

**Lewis River Hydroelectric Projects Settlement Agreement
Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC)
Meeting Agenda**

Date & Time: Thursday, May 14, 2015
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Place: Merwin Hydro Control Center
105 Merwin Village Court
Ariel, WA 98603

Contacts: Frank Shrier: (503) 320-7423

Time	Discussion Item
9:00 a.m.	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Review Agenda and 4/9/15 Meeting Notes➤ Comment & accept Agenda and 4/9/15 Meeting Notes
9:15 a.m.	Discussion of acclimation pond fish outplanting; possibly moving that to a fall timeframe
9:45 a.m.	Smolt releases at LRH; first pass water and release options – Kinne/Lesko
10:15 a.m.	Break
10:30 a.m.	Production Numbers for 2016 Discussion – Spring Chinook
11:00 a.m.	Review the <i>Aquatic Fund Strategic Plan and Administrative Procedures, September 2013</i> Aquatic Fund Procedure; 2015/2016 Funding Cycle <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Synthesis Matrix
11:30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Study/Work Product Updates○ Woodland Release Ponds - Status○ Hatchery Upgrades - Status○ Acclimation Ponds - Status○ Merwin Upstream Passage – Status○ Swift Floating Surface Collector – Status
11:45 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Next Meeting's Agenda➤ Public Comment Opportunity Note: all meeting notes and the meeting schedule can be located at: http://www.pacificorp.com/es/hydro/hl/lr.html#
12:00 p.m.	Adjourn

Join by Phone
+1 (503) 813-5252 [Portland, Ore.]
+1 (855) 499-5252 [Toll Free]

Conference ID: 5687805

FINAL Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting
May 14, 2015
Conference Call

ACC Participants Present (10)

Beth Bendickson, PacifiCorp
Chris Karchesky, PacifiCorp
Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp
Adam Haspiel, USDA Forest Service
Michelle Day, NMFS
Eric Kinne, WDFW
Peggy Miller, WDFW
Aaron Roberts, WDFW
Diana MacDonald, Cowlitz PUD

Guests

Allen Thomas, Columbian

Calendar:

June 11, 2015	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro
July 9, 2015	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro

Assignments from May 14, 2015 meeting	Status
Shrier: Review Crab Creek flows and send results out to ACC.	Complete 5/14/15
Roberts: Run an analysis to compare if ACC should consider more or less acclimation fish vs. natural fish. He will consult with Karchesky on current collection efficiencies at the Swift FSC.	Complete 6/11/15
Shrier: Review LCFRB website to see if the matrix has enough information and is updated enough to use as a tool.	Complete 5/22/15
Shrier: Revisit doing an overall map of the Lewis River system for the Synthesis matrix.	Refer to LCFRB website; Complete 6/11/15
Shrier: Check on permit application submittal for Woodland Release Ponds.	Complete 6/11/15

Assignments from February 13, 2014 meeting	Status
Kinne: Work on securing the 2012/2013 lower river coho abundance survey data and provide this information to Erik Lesko (PacifiCorp) for the 2013 H&S Annual Report.	As of 5/14/15, this assignment is still pending. Kinne reported that the 2010 data has been completed and the 2012/2013 data is being finalized. The expected completion is by the end of the summer.

Opening, Review of Agenda and Meeting Notes

Frank Shrier (PacifiCorp) called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and reviewed the agenda and assignments.

The April 9, 2015 meeting notes were reviewed and approved with the following changes:

Page one, ACC Participants Present: Baker Holden is with USDA Forest Service, not WDFW.

PacifiCorp Energy no longer exists, so all instances of “Energy” throughout the meeting notes will be removed.

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp) will finalize the April 9, 2015 meeting notes for posting to the Lewis River website.

Acclimation Pond Fish Outplanting; Possibly Moving to Fall Timeframe

Shrier will review the flows to make sure there is water available in Crab Creek. 0.7 CFS is the minimum flow required for the pond.

Adam Haspiel (USDA Forest Service) said a NEPA Analysis would be needed and it could take a few months to complete. Shrier felt we could still move ahead with approvals and that it would not hold up construction. We could build, but not operate until the USDA-Forest Service approved it. We would put the pond in, in October 2015 and then hold fish in it for up to six weeks.

Aaron Roberts (WDFW) said the biggest issue is the water right. It would need to be reanalyzed to see if there would be enough water in the fall timeframe. Shrier doesn’t feel there would be a problem getting an amendment.

