LEWIS RIVER AQUATIC COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Facilitator:	503-412-8401
Location:	TEAMS MEETING ONLY

Date: April 13, 2023

Time: 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

AGENDA

9:30 AM	Welcome						
	Review and Accept 04/13/2023 Agenda						
	Review and Accept 03/09/2023 Meeting Notes						
9:45 AM	Public Comment Opportunity						
10:00 AM	Study/Work Product Updates						
	Flows/Reservoir Conditions (Lesko)						
	Reservoir Shoreline Development Projects (ACC)						
	▶ WSDOT - Cougar Creek/Beaver Bay (ACC)						
	Yale License Amendment Status (Lesko, Olson)						
	\blacktriangleright ATS (Lesko, ATS)						
	FPS (Glaser, Olson)						
	Fish Passage/Operations (Karchesky)						
11:45 AM	Public Comment Opportunity						
	Next Meeting Agenda						
	Annual Operations Report – summary presentation						
12:00 PM	Meeting Adjourn						

Note: all meeting notes and the meeting schedule can be located at: https://www.pacificorp.com/energy/hydro/lewis-river/acc-tcc.html

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Phone Conference ID: 214 435 300#

FINAL Meeting Notes Lewis River License Implementation Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting April 13, 2023 TEAMS Meeting Only

ACC Representatives and Affiliates Present (17)

Larissa Rohrbach, Anchor QEA Nina Maas, Anchor OEA Dalton Fry, Cowlitz Indian Tribe Steve Manlow, LCFRB Steve West, LCFRB Melissa Jundt, NMFS Jeremiah Doyle, PacifiCorp Mark Ferraiolo, PacifiCorp Chris Karchesky, PacifiCorp Erik Lesko, PacifiCorp Todd Olson, PacifiCorp Tyanna Blaschak, USFS Jeffrey Garnett, USFWS Bryce Glaser, WDFW Josua Holowatz, WDFW Peggy Miller, WDFW Keely Murdoch, Yakama Nation

Guests (0)

None

Calendar:

April 13 2023	ACC Meeting	TEAMS
April 13, 2023	ACC Meeting	TEAMS
		Meeting

Assignments:

Assignments from March 9, 2023	Status
Glaser, Miller: Identify the types of decision that should be brought	Ongoing.
from the FPS to the ACC to clarify protocols for the FPS.	

Assignments from November 10, 2022	Status
Karchesky: Discuss potential impacts of Merwin conveyance system work with the ATS to determine broodstock collection modifications.	Ongoing.

Assignments from April 14, 2022	Status
Erik Lesko: Coordinate with the TCC regarding the timing for WSDOT's Cougar Creek culvert project.	Ongoing.

Opening, Review of Agenda and Meeting Notes

Erik Lesko (PacifiCorp) called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. and reviewed the agenda. No revisions to the agenda were made. Lesko reviewed the March 9, 2023, meeting notes. Editorial edits and comments were accepted, and the March 9, 2023, minutes were accepted with no additional edits.

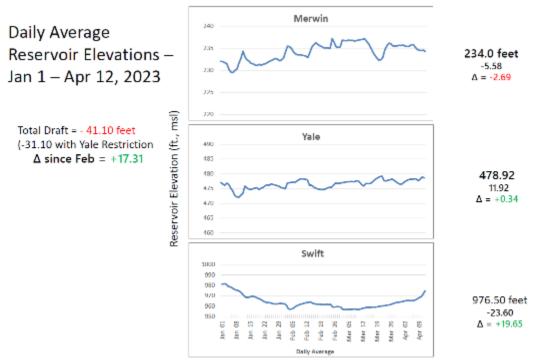
Public Comment Opportunity

None.

