

LEWIS RIVER AQUATIC COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Facilitator: ERIK LESKO
503-412-8401

Location: TEAMS MEETING ONLY

Date: February 11, 2021

Time: 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Agenda Items

- 9:30 a.m. Welcome
- Review Agenda, ACC 1/14/21 Meeting Notes
 - Comment & Accept Agenda, 1/14/21 Meeting Notes
- 10:00 a.m. Public Comment Opportunity
- 10:15 a.m. Study/Work Product Updates
- NMFS Biological Opinion Update
 - Flows/Reservoir Conditions Update
 - ATS Update
 - Fish Passage Update
- 10:45 a.m.
- Next Meeting's Agenda
 - Public Comment Opportunity
- Note: all meeting notes and the meeting schedule can be located at:
<https://www.pacificorp.com/energy/hydro/lewis-river/acc-tcc.html>
- 11:00 a.m. **Meeting adjourn**

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 563-275-5003](tel:+15632755003).,86743835# United States, Davenport

Phone Conference ID: 867 438 35#

**FINAL Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting
February 11, 2021
TEAMS Meeting Only**

ACC Representatives Present (14)

Eli Asher, Cowlitz Indian Tribe
Amanda Froberg, Cowlitz PUD
Steve West, LCFRB
Scott Anderson, NMFS
Kim McCune, PacifiCorp
Chris Karchesky, PacifiCorp
Erik Lesko, PacifiCorp
Jeremiah Doyle, PacifiCorp
Jim Byrne, Trout Unlimited
Kate Day, USDA FS
Peggy Miller, WDFW
Sam Gibbons, WDFW
Bryce Glaser, WDFW
Bill Sharp, Yakama Nation

Calendar:

March 11, 2020	ACC Meeting	TEAMS Meeting
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Assignments from February 11, 2021	Status
McCune: Email Aquatic Fund Scoring Template to Jim Byrne	Complete – 2/15/21

Assignments from January 14, 2021	Status
Scott Anderson (NMFS): Update ACC on Biological Opinions.	Complete – 2/11/2021

Assignments from December 10, 2020	Status
Lesko: Follow up first of the year with Harding to discuss fish stranding survey schedule.	Ongoing

Assignments from August 13, 2020	Status
Romanski: Jim Byrne (Trout Unlimited) requested Tim Romanski (USFWS) investigate why it was decided in 2005 and find out how and why the Merwin trap design was settled on and specified.	Ongoing

Opening, Review of Agenda and Meeting Notes

Erik Lesko (PacifiCorp) called the meeting to order at 9:33am and reviewed the agenda. Kim McCune (PacifiCorp) requested adding a revision to the 2020 Financial reporting and provide an update on the SA 7.1.1 available funds as of December 31, 2020. Lesko will also provide a review and how-to of the Aquatic Fund scoring template and opportunity for ACC questions.

Lesko also reviewed the January 11, 2021 meeting notes. The ACC approved the January 11, 2021 meeting notes with clarifying edits from WDFW. In addition, McCune noted that the combined summary of the 2020 ACC financial reporting did not capture all expenditures and contributions, so she updated the summary to show all 2020 ACC fund activity. The year-end totals did not change.

SA 7.1.1 Year-end Balance

Lewis River License Implementation				Funding Start Date: 12/26/08
Lewis River LWD Fund - Resource				Unspent balance in any year shall be carried forward
Section 7.1.1				
Totals:	\$ 130,000.00	\$ (18,500.00)	\$ 111,500.00	
Release Date	Funds Received	Funds Dispersed	Balance	Notes
12/26/20	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ 111,500.00	7.1.1 Large Woody Debris Program, ILR-LWD

7.1 Large Woody Debris Program.

7.1.1 Funding. PacifiCorp shall contribute \$10,000 to the Aquatics Fund (Section 7.5) that will be earmarked for LWD projects in the mainstem of the Lewis River below Merwin Dam that benefit anadromous fish. If there are not sufficient LWD projects, or if the LWD program is suspended as provided in Section 7.1.4 below, PacifiCorp, at the request of the ACC, shall use the funds for other Aquatics Fund projects that benefit anadromous fish in the mainstem of the Lewis River below Merwin Dam and then for other projects in the Lewis River Basin below Merwin Dam. For any LWD project below Merwin Dam, PacifiCorp shall provide for the transportation of LWD at its own expense to a staging area provided by the entity or individual carrying out the project.

