



COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

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Coordinating and promoting effective protection and restoration of fish, wildlife, and their habitat in the Columbia River Basin.

The Authority is comprised of the following tribes and government agencies:

Burns Paiute Tribe

Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

National Marine Fisheries Service

Nez Perce Tribe

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall

Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Coordinating Agencies

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Upper Columbia United Tribes

Compact of the Upper Snake River Tribes

DATE: August 17, 2009
TO: Fish Screening Oversight Committee
FROM: Dave Ward, CBFWA Staff
SUBJECT: July 23, 2009 FSOC Meeting Final Action Notes

FSOC Teleconference
July 23, 2009
8:30 AM PDT

Final Action Notes

Attendees: Dave Ward (CBFWA)

By Phone: Eric Egbers (WDFW), Pat Schille (WDFW), Alan Ritchey (ODFW), Ray Hartlerode (ODFW), Lynn Stratton (IDFG), Jody Brostrom (USFWS), Jamie Swan (BPA), Bryan Nordlund (NOAA), Brian Zimmerman (CTUIR), Thad Mosey (Chelan PUD), Rob Jones (NOAA), Lisa Kingsley (ODFW)

Time Allocation:

Objectives 1. Committee Participation	100%
Objectives 2. Technical Review	0%
Objectives 3. Presentation	0%

ITEM 1: Introductions

ITEM 2: Approval of Agenda

Discussion: The agenda was approved with the addition of an update on discussions regarding the Farmers Conservation Alliance screens.

ITEM 3: Approve Action Notes from April 23, 2009 FSOC Meeting

Discussion: The FSOC approved the draft action notes.

ITEM 4: Mitchell Act Funding for Screens

Discussion: Rob Jones briefed the FSOC on recent and expected Mitchell Act appropriations. Rob noted that the new NOAA administrator of Mitchell Act funds will be Brian Allee.

Total Mitchell Act funding has been about \$16 million for the past few years, with about \$3 million going towards screens. Specific funding levels for screens have been:

2006 = \$3.318 million;

2007 = \$3.318 million;

2008 = \$2.901 million;

2009 = \$3.123 million;

The FSOC noted that these levels are below those realized in the

1990s. Oregon and Idaho split the majority of funding, with Washington receiving about \$200,000.

Rob indicated that it is difficult to predict future funding levels. The NOAA regional office does not know the annual funding allocation until March or April of each year. However, the House has inserted a \$10 million increase (to over \$25 million) for FY 2010. It is unknown how much of this will survive into the final appropriation, or how much of any additional funding will be available for screens. It is likely that the primary target for increased funding will be production, because the proposed increase comes in the wake of the recently released HSRG report.

Rob and the FSOC agreed that lobbying (by non-federal entities) early in the funding appropriation process is important. Mitchell Act funding has not been a federal priority in the past, and that can be changed. NOAA should be encouraged to request increased funding during the preliminary budget preparation process, and the Commerce Department and Congress should be encouraged to maintain increased funding in the final appropriation. NOAA has no discretion once funding is appropriated.

To increase the chances of success, Oregon and Idaho will need to work internally to make screen funding a priority, then lobby as necessary to increase likelihood of appropriation.

A final note is that a draft EIS on the production portion of Mitchell Act funding will be completed this year. The attention drawn by this EIS may funnel more funding to production, resulting in a further decrease in funding for screens.

- ACTION:**
- Dave Ward will brief the Members Advisory Group (MAG) on this discussion and report back to the FSOC regarding MAG reaction and recommendations.

ITEM 5: FRIMA appropriation for FY 2010

Alan Ritchey provided a draft letter to Congress from CBFWA recommending full appropriation (\$25 million) for FY 2010. \$25 million was the original FRIMA authorization. Previous appropriations have not exceeded \$4 million; however, the FSOC noted that \$10 million could easily be spent within a year, especially now that BPA funding can be used as a cost share.

The FSOC approved forwarding the letter to MAG for consideration.

- ACTION:**
- Dave Ward will present the letter to the MAG for its review and action.