Study/Work Product Updates

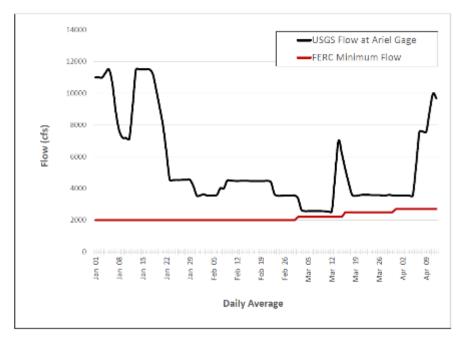
Flows/Reservoir Conditions Update

Erik Lesko shared the flows and reservoir conditions update:



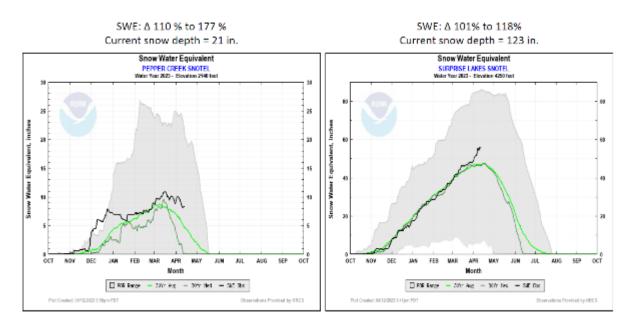
Conditions have changed slightly, although Merwin and Yale reservoirs water levels are stable. Water levels in Swift reservoir are currently rising and have increased approximately 20ft since the March meeting as a result of significant rainfall. In total, water levels are higher in the three reservoirs this month by approximately 17ft, with most water stored at Swift Reservoir.

FERC Minimum Flows vs. Actual Flows, NFK Lewis River: Jan 1 – Apr 12, 2023



Minimum flows in the North Fork Lewis River are beginning to increase slightly. Current FERC minimum flow rate is 2,700 CFS. A recent rain event caused discharge from Merwin to peak at about 10,000 cfs. NFK Lewis River flows are currently decreasing. This event caused full generation through Merwin Dam but no spill over.

Peggy Miller asked about the March 12 high flow event shown on the graph. Lesko clarified that the spike in flow was caused by a scheduled flow increase from Merwin Dam to conduct water quality testing at the request of WDOE. Todd Olson clarified that the testing required flow measurements to be done at different transects, and mentioned that flows are down to 5,500 CFS as of today. The current flows are well above minimum flow.



The SNOTEL report was shown for two stations in the Lewis River Basin (at low and high elevation). Last month, snow/water equivalent at both stations was slightly above 100%. These snow/water equivalent levels have increased this month to 177% and 118% respectively.

Reservoir Shoreline Development Project Update

Campers Hideaway – Erik Lesko received several emails about milfoil found near a shoreline development project at Campers Hideaway. It has been requested that PacifiCorp include best management practices (BMPs) in the company's shoreline management permit (SMP). Lesko confirmed with Todd Olson that standard BMPs for controlling aquatic invasives were included. Steve Manlow asked about the status of the HPA permit. Peggy Miller and Josua Holowatz indicated the permit application has not been received by WDFW as of the end of March.

Woodland Park – The shoreline management permit was submitted and signed late last month.

WSDOT – Cougar Creek

Erik Lesko confirmed that PacifiCorp has issued a land use permit to Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) as the project does include work on Wildlife Habitat Management Plan (WHMP) lands and our power right of way. The schedule for construction is still planned for June 1, 2023, if all permits are approved. Lesko mentioned that permits were on track to be submitted within a week of the last ACC meeting.

Peggy Miller confirmed that WDFW has not received a permit application as of the end of March. Kendal Emmerson (PacifiCorp) is developing BMPs for accessing the creek in coordination with the TCC. Lesko notes that the June 1start day will be difficult to accomplish considering that permit applications have not yet been submitted.

Beaver Bay

Todd Olson provided an overview of the project. Per the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Settlement Agreement, the Beaver Bay campground was redesigned for recreation as well as environmental concerns, which will include moving some campground spaces. The Campground encroaches onto wetland space. Cowlitz County, the PacifiCorp's planners, WDFW and Ecology have been working together to permit work along the campground-wetland interface.