NMFS Biological Opinion Update

Scott Anderson (NMFS) informed the ACC that the NMFS has most of the information to complete the analysis. They have a good start on the environmental baseline and getting those things defined, so the skeleton of the BiOp. Starting to get into the meat of the analysis, which is the effects of the action so it’s moving along.

The anticipated release date of the BiOp is still a few months out before it’s ready for any type of review but Anderson has not seen the timeline. Anderson is not sure if or when the BiOp will be available for public review, but he will share this information with NMFS that the ACC wishes to review the document.

Flows/Reservoir Conditions Update

- Merwin – down 3.89’
- Yale – down 13’
- Swift – down 26.8’
- Total hole– 43.69’

Natural flow at Merwin currently is at 10,800 cfs and total discharge is 8,817 cfs

2020/2021 Aquatic Fund – Review of Aquatic Fund scoring template

Lesko provided a quick recap on how to score each proposal see [Attachment A](#) for further detail:

- 1) First, fill in the template under the five priority objectives for each proposal. These are a ‘Go’ or ‘NOGO’ selections. If it is determined by consensus that a proposal does not meet ALL of the priority objectives, the proposal will not be accepted.
- 2) Second, assign a number (between 1 and 10) under each of the 14 questions for each proposal. The spreadsheet will automatically calculate a weighted score for each proposal.
- 3) Finally, identify whether the specific proposal has any special concerns (e.g., fatal flaw) or circumstances that the ACC should consider during our March selection meeting.

SCORING TEMPLATE INSTRUCTIONS

- All proposals must meet the 5 priority objectives to be accepted (i.e., all 5 objectives must receive a rating of 'GO').
- Accepted proposals will be evaluated and scored using the scoring template that includes 14 questions over 4 weighted categories.
- Reviewers will assign a score (1 - 10) for each question based on the merits of the proposal (template columns H - U).
- Each reviewer will denote whether a project has special concerns (template column V). If marked, the reviewer should be prepared to discuss the concern(s) with the ACC during the March selection meeting.

Evaluation Metric	Type of Rating
Priority Objectives	Go - NoGo
Benefit to Fish	Numerical Score
Scientific Validity	Numerical Score
Feasibility	Numerical Score
Cost Effectiveness	Numerical Score
Project of Concern	Yes or No

WEIGHTING

The scoring template uses 14 questions across 4 weighted categories to prioritize and select projects for funding.

Category	Applied Weighting
Benefits to Fish	35%
Scientific Validity	30%
Feasibility	20%
Cost Effectiveness	15%
	100%

SCORING

- To evaluate a project, each reviewer will assign a numerical score for each of the 14 questions based on the merits of the proposal as determined by the reviewer. Numerical scores must be whole numbers between 1 and 10, with 10 being the best. Total available points is 140 (14 questions at 10 maximum points each).
- A weighting multiplier is applied to each category of questions. Therefore, scores in the 'Benefits to Fish' category have a greater influence on the final score than scores in the 'Cost Effectiveness' category.
- A mean final score will be calculated from all templates received. Each proposal will then be ranked by final mean score and provided to the ACC prior to the March selection meeting.

PROJECT OF CONCERN

- Proposals that may have special circumstances or concerns may be identified in Column V. Special concerns should be considered fatal flaws not reflected in the numerical scores. If a reviewer identifies a special concern with a specific proposal, the reviewer should be prepared to discuss these concerns with the ACC during the March project selection meeting. Supporting information may also be provided prior to the ACC meeting following protocols outlined in the ACC/ITCC groundrules.

More detailed instructions are provided in the attached spreadsheet (instructions tab). This is a new process for all of us and I am sure there will several improvements/ideas that we will want to include after we complete the evaluations. With that in mind, please make a note of any issues, concerns or improvements as you go through this template and please include with your completed evaluation so we can discuss at a future ACC meeting.

Lesko reminded the ACC of the aquatic fund schedule. The ACC scoring of each project is due on or before March 1, 2021 and PacifiCorp will distribute the combined master scoring on or before March 5, 2021 and project selection decisions will be made at the March 11, 2021 ACC meeting.