Michelle Day (NMFS) asked if there was a problem with getting water in the fall, could we still use Crab Creek in the spring. Shrier said the only problem is that Chinook might not be healthy in the spring. He will take a look at it.

Roberts added that the accelerated water temperatures could end the spring marking earlier. They have finished marking the spring Chinook and ended up with 1.3 million clipped fish allocated for the lower river. They only allocated 50,000 mixed stock fish for the upper river, and they didn’t mark those - they left them separate. He realized they should have asked the ACC if it was acceptable. He will look into the possibility of back filling with some other program fish, as the program goal is 1.25 million smolts. He apologized for the poor communication on their part,

and asked if it mattered for acclimation program if they are clipped or not. Shrier stated the program calls for unclipped fish, and that they become susceptible for harvest if they are clipped. Roberts said he expected they would meet the program goal for the lower river, but not the upper river, and inquired if we wanted to move fish into the upper river. If yes, this will short the lower river program fish, which would in turn, short the adults. Shrier said more analysis is needed to make a better determination. We could make projections, but we don't know what the return rates are for the fall release, and whether or not the extra 300,000 rearing actually adding to the returns? The collection efficiency at the floating surface collector (FSC) has not yet been determined for this year, but more fish are being collected so far in 2015 compared to previous years according to Chris Karchesky (PacifiCorp). However he also stated that this may be related to the fact that more adults were transported to the upper basin in recent years and more out-migrates are now susceptible for collection this year compared to previous years. Roberts asked how many of this year's acclimation Chinook have been collected, to which Karchesky replied a total of about 3,000 Chinook have been collected thus far. He also said they are getting a number of naturally produced fish in addition to acclimated fish, so the number of program fish is probably closer to about 2,000 to 2,500. Acclimation fish are visibly larger and not as healthy.

Roberts added that if we could put adults in the upper river, from future surplus hatchery fish, it would seem beneficial. WDFW's goal is to maintain lower production to get more adults back. So far, there have been larger numbers of adult Chinook returning to the Cowlitz system, but they have only been trickling into the Lewis system.

Day echoed Shrier's concerns about a missed opportunity for WDFW to talk to the ACC. It would have been good to talk to Rich Turner. This subject was mentioned at the February ACC meeting. We need to remember that we are a team when it comes to fish, water quality, fish passage, etc., and that we are all on the same side.

Smolt Releases at LRH; First Pass Water and Release Options

Eric Kinne (WDFW) reported that they have water and availability but no pond.

Production Numbers for 2016 Discussion – Spring Chinook

See above section.

Review the Aquatic Fund Strategic Plan and Administrative Procedures, September 2013 Aquatic Fund Procedure; 2015/2016 Funding Cycle

Shrier wants to wait on a more formal discussion until both Pat Frazier (LCFRB) and Shannon Wills (Cowlitz) are in attendance, but he did propose that for future aquatic proposals, the Synthesis Matrix should be reviewed by project proponents before the ACC would entertain proposals. He asked if anyone had any thoughts. Day offered that it's a good discussion, but needs to be talked through a bit more. Haspiel also thinks it's a good idea to have this discussion so everyone can put in better proposals, as it will focus on main areas like targeted species and it will better meet the needs. Shrier said we will look at this again at the next ACC meeting, but also definitely before the next funding cycle in September.

Shrier mentioned that for the July ACC meeting, PacifiCorp is looking to have Dr. Al-Chokhachy do a presentation, and talk about the 2015 annual report, including what they have

learned about the habitat. The upriver survey crews have now looked at 100% of every reach after three years, so they have a good idea of what we have in the upper watershed at Swift.

Day inquired if there was an overall map to get a good overview of the Lewis River system. Right now you have to view each individual reach. The Synthesis matrix does not have a map, so she was not sure how hard it would be to do an overall map. Haspiel said the LCFRB's website might have a good map to use.

Study/Work Product Updates

Woodland Release Ponds

PacifiCorp is still seeking permits, and still has the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) land lease permitting to get through. It could be one to two years to get the permit. The joint permit application (JPA) has been submitted, but he's not sure where we are on the Army Corps of Engineers and County permits. Shrier will check on the status.

Hatchery Upgrades:

Two projects remain as part of Schedule 8.7 of the Settlement Agreement.