Yale License Amendment

Todd Olson thanked everyone for comments on the draft Yale license amendment. Olson provided background on the Yale license amendment. This is a dam safety project as part of the Saddle Dam remediation projects. The amendment has been drafted, PacifiCorp is working to address comments now, and will then file the application with FERC.

The dam safety group will continue to evaluate technical aspects of the remediation. Olson states that as of now, all proposal details are unchanged, although there are discussions around armoring the upstream sections of the dam and addressing materials coming off the downstream swale. The dam safety group has indicated that it will take the rest of the year to complete these technical considerations. Due to this timeline, actual remediation work will not start until at least next year, potentially after Labor Day 2024.

Ash Site – Swift boat ramp area

Josua Holowatz asked if there will be an update about drawdown of Swift Reservoir planned for this fall, and for shoreline repair at the log yard at Swift Camp.

Olson addressed the update and provided background on this project. Wood debris that has been transported from the upper basin by high flows is removed from Swift Reservoir at the Swift Camp/Forest Camp boat ramp, beginning in spring every year.. The wood debris is either used in habitat restoration projects, transported to a timber mill, chipped for wood chips or burned. The ash pile from burned wood debris is near the shoreline and is periodically emptied. This process should be starting soon. Over the winter, erosion of the shoreline occurred at the ash pile site near the upper debris boom. Kendel Emmerson, a lead on the Terrestrial Coordination Committee is working on permit acquisitions to address the issue long-term. In the near term, ash will be removed and placed in a nearby rock pit as has been done in the past.

Fall Drawdown

Olson also addressed the drawdown planned for fall. The dam safety project at the Swift Dam spill gates, Swift Reservoir will need to be drawn down to 950 ft mean sea level (msl), which is the bottom of the spillway crest. Slots will be cut from the front of the spill gates to allow for the addition of temporary bulkheads, which will in turn shut off water to the spillway they are placed on. These additions will allow the rest of the work to be completed on the spillway gates without having to draw down below 950 ft which would impact recreation. Work will begin this fall and last approximately 4 months. The reservoir level is planned to be maintained 975 ft until the end of Labor Day weekend, after which a multiple week drawdown will occur to 950 ft. PacifiCorp has sent out a public media release to the Swift Reservoir communities, including Northwoods and others. Olson said he would send the media release to the ACC. Holowatz mentioned that he has been thinking about the effects of the drawdown on the coho released at Eagle Cliff and move into the lower tributaries. There are fish that spawning below full reservoir pool, as "shoreline spawners". Maintaining stable and low water levels may allow eggs to mature longer and potentially increase production as they won't be inundated this year. Olson says reservoir filling will not occur until approximately April of next year.

Peggy Miller asked what the minimum reservoir level is for operating the Swift Reservoir floating surface collector. Chris Karchesky replied that the minimum is 900 ft msl and so the collector will be able to function during the drawdown period.

Lesko mentioned that Jason Shappart (Meridian Environmental) will be surveying those drawdown areas during the fall drawdown to determine the relative number of spawners constructing redds in the drawdown zones.

Aquatic Technical Subgroup Update

Bryce Glaser provided the Aquatic Technical Subgroup (ATS) update. The transition plans are underway, Holowatz and Glasser have received comments on the draft coho transition plan which were discussed during the last ATS meeting. The comments, mostly from the fish recovery board and PacifiCorp, are being incorporated into the document and WDFW plans to distribute a new draft before the next ATS meeting. This revised draft will then be brought to the ACC for discussion and a decision. Holowatz and Glasser presented preliminary thoughts on the steelhead transition plan during the last ATS meeting and are hoping to distribute a draft to the ATS by their next ATS meeting, where modelling and the direction proposed by WDFW can be discussed. WDFW will then accept comments on the steelhead plan.