Lewis River Aquatic Fund Process Timeline

Activity	Target Milestone Date
Request for proposals distributed along with landowner acknowledgement form	September 4
Draft Full Proposals due to ACC	November 20
Conduct Proposed Project Information Meeting (<i>applicant presentations</i>)	December ACC meeting
ACC members submit written request for clarification of project information if questions not answered in previous meeting/presentation.	January 4
Final Full Proposals due (ACC requests for clarification need to be included as an Appendix)	January 29
Final Full Proposals submitted to ACC for 30-day review and evaluation	February 1
ACC scoring template due to Utilities	March 1
Distribute combined master scoring template to ACC	March 5
*Conduct Project Selection Meeting	March 11 ACC meeting
Provide add'l 7-day review period for absentee ACC participants, if needed	Third Thursday in March
Submit Project Selection Report to FERC	By April 15th

*Project applicants not permitted to attend this meeting.

Study/Work Product Updates

ATS Update

The ATS is currently having a number of side discussions but they all relate to our 2021 Annual Operating Plan. ATS is still currently working on sampling details for the genetics objective, details of samples and stocks. The ATS is looking for ways to improve screw trapping down stream of Merwin dam. In addition, the ATS is updating handling and sampling protocols for adults returning to Lewis River traps and developing the schedule for rewriting the aquatic monitoring and evaluation plan (AMEP) later this year.

The goal is to get the M&E Plan ready for ACC review late summer 2021.

Fish Passage Update

Chris Karchesky (PacifiCorp) informed the ACC PacifiCorp field crew were currently bracing for winter weather with the upcoming storm forecasted. As part of this effort, the Merwin Trap fish lift and conveyance system had been temporarily turned off to prevent freezing and snow loading of critical equipment. The attraction flow at the Merwin Trap will remain on so fish can still enter the trap while the conveyance system is off. Karchesky also added that no sea lions had been spotted in the tailrace of Merwin Dam for a while.

Karchesky also noted that there has been some discussion on suspending the FSC operations temporarily during the anticipated winter storm to keep backwashes from freezing. Fish numbers have remained low at the FSC since the high-water event a month ago. Most fish being collected currently are coho parr, fry and 2+ super smolts.

Merwin Fish Collection Facility and General Operations (Attachment B)

During the month of January, a total of 403 fish were captured at the Merwin Dam Adult Fish Collection Facility (MFCF). The majority of these fish were winter steelhead (77.2 %) and late run coho (17.1%). Of the fish collected in January, over a quarter (25.8%) were of natural origin (NOR).

The Merwin Dam Fish Collection Facility (MFCF) was taken out of service on multiple occasions in January, due to extended spill events at Merwin Dam. These spill events created water levels that exceed the upper limit for safe operation of the fish lift and conveyance system. The attraction water from Merwin Hatchery was intermittently diverted away from the MFCF on multiple occasions throughout the month in order to accommodate ongoing repairs to the Merwin Fish Hatchery return water supply line. Flow below Merwin Dam fluctuated between 9,250-22,400 cfs between January 1st – 22nd, before dropping down to 5,350 for the remainder of the month (Figure 1).