Speelyai Hatchery Intake Modifications - Project is still on schedule for completion in 2015.

Lewis River Downstream Intake - Project is still on schedule for completion by October 2015.

Acclimation Pond/Crab Creek and Clear Creek Status

Shrier reported PacifiCorp is moving forward with construction this summer. He had a good bidder's meeting. No bids have been received yet but they are due soon.

Clear Creek: We are finding fish in the collector - way more than we have ever seen. They are either from when we released or from previous acclimation releases.

Minimum Flow Adjustments

Erik Lesko (PacifiCorp) reported that PacifiCorp found lots of redds in the lower river.

Steelhead spawning is restricting us from making changes in the FERC minimum flows. It's the same at Merwin.

Shrier reported that conditions are very dry. Steelhead redds barely have water over them. PacifiCorp cannot lower the river until mid-July or so. Redd counts today will help us figure out if there are any new redds. He said we are holding elevation, and might be able to entertain going lower than 1,200 to support enough flows in the fall for spawning (this is something PacifiCorp has done in the past), but not sure if we will go there yet. He also added, "We will have to wait and see. If it continues to go how it is going, we could request flows as low as 650 cfs. Right now we're drafting reservoirs to keep the redds watered up. We will entertain discussion with the low flow committee around the first of July. Our operators have been told and we will need to come up with a proposed plan especially for fall flows to present to the Flow Coordination Committee."

Peggy Miller (WDFW) inquired about elevation and when would we start losing the boat ramp. Shrier said we have a total hole of 25 feet we can play with and plan to keep one ramp open on each reservoir. We are not sure what it will look like, but that 25 feet is how much room we have

at the moment. There is less room in Yale and Merwin (down about eight or nine feet). Swift Reservoir came close to full but we are drafting now.

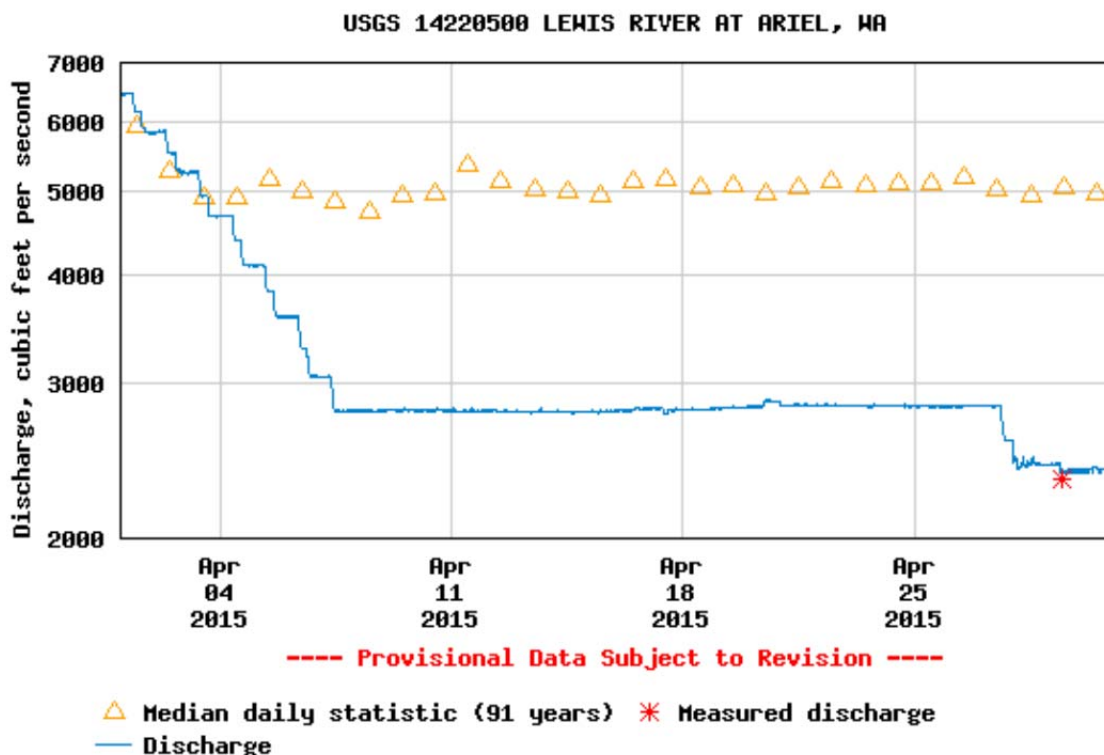
Merwin Fish Collection Facility and General Operations ([Attachment A](#))

