.1.1.1.** Marion Creek intake – Grenbemer -Water barrier is constructed of three cedar logs, the cables holding them together are breaking or stretching, there is now a gap with one of the logs. The concern is that the riprap could wash out and the intake could be lost. Further talks will be held offline to determine how to fix it. Wertheimer to discuss with ODFW at the next contract meeting.

- 4.1.2.** Minto Fish Facility – Grenbemer - 1,026 non marked fish were collected. BKD was higher this year with as many as 6 to 8 percent.

**4.1.2.1.** Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. – Grenbemer - Half the facility is shut down to connect power to the new maintenance shop. Should only take an hour.

**4.1.2.2.** Other items – Wertheimer will include the Marion Creek intake in the October 10<sup>th</sup> Hatchery meeting.

**4.2. South Santiam**

South Santiam Hatchery – Couture – We had a good collection season, just over 6,781 Chinook collected this year. The number of unmarked fish collected has been low, varying from 3-6% of the run. Very few unmarked females have returned in recent years. The low NOR run should be discussed further to determine options for how to improve it.

Wertheimer – Should establish a task group for the South Santiam and NOR fish.

Walker – Will talk offline to set up a group.

Mullan – It will be interesting to see the results of Kathleen O'Malley's work,

Couture – Agrees that to make an informed decision, we will need to see the results of the pedigree analysis. Walker - Will look into when data will be available and share with the group.

**4.2.1. Foster Fish Facility**

**4.2.1.1.** Maintenance activities needed or recently completed.

**4.2.2.** River Bend Adult Release Site – Couture - A contract is awarded to a contractor for bank stabilization to fix ongoing erosion. Work starts on Monday Oct 3.

**4.2.3.** Green Peter Dam outplanting/spawning surveys – Couture - All outplants have been released. 600 released in MF, 200 were released in Quartzville. There was some illegal fishing and reports and were shared with OSP.

Flaherty – Spawning Surveys. Field crews started in September, ODFW provided fish for training. Crews then went to the study area and mapped out reach breaks and habitat areas. Results from Sept 9<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>. The area is 20.6 km and is broken into 5 areas, ending in natural passage barriers. Of the 180 fish released, 122 were seen in the first week, only 54 for the following week. Most observations of fish were in Quartzville reach 1 and Canal Creek reaches. 25 redds have been seen so far, most from Quartzville reach 1 and Canal Creek. Sex ratio has largely been 1 to 1. PSM is estimated at 19% to date. No adfluvial fish have been seen yet. One fish in Quartzville reach 3 had a blue floy tag outplanted in the Middle Fork. River otters have been seen scavenging or predated on Chinook. Kokanee have been seen spawning in Quartzville reach 4.

Taylor – What are water temperatures?

Flaherty - Reach 1 is around 14 to 15 °C.

Couture – what is the longer-term plan for M. Santiam surveys. Some Forest Service employees have seen fish at the mouth of Pyramid Creek.

Walker – We have been working with the property owner, they are not willing to provide access for surveys. Working on a plan to have some observations in the area. Have talked about trying to do a float through. Aerial surveys have been considered. An employee of the forest company has seen 12 Chinook at head of reservoir and a few at the release site. The landowner does issue fishing permits which could be an option to gain some access.

**4.3. McKenzie**

**4.3.1.** McKenzie Hatchery – Couture - Colby has moved to working with the Cow Creek Tribe. Lee Wajtyna is now doing a detail as the McKenzie hatchery manager through the end of the year. We have collected good brood numbers this year, some were spawned at Minto and spawning wrapped up last week. South Fork outplanting above Cougar is continuing. All eggs will be incubated at McKenzie Hatchery this year.

**4.3.2.** Leaburg Hatchery – No Update

**4.3.3.** Cougar Fish Facility – Walker - 139 Chinook have made it to Cougar, they were floy tagged and transported downstream. 84 returned a second time and were outplanted above Cougar Dam. We will be shutting down facility week of Oct 17. Taylor -

Typically 60% of fish come back after being transported downstream, the numbers may be trending higher this year. If carcasses are not sampled below dams, fish could be missed that were produced from above the dam.

**4.3.3.1.** Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. No update

#### 4.4. Middle Fork

**4.4.1.** Willamette Hatchery – Couture - The hatchery was evacuated in early Sept due to the Cedar Creek fire. There was a power outage in the RAS building and a small group of fish was lost but they were not production fish. Most Chinook adults this year were spawned at Foster. Some outplanting was completed even with the fire, 680 in NF Middle Fork and 228 above Hills Creek.

**4.4.2.** Dexter Fish Facility – No update

**4.4.2.1.** Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. – No Update

**4.4.3.** Fall Creek Fish Facility – Walker - 139 Chinook non marked were outplanted, Taylor – We have had low returns the last couple years. Some fish do get poached. Screw trapping last year may show a 2021-year class failure. The challenges are similar to those in the South Santiam.