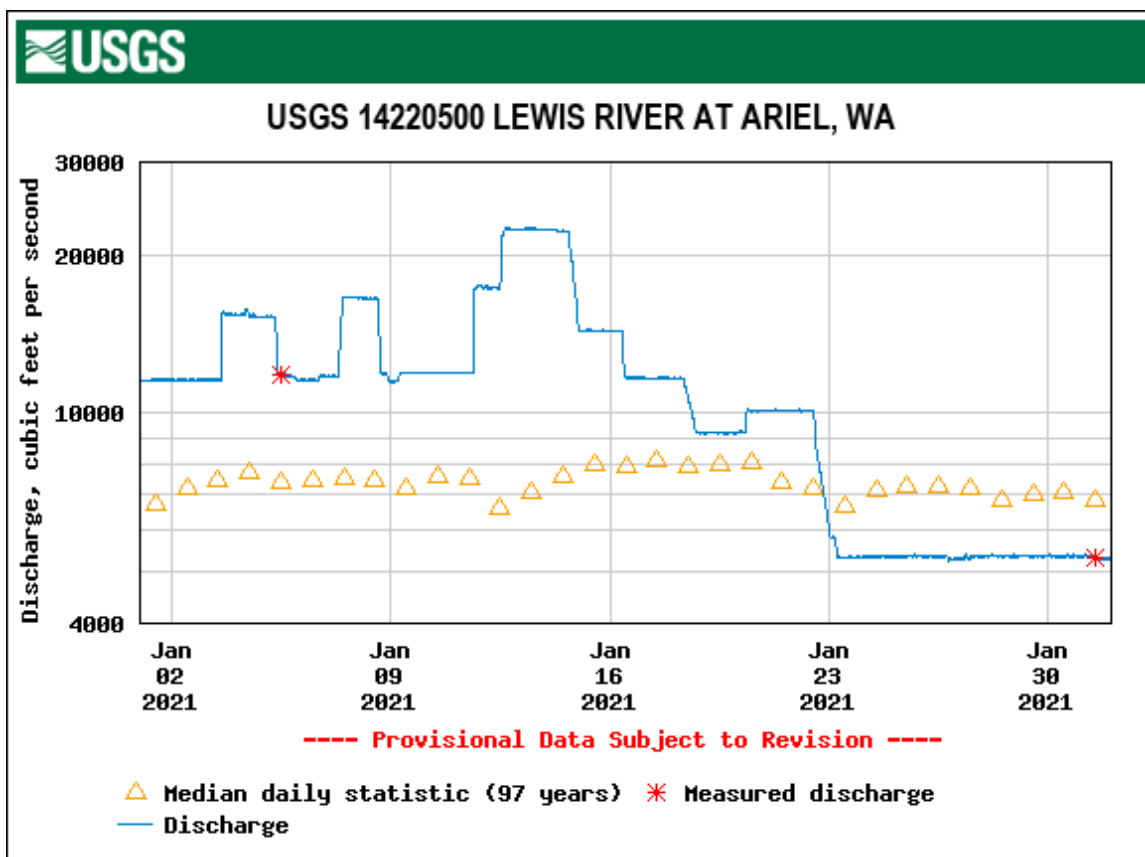


Figure 1. Discharge in cubic feet per second recorded at the USGS Ariel, WA gauge (14220500) located immediately downstream of Merwin Dam.

Upstream Transport (Attachment B)

Above average returns of natural origin (NOR) winter steelhead were collected in the month of January (Figure 2). A total of 134 fish were transported upstream throughout the month, of which 23 were supplied by Lewis River Hatchery. Approximately two thirds of the fish transported upstream in January were NOR late coho (69.4%) with the remaining being NOR winter steelhead

(32.1%). Eight cutthroat trout were also transported upstream of Swift Dam in January. As of the end of January, no Blank Wire Tag steelhead have been collected at the MFCF.