During the month of April, a total 856 fish were captured at the Merwin Fish Collection Facility; the majority (76%) of these fish were blank wire tag (BWT) winter steelhead (n=654) followed by hatchery spring Chinook (n=119). All hatchery steelhead were transported to Lewis River Fish Hatchery and processed by WDFW. A total 72 of 654 BWT winter steelhead captured were radio tagged and returned downstream as part of the required Adult Trap Efficiency (ATE) study. The remainder of BWT winter steelhead were transported upstream in addition to one cutthroat trout and fifty-four recaptured radio tagged steelhead. Twenty-two wild winter steelhead, five wild spring Chinook, and one hundred-nineteen hatchery spring Chinook were captured and held for brood stock collection at Merwin and Speelyai Fish Hatcheries. Daily operation of the Merwin Fish Collection Facility were suspended on Friday, April 17 through and Sunday, April 19 due to a faulty limit switch that caused some minor mechanical damage to the fish crowder and lift system. The Merwin Trap was returned to service on Monday, April 20.

The Auxiliary Water Supply (AWS) system, which can boost attraction flow up to 400 cfs, was operated daily. The Ladder Water Supply (LWS) was operated daily throughout the month of April.

River flow below Merwin Dam ranged between approximately 2,370 cfs to 6,460 cfs during April.

Discharge, cubic feet per second



Upstream Transport ([Attachment A](#))

To date, 1,064 (642 m: 422 f) BWT winter steelhead have been transported and released upstream of Swift Reservoir (27 of which were captured via tangle net in the lower river as part of the Hatchery and Supplementation Plan Monitoring). In addition, seven cutthroat trout exceeding thirteen inches have been transported upstream of Swift Reservoir.

In addition, Karchesky reported about 8-10 winter steelhead are continuing to be caught a day, with summer steelhead starting to show up. We are still waiting on large numbers of spring Chinook to show up. No outages are anticipated, but will continue to communicate with the ACC as they come up.

Swift Floating Surface Collector ([Attachment A](#))

A total of 1,755 juvenile fish were collected during the month of April. The majority (42 percent) of these fish were coho (n=739), followed by spring Chinook (n=535), hatchery rainbow trout (n=272), steelhead (n=144), cutthroat trout (n=63), and bull trout (n=2). All hatchery rainbow trout, bull trout, and salmonid fry (<60mm) were returned back to Swift Reservoir. The FSC continuously ran throughout the month of April.

< Meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m. >

Agenda items for June 11, 2015

- Review May 14, 2015 Meeting Notes
- Mason, Bruce & Girard will attend and give an update on lower river EDT, and talk about potential projects
- Quorum needed to talk about the Aquatic Fund
- Smolt releases at LRH; first pass water and release options
- Production Numbers for 2016 Discussion – Spring Chinook
- Discussion of acclimation pond fish releases and possibly moving that to a fall timeframe
- Study/Work Product Updates
- Procedural Discussion (whether ACC meetings could go to monthly updates with in-person meetings as needed).

Public Comment: None

Next Scheduled Meetings:

June 11, 2015	July 9, 2015
Merwin Hydro Control Center	Merwin Hydro Control Center
Ariel, WA	Ariel, WA
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Handouts & Attachments:

- Notes from 4/9/15
- Agenda from 5/14/15
- [Attachment A](#) - Lewis River Fish Passage Report (April 2015)