**4.4.3.1.** Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. – No Update

**4.5.** Bull trout and Oregon Chub (Taylor) – No update, ODFW is doing contract work. Chub work will be completed in 2023 and Bull trout will continue for the foreseeable future.

**4.6.** WFFDWG/Research updates (Laird) – No Update.

**4.7.** Water Quality updates (S. Hart) Tackley – continuing to operate for downstream temperature management while there is a difference between RO and penstock. Flows may be ramped up to reach court ordered elevations.

Taylor – Dexter has seen some gas bubble disease in the asphalt pond, could be related to Lookout operations. The flow for the asphalt pond does not go through the headbox, the water supply can be switched to pipes that avoid the issue. When going to RO spill at Lookout, ODFW should be notified.

Couture - 134.8% TDG in the pond before switching water source, some fish died as a result, but the issue was caught before losing a large number. Will be critical to address this issue during the Dexter design and rebuild. Also, USACE should notify ODFW in advance when spill could create high TDG issues.

Tackley – RO will start to be used in mid to late July until September.

Walker – Will share with the Dexter design team the need to address TDG and will add the ODFW notification to the SOR.

Buccola – there is a sign up for text alerts for flow changes.

**4.8.** Flow update (S. Hart) Grenbemer – Will there be any flow through the penstocks when there is a turbine outage starting in the first week of October at Detroit?

Tackley – Flow will go through the upper RO. The work should be only one day.

**4.9.** BPA updates

**4.10.** Pinniped Updates Willamette – No update

Bonneville – Wertheimer - Under the 20-animal threshold currently, anticipating starting to monitor next week.

## 5. HGMP BiOp T&Cs

**5.1.** Production and Biometrics – included in the hatchery production contracts.

**5.2.** Use of natural origin broodstock. Grenbemer - NMFS gave approval for incorporation in the North Santiam. 49 pairs of wild to wild were spawned and 10 wild males with 10 HOR females were spawned. 108 NOR fish were spawned in total. If there is a desire to do more, they will need to be collected earlier in the season. Genetics and otoliths were collected.

Couture – some NOR were held at Leaburg and were spawned for the McKenzie stock.

**5.3.** Bennett Counts (ODFW) – Grenbemer - 6,323 ad-clipped Chinook over Bennett, only 129 were in the river and not collected at Minto an 865 non-marked.

**5.4.** Lebanon Counts (USACE) – PITT readers are being installed.

- 5.5. Leaburg Counts (EWEB/USACE) – Sachs - Last week of counting, will provided a season total at next meeting.
- 5.6. Reducing pHOS in the McKenzie River - Leaburg sorter – Couture - Trapping has occurred in the left bank ladder in the later part of the season after shutting down the sorter. PHOS has been in the single digits for the year.
- 5.7. Improving broodstock holding at Willamette Hatchery
- 5.8. Analyze steelhead genetics (ODFW)
- 5.9. Assess future effects of hatchery summer steelhead in the North and South Santiam Rivers. (ODFW)
- 5.10. Assess genetic pedigree of Chinook salmon (up to 2019 and then every five years after) – Walker - Kathleen O'Malley is funded to complete sample analysis through 2020. Mullan noted Dr. O'Malley has the 2021 samples in hand - the more information the better. Couture noted the 2022 samples should be available within a week.
- 5.11. Assess salmon spawning above federal dams
- 5.12. Adaptively manage hatchery salmon outplanting above federal dams.
- 5.13. Willamette Chinook Salmon Database.
- 5.14. Three year report for NMFS SFD. Report due 2022. – Walker – October 12 meeting with ODFW to see what needs to be included in the report.

## 6. Willamette Valley Production Contracts

- 6.1. Willamette Hatcheries – Walker - Latest mod for hatchery fish for RME, Friday Sept 30 meeting to further determine numbers.  
Couture – Should discuss if hatchery mitigation fish should be placed above dams.
- 6.2. Trout Production – Walker - Option awarded to ODFW last week for 2024 stocking.

## 7. Coordination/Notification forms (need concurrence/discussion)

### Ongoing:

- 7.1. 21CGR02 Cougar Butterfly Valve Replacement (2024) - No Update
- 7.2. 22DEX02 MOC Fish Facility Rebuild IWW periods - No Update

### New:

- 7.3. 22DET02 Unit Outage – Tackley - Both units will be out, likely only for a couple days.  
Should prevent future outages that would take more time.

## 9. Task Group/PDT Updates.

- 9.1. Willamette Valley Operational Fish Passage Measures (PDT) – No update.
- 9.2. Green Peter Outplanting Task Group
- 9.3. Safety and Environmental corrections (PDT)
- 9.4. Hatchery Non-routine maintenance/repairs (PDT)
- 9.5. McKenzie Water Supply (PDT)

## 10. Fish Operations Plan: Walker will incorporate injunction measures within the next month. WFOP homepage: [http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette\\_Coordination/WFOP/](http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/WFOP/)