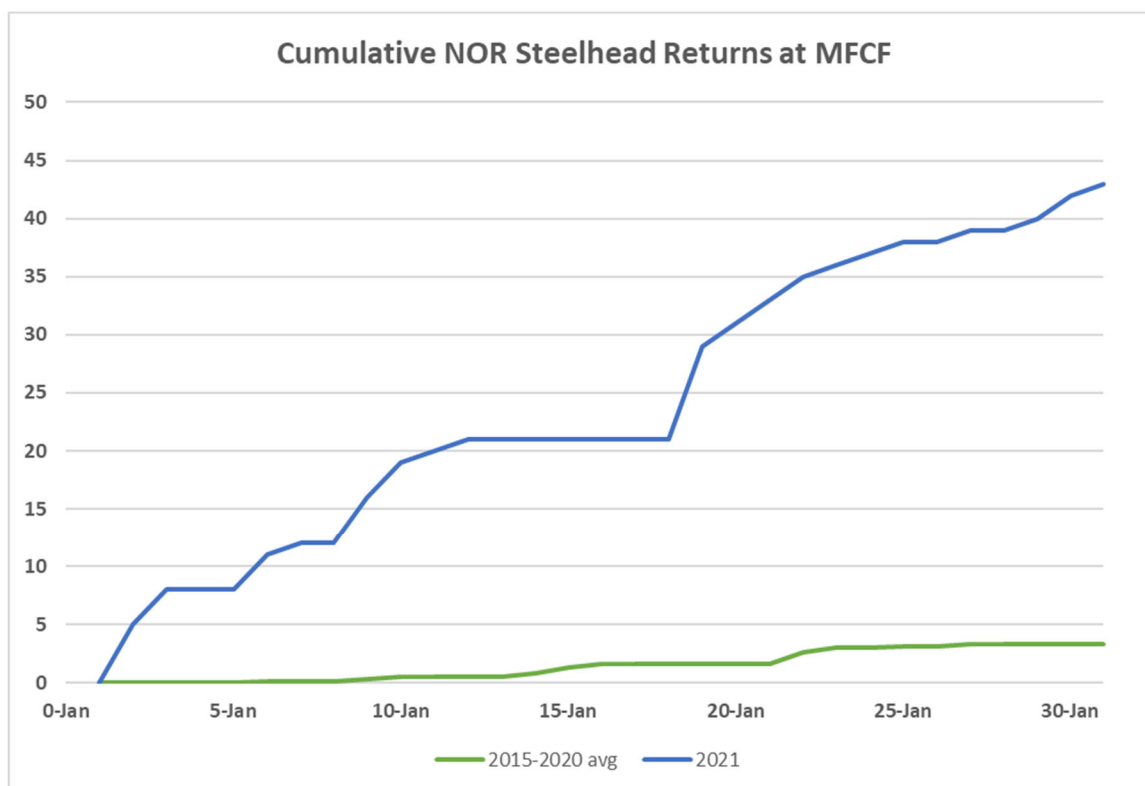


Figure 2. Cumulative number of Natural origin (NOR) steelhead collected at Merwin Adult Fish Collection Facility, relative to the 2015-2020 average.

Swift Floating Surface Collector (Attachment B)

The Swift Reservoir Floating Surface Collector (FSC) was taken out of operation on multiple occasions during the month of January, due to heavy debris inundation. Daily collection totals fluctuated substantially throughout the month, with greater fish numbers being collected on days following high reservoir inflows. The majority of the fish collected in January were coho (86.9%) and Chinook (7.7%).

Agenda items for March 11, 2021

- Review February 11, 2021 Meeting Notes (**ACC COMMENTS DUE March 2, 2021**)
- 2020 ACC/TCC Draft Annual Report Comments/Questions
- Study/Work Product Updates

Adjourn 10:25am

Next Scheduled Meeting:

March 11, 2021 – Aquatic Fund Project Selection Meeting
TEAMS Call Only
9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Handouts & Attachments:

- Meeting Notes from 1/14/2021
- Agenda from 2/11/2021
- **Attachment A** - 2020/2021 Aquatic Fund – Review of Aquatic Fund scoring template
- **Attachment B** – Lewis River Fish Passage Report (January 2021)

AQUATIC FUNDS PROJECT SCORING TEMPLATE

Project Number	Project Title	Scores (use only whole numbers, 0 - 10 with 10 being best)																		Project of Concern?	TOTAL PROJECT			
		Priority Objectives (Go - NoGo)					Benefits to Fish (35%)			Scientific Validity (30%)			Feasibility (20%)				Cost Effectiveness (15%)				Score	% of max. Score	Rank	
		1	2	3	4	5	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13					Q14
2021-01	SW Washington Nutrient Enhancement Coalition: Lewis River Support																					0	0%	1
2021-02	Clear Creek and Clearwater Creek Restoration Design																					0	0%	1
2021-03	Pepper Creek Culvert Removal and Road Hydro-Stabilization																					0	0%	1
2021-04	Rush Creek Side Channel Reactivation Project																					0	0%	1

QUESTIONS

- Q1 Does the project provide direct benefit(s) to priority species and habitat reaches?
- Q2 Does the project provide tangible, on the ground benefits?
- Q3 Does the project address a limiting factor(s) to the target species, life history stage, or habitat process?

- Q4 Does the proposal apply appropriate and proven methods, designs and technologies?
- Q5 Are the project objectives identified appropriate and justified given the proposed scope and schedule?
- Q6 Does the project describe and consider long term benefits and influences (e.g., watershed processes, hydro operations, climate change, etc.)?

- Q7 What constraints or contingencies affect project implementation (permitting, legal, location, funding, etc.)
- Q8 Is the probability of success high, medium or low?
- Q9 How qualified and experienced is the project team in successfully completing projects of similar scope, nature, and magnitude?
- Q10 How might other habitat protection, assessments, or restoration actions in the watershed impact the project?