The spring Chinook transition plan was briefly discussed for the ATS, and is the last to be prepared, as it is less complicated.

Glaser asked the ACC if they would prefer bundling all three transition plans for them to review, or if they would prefer to review them individually. Glaser also asked how should these documents be officially approved. WDFW is working on Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs) in parallel, and will prepare final versions when the ACC approves.

Lesko said he would like to review each transition plan as soon as possible. Steve Manlow suggested reviewing one at a time as the plans become available so that if there are issues, they can be addressed immediately. Glaser asked if there should be separate decision documents for each plan. Manlow suggested that as long as there are no major issues encountered with the plans, that only one decision document should be created. If there are issues, the ACC could adapt the approach to approve each plan individually so that nothing is delayed. Glaser agreed and noted that most major issues are likely to be worked out at the ATS level. Glaser said WDFW will distribute each transition plan to the ACC as soon as they have been reviewed and revised in response to comments by the ATS. Lesko agreed that the transition plans can be grouped under one decision document, and the informal approval process will be occurring during each review period.

Lesko noted that not all ACC members have typically been included on the ATS distribution list. Lesko will send an update for all meetings which will include agenda and meeting materials.

Larissa Rohrbach asked if all ATS materials should be sent to all ACC members or just agendas and meeting notes. Manlow said he would like to receive all of the meeting materials, which would help the LCFRB know when to engage with issues. Rohrbach will assist Lesko so that everyone on the ACC will now be receiving updates on the ATS meetings, including all materials, and anyone who would like to be removed from this list should contact him via email. Rohrbach reminded the group that not all meeting materials distributed to the ATS are final, and for the ACC to keep that in mind relative to their roles.

Fish Passage Subgroup Update

Todd Olson said the next Fish Passage Subgroup (FPS) meeting would be that afternoon and thanked Peggy Miller for organizing an agenda. The FPS meeting will include short design updates and then will discuss a decision about upstream fish passage capacity. WDFW has further explored this upstream at Yale and Swift dam. Then the group will discuss facility alternatives analysis

During the last FPS meeting, the concerns about downstream passage at Merwin Dam were addressed at length. The focus will shift to the upstream projects. Comment have been received on the "Elements of Fish Passage" document. Beth Bendickson sent out the proposed text for the Merwin downstream facility. Chris Karchesky recently provided an update on the Yale Reservoir fish behavior study and plan to provide monthly updates to the group as the field season progresses. Karchesky also indicated that comments on the Yale 30% design have been

submitted and that the design team has provided their responses. No additional comments or responses have been submitted by the FPS to the responses previously provided by the design team.

Glaser noted that good progress has been made on the alternatives analysis and the FPS should be wrapping up that section of the "Elements of Fish Passage" document.

Chris Karchesky provided a summary update of ACC's recent two-day site tour of the Lewis River and Clackamas River Projects (Portland General Electric) at the end of March. The group had good attendance for both the Lewis River sites and Clackamas tours. Karchesky thanked PGE for hosting a tour of the North Fork and River Mill projects. For the Lewi River Tour, the group started at the Merwin Fish Collection Facility and moved upriver. The group then saw the proposed Yale Dam fish passage build sites (up and downstream) and then went onto the Swift Dam upstream collection site. The tour ended with a visit to the Swift Reservoir floating surface collector. Karchesky said that it was good perspective to also visit the PGE North Fork Reservoir floating surface collector, which is similar to the one in Swift reservoir, but second generation. He noted it was interesting to compare the two.

On the second day, the group visited PGE's "no touch" adult sorting facility. Fish are passed through an observation box, then shunted to a determined destination. The second day also included a tour to the downstream surface collection facility and the lower-most River Mill bypass facility. Karchesky noted it is like a surface collector that bypasses fish around the dam into the lower river.