ITEM 6: 2009 Pacific Northwest Fish Screening and Passage Workshop

Discussion: Ray Hartlerode, Alan Ritchey, and Lisa Kingsley provided an update on the workshop to be held September 14-18 in Newport, Oregon at the Hallmark Inn. Sessions are scheduled for September 15-16, with a field tour on September 17. A draft agenda, registration form, and information on lodging have been distributed. The FSOC agreed that further information

on lodging rates should be distributed. The specific agenda is still subject to change.

Indications are that attendance should be good. Travel restrictions will not be a large issue this year. However, ODFW has scheduled regional biologist meetings at the same time, which may affect attendance a little.

Dave Ward and Ray Hartlerode drafted a memo from FSOC to CBFWA Members encouraging attendance. The FSOC approved the memo pending minor fact checks.

- ACTION:**
- Dave Ward will provide the memo to CBFWA Members and MAG after Lynn Stratton verifies when the first workshop was held.

ITEM 7: USGS Study: Evaluating the Impacts of Irrigation Diversions on Juvenile Lampreys.

Jody Brostrom advised the FSOC that the USFWS had provided seed money (\$50,000) for Matt Mesa of the USGS to begin evaluating the affect of screens and screening facilities on juvenile lamprey. Additional support should be available from the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Umatilla Tribes. The ODFW might be able to help with funding or with screen fabrication.

The objective of the study is to evaluate a variety of screens both in the lab and in the field. The USGS has a Farmers horizontal screen in its lab already. The study is hoped to last 3 years and receive about \$200,000 per year.

In addition, Jen Graham of the Warm Springs Tribes will have students conducting electrofishing for lamprey in front of and behind screens this year.

ITEM 8: Farmers Conservation Alliance Screens

Bryan Nordlund updated the FSOC on a recent meeting with the Farmers Conservation Alliance and USGS about the horizontal screens. Nordlund indicated that NMFS has a current request in from FCA to revise the horizontal screen criteria, allowing less depth (6 inches) across the screen face. NMFS technical review has indicated operational problems with shallower depths on FCA screens, and currently is recommending to management that these not be allowed in anadromous fish areas. FSOC generally agreed. Nordlund's main concern was with installation of these screens with 6 inch depth over the screen, particularly the potential for a screen owner to make adjustments to reduce bypass flow which could dewater the screen and strand fish. IDFG pointed out that if this occurs with a conventional screen, fish remain in the ditch in relative safety, versus being impinged on a horizontal screen.

Matt Mesa (USGS) had conducted some tests with a 6 inch depth horizontal screen using dye to evaluate injuries at screen sites and preliminary indications were that injuries were minimal as a percentage of total body area of individual fish, but nearly every fish was injured in some way. Nordlund noted that he had never seen a screen injury evaluation conducted that looked at total percent of body injured like the Mesa evaluation did.

Normally, bypass egress times, injury and mortality to the test population as a whole are the experimental parameters. As such, NMFS is unsure of the utility of the Mesa data.

The NMFS is still considering the experimental status of these screens with a minimum 1 foot depth of flow over the screen. NMFS still has at least one area of biological concern, that being egress over the screen and into a bypass.

Bryan indicated that a cost comparison between conventional screen types and the FCA would be useful to assess the FCA claims that FCA screens are cheaper to construct and maintain than criteria screens. WDFW responded that for one screen site, FCA submitted a bid for a horizontal screen that was about three times the actual installation cost of a conventional screen which was ultimately installed at the site.

The FSOC engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding the types of sites where these screens would or would not be appropriate, as well as some reservations NMFS may have in giving final approval.

ITEM 9: Selection of Next FSOC Chair

Ray Hartlerode's term as Chair ends September 30. A new chair should be elected at the September meeting. FSOC voting members were encouraged to consider serving as Chair for one year.

ITEM 10: Next FSOC Meeting

Discussion: The next FSOC meeting will be in-person at the workshop in Newport, Oregon. The meeting is currently scheduled for 10:10 AM on September 16.