- Q11 Will the project be cost shared with other funding sources (e.g., matching contributions, in-kind participation, grants, etc.)?
- Q12 Are project costs reasonable by work effort and type (administration, permitting, goods and services, rentals, labor, contracts, etc.)?
- Q13 Are the total costs justified based on expected short and long term benefits to fish?
- Q14 Is the project self-maintaining once completed? If not, how will maintenance be achieved?

Lewis River Fish Passage Report

January 2021

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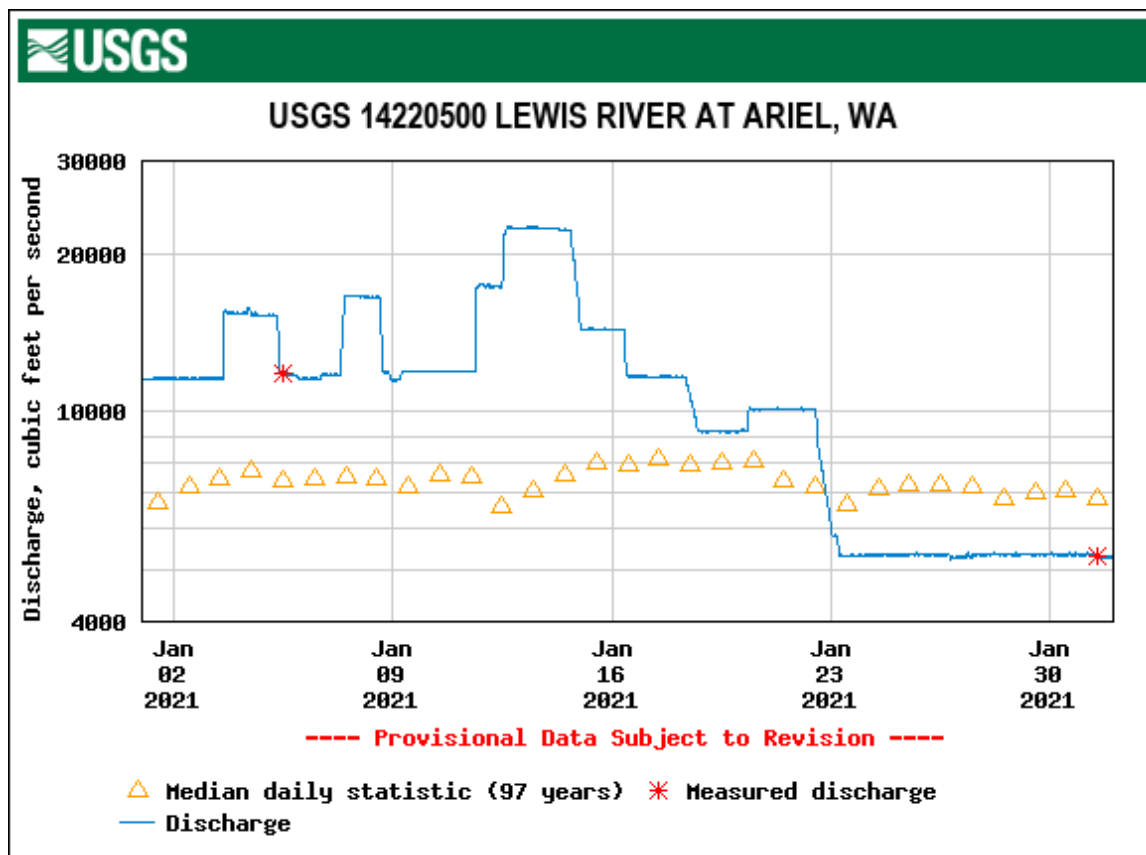