Keely Murdoch mentioned the tour was very informative and thanked Karchesky for the time taken for the tour. Glaser also thanked Karchesky for the tour and noted that seeing the no touch facility was very helpful. Karchesky said anyone who missed the tour can always contact him for a future visit to the Lewis River sites

Merwin Fish Passage Update (see also Attachment B)

Karchesky provided and overview of fish passage operations. Winter steelhead numbers are increasing at Merwin Fish Collection Facility. Now is the typical peak season, and with 400 collected already, this number will likely double by the end of the season to a projected around 800-to 900 adults this season. This is better than the last couple of years. The record count is around 1,200 adults, which occurred in 2020. Current counts are on par with average.

The spring Chinook counts has remained low with only 13 fish caught as of early today. This is fairly low for this time of year but consistent with past trends. Last year there were about 120 adults collected at this time. Last year's run was large, and it was the first time that the targeted upstream transport goal of 3,000 fish was met. It is uncertain if that goal will be achieved again this year.

There are no scheduled outages for this facility.

Swift Floating Surface Collector (see also Attachment C)

Karchesky indicated that the downstream juvenile collection has been slowed by cold weather. Fish numbers are below average. There was recently 2 inches of snow on the collector and water temperatures are still around 5 to 6 degrees C. Historically, fish passage number increase with water temperatures with peak migration occurring at temperatures around 12-16 degrees C, which are generally reached by late-June to early May.

There are no scheduled outages for this facility.

Lewis River Fish Passage Report (See Attachment B)

Lewis River fish passage has also been slowed by low temperatures, but numbers are consistent with last year

Administrative Updates

Lesko explained the plan to include an Annual Operations Report update in next month's meeting. The report will be distributed the first week of May and due to the influx of new ACC members, Lesko would like to provide an overview of the report. This would include a summary of what is provided in the report, where to find certain items. Lesko would like to provide a brief summary, as the report is large and contains many other activities not pertinent to the ACC (e.g., terrestrial). Lesko would like to stress that PacifiCorp will present a summary and will not provide in-depth details, but plans to present what PacifiCorp has been doing to meet Settlement Agreement goals. Lesko said he anticipates approximately 2 hours to provide an overview of the objectives, trends and reporting structure of aquatic monitoring activities in 2022. Lesko stressed this will be the first time this type of presentation has been prepared for the ACC, but PacifiCorp hopes to provide this on an annual basis. Lesko asked the group if they have specific interests and encouraged ACC members to email him with comments and requests for anything that is of particular interest. Keely Murdoch, Tyanna Blaschak and Melissa Jundt all agreed that the presentation sounds very helpful and will send specific requests via email if they arise.

Lesko said there has been recent discussion about holding quarterly ACC meetings in person. He noted that next month's meeting could be held in person, but that would put pressure on PacifiCorp staff who are already working toward the Annual Operations Report deadline. He asked for the group's thoughts on the timing and scheduling preferences for these in-person meetings. Murdoch says she has no preference, but would prefer to layout a schedule for the coming year to prepare for the travel obligations. Glaser says he likes the idea of scheduling one and then setting the rest later. Glaser confirmed that there will continue to be a virtual option. Lesko said the ACC should plan for an in-person meeting in June, and he will send out reminder for this.

Larissa Rohrbach asked if the group would like to schedule in person meetings for the remainder or the year now. Lesko said that it depends on the agenda items, and he is not ready to commit to a schedule yet. The ACC will discuss a scheduling future in-person meetings when they meet in June.

Josua Holowatz noted that the June 8 ACC meeting is also the date of the FPS committee meeting and suggested that the meeting time for the FPS be shifted earlier to encourage inperson attendance to both. Murdoch and Glaser agreed. Peggy Miller will add this as a discussion at the end of the FPS meeting this afternoon.

Public Comment Opportunity

None present.

