

**RM&E Team Meeting**  
**April 4, 2023**  
**Facilitator's Summary**  
**[Edits provided by Corps, ODFW, CTGR]**

[http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette\\_Coordination/Steering\\_team/WST.html](http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/Steering_team/WST.html)  
[https://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette\\_Coordination/Willamette%20RME/RME.html](https://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/Willamette%20RME/RME.html)

**Facilitation Team:** Emily Stranz & Nancy Pionk, DS Consulting.

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**Participants:** *Leslie Bach (NPCC), Grace Goldrich-Middaugh (ODEQ), Mike Hudson (USFWS), Fenton Khan (Corps), Anne Mullan (NOAA), Christine Peterson (BPA), Kelly Reis (ODFW), Kate Self (NPCC), Lawrence Schwabe (CTGR), Luke Whitman (ODFW), Jeff Ziller (ODFW).*

**3/7/23 Meeting Summary:** The RM&E Team approved the March RM&E Team Meeting Summary with no additional edits.

**Study and Screwtrapping Updates:** Fenton noted that the active tag studies at Foster and Green Peter are continuing. Green Peter is behind on refill; however, it is anticipated that spill will begin by the end of the week and then PNNL will tag and release the fish for the study. Screwtrapping is continuing throughout the basin; see the 3/7/23 RM&E Team meeting summary for locations/timing details.

**Surrogate Program:** Fenton noted that OSU notified the Corps that the yearling Chinook salmon for the Foster and Green Peter spring studies had been diagnosed with bacterial kidney disease (BKD) and furunculosis; however, while BKD is not treatable, furunculosis is treatable with prescribed medication. The OSU vet and pathologist prescribed medication for furunculosis and OSU began treating the fish with the medication. OSU is monitoring fish health and PNNL will do stress tests before making a decision if the fish are healthy to tag and release for the survival studies. If the fish are not healthy, they will not be tagged and released; however, the Green Peter injunction spill will still be implemented. Fenton noted that the steelhead yearlings for the Foster spring spill are not impacted and are healthy. They were too small to tag in March and likely will be taggable soon. Additionally, the fall study fish (sub-yearling Chinook salmon) for Foster and Green Peter are healthy and are being kept separate from the spring study fish.

**Lebanon Dan Pit Antenna Repair:** Fenton updated team members on the status of the repair of the northside PIT antenna that was damaged during a high flow event. The Corps is awaiting a proposal from the contractor; the antenna cannot be repaired until the flows are low, which may not be until June. The south ladder and South spillway are still functioning.

**Chinook Fry Capture Efficiency Study:** Luke shared preliminary information on the capture efficiency study. The fish, released on March 7<sup>th</sup>, were 37-38 millimeters. Most fry moved quickly, showing up in screwtraps by March 11. ODFW released ~2,500 fry just upstream of the screwtrap located below Big Cliff Dam and ~1,500 fish upstream of ODFW's trap at Stayton to get real-time estimates of capture efficiency. Luke noted that, for the fish held separately, the color started to fade after 10 days or so. Efficiency testing was done on March 7<sup>th</sup>; preliminary information is showing about 20% efficiency for the trap in Stayton (intake canal for Santiam Water Control District)

**Permit requirements for Adipose Fin-Clipping:** At the March 7, 2023, RM&E Team meeting, the Corps requested that ODFW reconsider whether the Corps contractor needed to clip adipose fins of fry that will be released in

April for trap efficiency testing. Since then, ODFW and NMFS met and discussed the Corps' request. Anne noted that it was likely that the fry will move out fast and are not likely to survive. Therefore, unclipped fry are of minimal risk to other hatchery and pedigree analysis programs. ODFW and NMFS concurred that it was not necessary to adipose fin-clip fry below 45 millimeters for the efficiency tests; however, any fish 45 millimeters or larger should be clipped and VIE-marked. Kelly noted that some other marker, such as Bismark brown dye should be used for the fry under 45 millimeters. She noted that this determination was specifically for the efficiency testing. In the future, if there are going to be large releases of unclipped fry, she suggested that a genetic marker be considered so that the fish could be identified when they return. As a next step, Kelly will inform permitting staff to include language in the contractor's permit that fry smaller than 45 millimeters need not be clipped/VIE-marked but must be otherwise marked. Anne will also follow up with the contractor to confirm the number of fish being released. She noted that if the fry can be elastomer-tagged, this would provide more data; however, whether this is feasible will depend on the level of mortality that occurs during tagging.

- **Action: Kelly will coordinate with ODFW permitting staff to include language in the contractor's permit that fry smaller than 45 millimeters need not be clipped/VIE-marked but must be otherwise marked.**
- **Action: Anne will follow up with the Corps contractor to confirm the number of fish being released**

**PIT Tag Infrastructure Willamette Falls:** At the February RM&E Team meeting, Luke had inquired whether RM&E Team members would be willing to provide a letter of support concerning the need for PIT tag infrastructure at Willamette Falls. Since that time, Luke has met with PTAGIS Steering Committee and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC). *[Facilitator's Note: in summary edits, Luke noted that during the PSMFC meeting, PSMFC representatives stated that it would be highly unlikely that they would be able to take on this site because of their agency guidelines.]* Consequently, Luke recommended that this idea be tabled for now as more input is needed from ODFW administrators given the challenges with this site. Kelly was interested in having a discussion at a future meeting about the importance of Willamette Falls as a monitoring location. Anne noted that the HTT is a potential source to provide funding for monitoring and maintaining the existing adult site in the ladder and uploading the data to PTAGIS in the standards that are needed. PSMFC might also be a potential partner to help get this accomplished. The RM&E Team will continue to discuss and coordinate on how to move this effort forward collaboratively. *[Facilitator's Note: in summary edits, Luke noted that, hardware for the PIT arrays at Willamette Falls is outdated, with some components no longer functioning. These arrays have been offline since 2019.]*

With that, Emily thanked the group and concluded the meeting.

### **The next RM&E Team Session is May 2, 2023**

*The DS Consulting Facilitation Team drafts Steering and RME Team meeting summaries; suggested edits are welcome. Please send suggested edits to Nancy Pionk at [nancy@dsconsult.co](mailto:nancy@dsconsult.co).*