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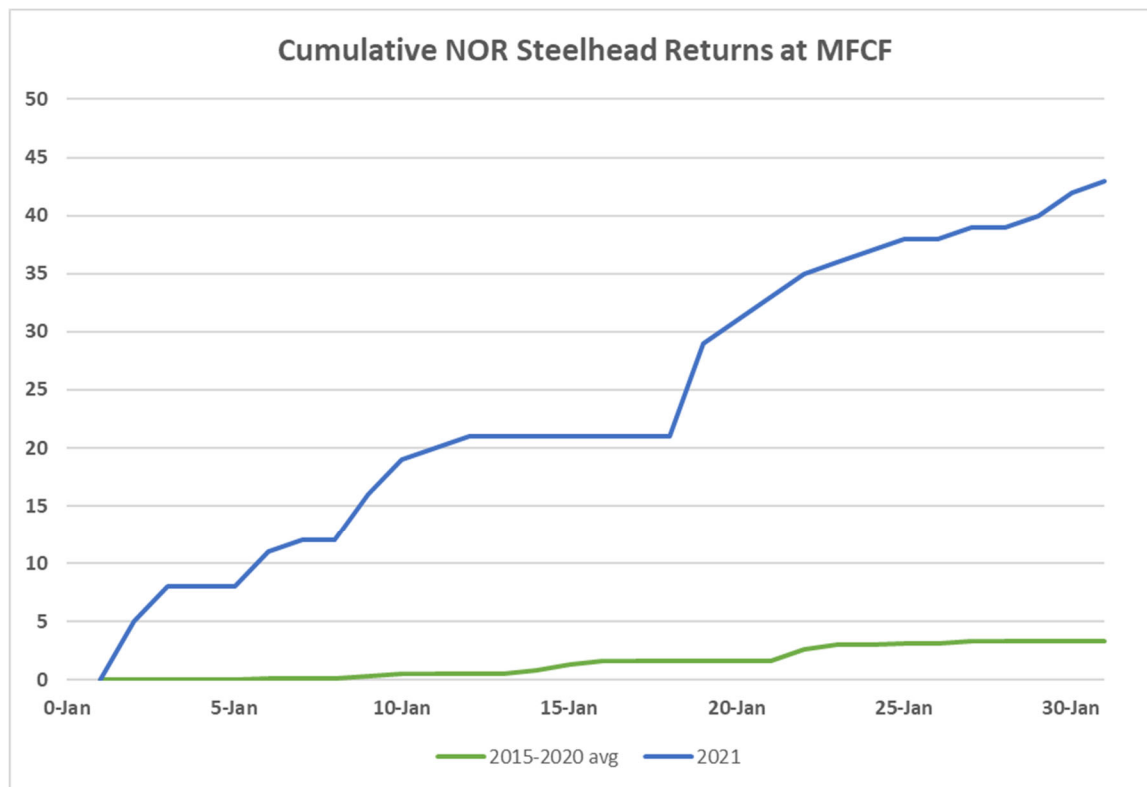


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Floating Surface Collector (FSC)

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Fish Facility Report
Swift Floating Surface Collector
January 2021

Day	Coho			Chinook			Steelhead				Cutthroat			Bull Trout	Planted Rainbow	Total
	fry	parr	smolt	fry	parr	smolt	fry	parr	smolt	kelt	fry	<13 in	> 13 in			
1																
2																
3		8	1			2			0					0	0	11
4		32	2		1	16			8			2		0	2	63
5	1	13	8			5			1			1		0	0	29
6		43	9			13			4			7		0	2	78
7		33	9			17		2	3			9		0	0	73
8		13	1			3			2			4		0	0	23
9																
10																
11		19	0			0			0					0	0	19
12	6	51	4			19			4			5		0	0	89
13	5	175	9		2	15		1	0			4		0	0	211
14	39	301	45			7			2			3		0	0	397
15	33	197	4			6			2			3		0	0	245
16	32	190	18			21	1		2			3		0	1	268
17	8	164	18			10		2	1			8		0	0	211
18		102	26			13	2		5			6		0	0	154
19		17	0			15			5			2		0	2	41
20	33	161	24			11		3	0			1	1	0	2	236
21	7	69	9			7			2			1		0	0	95
22	12	207	17			4			1			2		0	1	244
23	3	82	7			5			1			2		0	1	101
24	1	19	4			6			1			2		0	0	33
25		14	4			4			0					0	2	24
26	1	9	4			1			0			1		0	0	16
27		82	15			5			2			6		0	0	110
28		37	6		1	4			0			2		0	0	50
29		2	7			5			0			2		0	1	17
30	1	5	4			3			1		1	1		0	1	17
31	3	20	10			2	1	1	0					0	1	38
Monthly	185	2065	265	0	4	219	4	9	47	0	1	77	1	0	16	2893
Total	185	2065	265	0	4	219	4	9	47	0	1	77	1	0	16	2893