Lewis River Fish Passage Report

April 2015

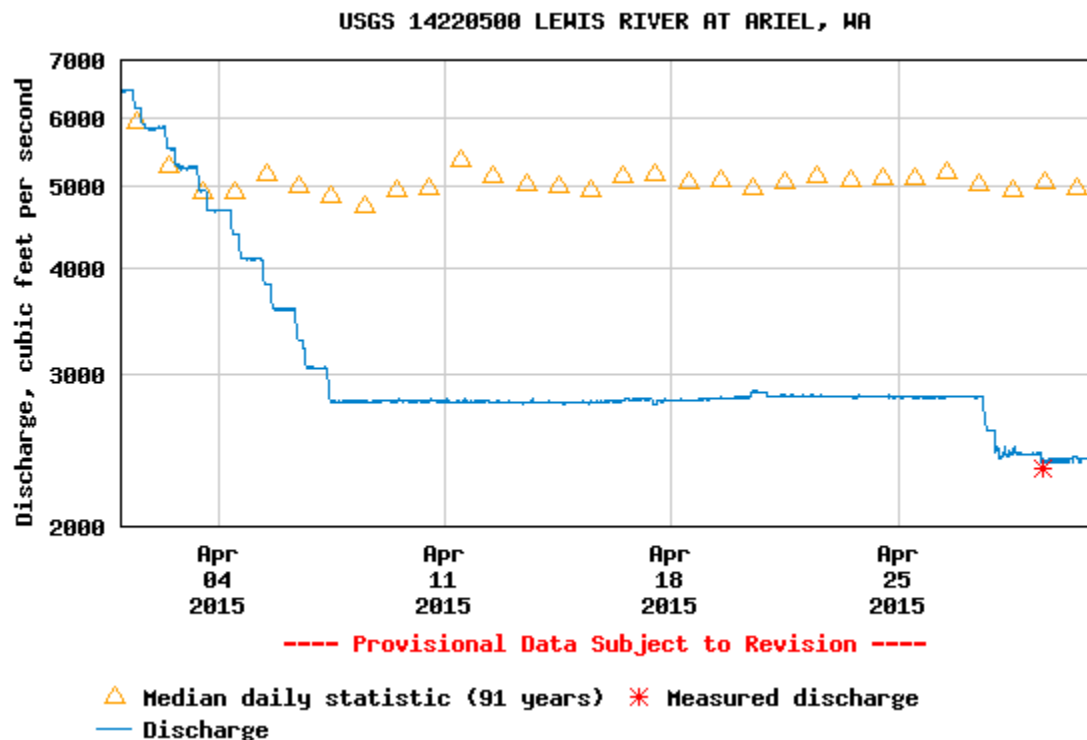
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Fish Facility Report

Merwin Adult Trap

April 2015

[illegible]

¹ Only hatchery verses wild distinctions are currently being made. All hatchery fish are labeled as "AD-Clip".

² Juvenile sockeye are unsexed and recorded as males.

³Total counts do not include recaptured salmon.

Fish Facility Report
Swift Floating Surface Collector
April 2015

Day	Coho			Chinook			Steelhead				Cutthroat			Bull Trout			Planted	Total
	fry	parr	smolt	fry	parr	smolt	fry	parr	smolt	kelt	fry	< 13 in	> 13 in	fry	< 13 in	> 13 in	Rainbow	
01	0	0	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	10
02	10	0	1	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	26
03	1	0	9	0	1	21	0	1	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	7	45
04	0	0	3	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	17
05	3	0	5	0	0	13	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	30
06	0	0	3	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	10
07	6	1	9	0	0	20	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	16	57
08	0	0	15	0	0	26	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	7	52
09	1	0	5	0	0	19	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	27
10	0	0	13	0	0	26	0	0	3	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	9	56
11	0	0	1	0	0	15	0	0	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	16	39
12	0	2	11	0	1	13	0	0	1	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	6	40
13	3	2	26	0	0	9	0	0	11	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	17	73
14	2	0	17	0	0	21	0	0	5	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	11	58
15	3	2	16	0	1	27	0	0	3	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	18	74
16	3	1	23	0	0	17	0	0	6	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	10	62
17	3	0	35	0	0	29	0	1	6	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	7	84
18	0	0	31	0	0	18	0	0	11	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	15	77
19	0	0	54	0	0	18	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	81
20	0	0	27	0	0	18	0	0	3	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	6	57
21	2	0	43	0	0	21	0	0	8	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	79
22	0	0	13	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	31
23	0	1	26	0	0	37	0	0	10	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	76
24	1	0	11	0	0	22	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	50
25	0	1	11	0	0	14	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	43
26	0	0	32	0	1	19	0	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	16	74
27	0	0	30	0	0	9	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	53
28	1	0	57	0	0	23	0	0	14	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	22	119
29	0	5	55	0	1	20	0	0	8	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	12	109
30	1	0	101	0	0	11	0	0	14	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	13	146

Monthly	40	15	684	0	5	530	0	2	141	1	0	60	3	0	2	0	272	1755
Annual	5818	4012	1266	0	163	2015	0	13	169	1	0	235	7	0	11	0	738	14448



Friday, May 1st, 2015