Agenda Items for May 11, 2023

Annual Summary Report presentation - Erik

Study/Work Product Updates

Adjourn 11:03 pm

Next Scheduled Meeting

May 11, 2023	
Teams Call	
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	

Meeting Handouts & Attachments

- Meeting Notes from 3/13/2023
- Agenda from 4/13/2023
- Attachment A Merwin Adult Trap Collection Report (March 2023)
- Attachment B Swift FSC Facility Collection Report (March 2023)
- Attachment C Lewis River Fish Passage Report (March 2023)

Lewis River Fish Passage Report

March 2023

Merwin Fish Collection Facility and General Operations

During the month of March, a total of 167 fish were captured at the Merwin Dam Adult Fish Collection Facility (MFCF), which was an increase over the February total of 55 fish. As is typical in March, winter steelhead were the most prevalent species collected (n=58), followed by spring Chinook (n=5), and Cutthroat trout (n=2). Thirteen Blank Wire Tag (BWT) steelhead, five NOR steelhead, and three HOR spring Chinook were given to WDFW for broodstock needs.



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

The MFCF lift and conveyance system was taken out of service on March 2 through March 4 so that a compromised cable on the fish lift could be replaced. It was taken out of service again from March 12 through March 13 due to a communications outage that interrupted remote operation and monitoring of the facility. Flows below Merwin Dam ranged from approximately 2,500 to 7,000 cubic feet per second in March (Figure 1).

Three of the fish collected at the MFCF in March had been previously PIT-tagged, all of which were steelhead. One of these steelhead was the first confirmed returning kelt that has been observed circumnavigating the fish passage facilities on the Lewis River. This fish was originally tagged as an adult at the MFCF in March 2022, collected at the Swift FSC as a post-spawn outmigrant in May of 2022, transported downstream of Merwin Dam, and was recaptured at the MFCF on March 14,

2023. This fish was subsequently released upstream of Swift Dam. For calendar year 2023 to-date, four natural origin winter steelhead and one natural origin coho containing PIT tags have been collected at the Merwin Trap. Tagging history and detections of PIT tagged fish passing through the Lewis River Fish Passage Facilities are available through Columbia Basin PIT Tag Information System (PTAGIS).

Upstream Transport

A total of total of 136 adult fish were transported upstream in March, which is substantial increase over the 15 fish that were transported in February. The majority of the fish transported upstream were winter steelhead (115 BWT and 16 NOR). Three spring Chinook and two cutthroat trout were also transported upstream of Swift Dam in March. For calendar year 2023 to date, a total of 172 winter steelhead (136 BWT and 36 NOR), 38 late run coho, ten cutthroat trout, and three spring Chinook have been transported upstream of Swift Dam.

Floating Surface Collector (FSC)

The Swift Reservoir Floating Surface Collector (FSC) was taken out of service from February 20 through March 3 due to unsafe operating conditions caused by severe winter weather. It was taken out of service again from March 11 through March 13, due to a communication outage that resulted in the loss of remote operation and monitoring capabilities. The facility was taken offline again on March 28 and March 30 so that divers could repair a damaged screen in the fish channel.

