

COLUMBIA BASIN FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 250
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DATE: October 25, 2012
TO: Fish Screen Oversight Committee
FROM: Neil Ward (CBFWF)
SUBJECT: Final Action Notes for the October 25, 2012 FSOC Teleconference

Fish Screen Oversight Committee Meeting
October 25, 2012
CBFWF – Portland, OR

Final Action Notes

Attendees: Neil Ward (CBFWF)
By Phone: Lynn Stratton (IDFG), Paddy Murphy (IDFG), Jared Bragg (IDFG), Alan Ritchey (ODFW), Ken Loffink (ODFW), Bryan Nordlund (NOAA), Jody Brostrom (USFWS), Pat Schille (WDFW), Bob Barnard (WDFW)

ITEM 1: Introductions and Approve Agenda

Agenda approved with no additions.

ITEM 2: Review and Approve as Final Draft Action Notes

ACTION: The draft action notes for the July 26, 2012 FSOC meeting were reviewed and approved.

ITEM 3: Selection of a New Chair – January 2013

Discussion: Participants discussed the duties associated with the Chair position as well as whether candidates had to be CBFWA members. Bryan Nordlund indicated that the responsibilities of the Chair include assisting with the: 1) development of the agenda for the quarterly meetings as well as any subgroup meetings that may be needed during the year, 2) review of action notes prior to their review to their release, and 3) planning of the annual workshop/training session. Neil Ward confirmed that the FSOC Chair does not have to be a CBFWA member.

Because no participants volunteered to chair the committee nor were any participants nominated, the selection of a new Chair was postponed until the January 2013 meeting. Prior to the January 2013, Neil and Bryan will contact potential candidates to further discuss their level of interest and the expectations.

ITEM 4: 2012 Fish Passage Training Session: Review of Preliminary Survey Results

Discussion: Neil Ward led the participants in a review of survey results for the 2012 Fish Passage Training Session. Of the 65 attendees, 28 elected to participate in the 10-question survey. A high-level review of the results was provided with a more detailed examination of the respondents' comments. Neil indicated that the comments could generally be grouped into the following three categories: 1) classroom, 2) field trip, and 3) instruction regarding screen design. Regarding the classroom session, respondents suggested the daily program should consist of

multiple speakers (i.e., avoid having one individual presenting information over the course of an eight-hour period). Respondents suggested that in the future, the field trip should be split into two days with the trip occurring in the morning and the afternoon dedicated to discussing what was observed during the site tours. Relative to screen design, many of the respondents expressed some disappointment. The participants suggested that there should have been a more in-depth instruction/review of the various types of screens currently being used in the region. Respondents suggested that having a better understanding of the technical aspects of screen design/functions, before the site visits, would have proved beneficial. Suggestions included providing presentations that describe the different types of screens and the associated why, when, and where questions. Furthermore, it was suggested that reviewing the development of a screen from planning to fabrication and installation would provide a better understanding of the challenges associated with developing fish screens.

ITEM 5: 2013 Fish Passage and Screening Workshop

Discussion: During the 2011 Fish Passage and Screening Workshop, the FSOC selected Missoula, MT as the site for the 2013 workshop. The FSOC briefly discussed the 2013 Workshop; however, because Mark Lere was unable to participate, the participants agreed to delay discussions pertaining to potential topics, venues, and dates until the January 2013 meeting. Idaho Department of Fish and Game representatives confirmed their interest and willingness to assist the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department in organizing and convening the workshop.

ACTION: Neil Ward was directed to contact Mark Lere to identify potential venues and dates for the 2013 Workshop.

ITEM 6: FCA 6 (6" screen depth) Screens: NMFS Review

Discussion: Bryan Nordlund informed the participants that the NMFS is in the process of completing their review of the FCA 6 screens. Through 2 years of site visits, the NMFS engineers have found that the cleaning mechanisms on some of the screens in the John Day Basin are not working correctly. Because of flow stability and flow availability issues, it appears that the screen hydraulics are not functioning correctly and that sediment and debris retention have been problems. Also, there remains questions as to whether this style of screen should be applied in areas where minimum instream flow is an issue, because of relatively high bypass flow demand and the reliance on hydraulic action to keep the screen clean. Other FCA 6 screens in the Hood River Basin seem to be working pretty well. Subsequently, Bryan indicated that it is likely the screens will continue to be categorized as experimental during the upcoming year or until criteria can be developed that sorts out site issues that have lead to the problems seen in the John Day Basin.

ACTION: If the review is complete, Bryan Nordlund will provide an update during the January 2013 FSOC meeting.

ITEM 7: WDFW Revised Fish Passage at Road Crossing Design Manual

Discussion: Bob Barnard provided an update regarding WDFW's efforts to update their design manual. Bob indicated that the document is currently a draft and has not been generally distributed. He did indicate that there has been extensive review by the Washington Department of Transportation and Federal Highways and that the newest draft is being reviewed by Bryan Nordlund to ascertain whether it is suitable to provide fish passage design criteria for culverts in a state of Washington programmatic biological opinion. Regarding an associated timeline,

Bob indicated that the final comments are due by November 2012 and a late-February 2013 publication date is expected. Pending his review, Bryan Nordlund may provide an update during the January 2013 FSOC meeting.

ITEM 8: Criteria for Upstream Juvenile Passage: Progress Report and Next Steps

Discussion: The FSOC agreed in October 2011 that recommending a specific criterion (number) for juvenile passage is not appropriate, but developing a consistent process to follow is. Ken Loffink volunteered to take the lead on drafting the framework for a process.

In January 2012, Ken presented a decision-tree regarding juvenile jump criteria. Comments on the draft template were generally favorable; however, most recognized it as only the beginning of this process. The FSOC agreed to assign further development of the template to a subgroup.

During the March 20, April 16, and May 30, 2012 subgroup meetings, the group continued to discuss a potential decision process that managers could use to identify appropriate upstream passage systems for juveniles (not limited to salmonids) and adult anadromous salmonids. It was reiterated that the focus of the effort is for tributary structures, not mainstem dams. During these meetings participants emphasized that the first step in the process must be the identification of species and life history stages that are in need of upstream passage, as well as the need to characterize specific areas (i.e., rearing, migratory corridor, rearing for outmigration) in a basin, swim speed data, run timing, and behavioral passage traits. Also, the group discussed the need to identify biological limiting factors that could be influencing presence/absence and behavior, as well as potential sources from which the information could be obtained.

Having developed several guiding documents, the participants discussed the importance of establishing a general procedure for using the various matrices. Illustrated below is a general overview of the potential procedural steps that the subgroup will discuss.

Step 1

Decision Tree

Step 2

Upstream Passage Assessment Criteria

Filter

Fish Swimming Speed and Jump Abilities Guidance

Step 4

Identify Limiting Factors

Step 5

Fishway Selection

Participants briefly discussed the next steps and agreed that the subgroup should reconvene to continue to work on the criteria.

ACTION: Neil Ward will poll the subgroup participants to identify a date and time to meet and Ken Loffink will develop a draft procedure for using the matrices the group has developed.

ITEM 9: FSOC Future

Discussion: Neil Ward provided an update regarding the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (NPCC) draft recommendation pertaining to the FSOC for April 2013 – March 2014. Neil informed the participants that the NPCC has recommended that the Bonneville Power Administration continue to support the quarterly teleconference meetings and annual training and workshops of the FSOC. Neil indicated that at this time it is unknown who will receive the contract to provide the coordination and facilitation services.

ITEM 10: Next Meeting

FSOC Teleconference Meeting
Thursday, January 24, 2013
8:30 – 11:30 a.m. (Pacific)