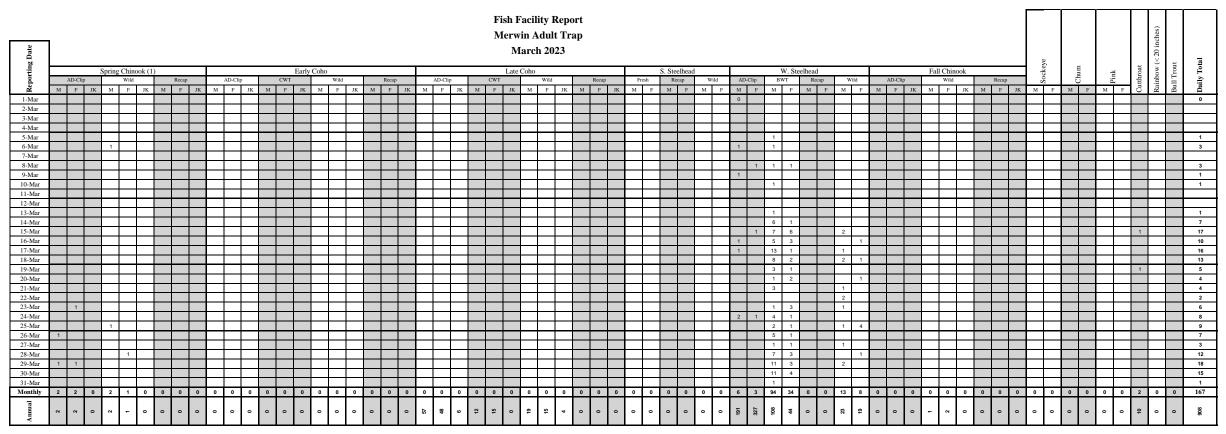
A total of 1,364 fish were collected at the Swift FSC in March, which represents 35.7 percent of the 10 year average for March (n= 3,822) (Table 1). The majority of the fish collected were juvenile coho (n= 980), followed by spring Chinook (n= 319), hatchery rainbow trout (n= 41), steelhead (n= 16), Bull Trout (n= 1), and cutthroat trout (n= 1). The Bull Trout (FL 600 mm) was previously tagged at the Swift FSC on 3/22/2022, almost exactly one year prior. This fish was subsequently returned to Swift Reservoir.

Table 1: Total number of out-migrating juvenile salmonids (by species) collected at the Swift FSC during the month of March since 2013.

		March Collect	tion Totals by Run Y	Zear at the Swift FSC	2
Run Year	Coho	Chinook	Steelhead	Cutthroat	TOTAL
2013	586	28	3	21	638
2014*					
2015	3,644	588	25	36	4,293
2016	2,469	264	28	63	2,824
2017	2,415	98	28	60	2,601

2018	1,093	1,751	31	46	2,921
2019	647	151	5	13	816
2020	3,223	7,146	74	44	10,487
2021	1,309	438	31	27	1,805
2022	7,380	499	66	74	8,019
2023	980	319	16	1	1,316

*Swift FSC was not operational.



1 Only hatchery verses wild distinctions are currently being made. All hatchery fish are labeled as "AD-Clip". 2 Total counts do not include recaptured salmon.

Fish Facility Report Swift Floating Surface Collector March 2023

		Coho			Chinook			Aarch 202 Steel				Cutthroat		Bull	Planted	
Day	fry	parr	smolt	fry	parr	smolt	fry	parr	smolt	kelt	fry	<13 in	> 13 in	Trout	Rainbow	Total
1																
2																
3																
4		6	21			2			2					0	0	31
5		8	11			3			0			1		0	0	23
6		8	0			7			0					0	0	15
7		9	3			1			0			1		0	0	14
8		6	6			3			0					0	0	15
9		5	7			7		1	0					0	0	20
10		35	13			8			1			1		0	5	63
11																
12																
13																
14	1	25	6			7			2					0	1	42
15		14	22	1		15			2					0	2	56
16		24	26			34			1					0	9	94
17			59			42			0			1		1	3	106
18		34	17			27			0					0	1	79
19		34	35			22			2			1		0	0	94
20		97	52			21			0					0	8	178
21		30	8			18			0					0	0	56
22		26	60			23			2					0	4	115
23		19	31			16			1					0	1	68
24		2	39			9			0					0	3	53
25		20	20			4			0					0	0	44
26		6	20			8			0					0	0	34
27		16	27			15			1			1	1	0	0	61
28																
29			46			4			1					0	1	52
30	1	7	18			22			0					0	3	51
31																
Monthly	2	431	547	1	0	318	0	1	15	0	0	6	1	1	41	1364
Total	48	4901	1738	4	12	590	2	15	54	0	0	51	1	2	62	7480