

**DRAFT Meeting Notes  
Lewis River License Implementation  
Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting  
June 9, 2011  
Merwin Hydro Control Center, Ariel, WA**

**ACC Participants Present (10)**

LouEllyn Jones, USFWS  
Eric Kinne, WDFW  
Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp Energy  
Sabrina Hickerson, PacifiCorp Energy  
Erik Lesko, PacifiCorp Energy  
Todd Olson, PacifiCorp Energy (teleconference)  
Eli Asher, Fish Recovery Board (teleconference)  
Jim Malinowski, Fish First  
Shannon Wills, Cowlitz Indian Tribe  
Dave Hu, WDFW (teleconference)

**Calendar:**

July 14, 2011	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro
August 11, 2011	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro

<b>Assignments from March 10, 2011 meeting:</b>	<b>Status:</b>
<b>Bull Trout Subgroup</b> – Todd Olson (PacifiCorp) will draft a schedule and bring to July’s meeting for discussion	<b>Pending</b>
<b>PIT Tagging Subgroup</b> – Sabrina Hickerson (PacifiCorp) to set up a meeting in late July for the subgroup to meet with the vendor to discuss half-duplex vs. full-duplex PIT tagging options.	<b>Pending</b>

*< 9:12 a.m. – Meeting began >*

**Opening, Review of Agenda and Meeting Notes**

Frank Shrier (PacifiCorp) called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. The agenda was reviewed and accepted at 9:14 a.m.

Meeting notes were reviewed and no changes or comments were added, notes were accepted at 9:16 a.m.

**Bull Trout Subgroup**

Todd Olson (PacifiCorp) drafted a schedule and some notes and sent them out for LouEllyn Jones (USFWS) and Pat Frazier (WDFW) to review. Jones has provided comments already, but Olson is still waiting to hear back from Frazier.

## **Discussion PIT Tagging Salmon and Steelhead Smolts with Full-Duplex (FDX) or Half-Duplex (HDX) Tags**

Shrier sent out an email on Tuesday evening regarding PacifiCorp's position on this issue.

Representatives from NMFS could not be in attendance today, but Michelle Day (NMFS) gave Eric Kinne (WDFW) her concerns for him to share with the group.

Kinne began by asking about the issues Shrier mentioned regarding metal vibration. Kinne had heard this could be addressed by properly tuning the antennae. Shrier pointed to the PowerPoint by Tranquilli regarding metal interference related to FDX tags and said that the Swift Fish Collector was made entirely of metal, which gave cause for concern. Erik Lesko (PacifiCorp) said that it is an issue at remote site detectors.

Shannon Wills (Cowlitz Indian Tribe) said that the Tribe would be standing firm on the issue and were committed to seeing full-duplex tagging implemented for the Lewis River.

Kinne began going through Day's comments. Day stated that full-duplex tagging would be useful primarily because it would enable other entities to track Lewis River fish throughout the Columbia basin and out to the ocean. Shrier pointed out that the tagging was not intended to be on ongoing process, but only utilized to document the survival rate of the Swift Fish Collector.

Kinne stated that it takes three times (in milliseconds) as long for a half-duplex tag to be read as it does for a full-duplex tag. That's a major concern for the collector because of the water velocities. If there are multiple tags coming down, some could be missed.

Day is willing to have a subgroup formed in which she can bring experts in to address the concerns.

Day also pointed out that the 13mm HDX tag is brand new and un-tested. Does PacifiCorp have any data from PacifiCorp that shows it's just as good?

WDFW asked Shrier what data PacifiCorp expects to collect from the adult information. Shrier said using half-duplex would be beneficial to PacifiCorp because it is a program that is already being implemented for bull trout. This was determined through consultation with USFWS and WDFW and the decision was made to do half-duplex for bull trout. Using the same equipment for the acclimation fish (salmon and steelhead) would be more efficient and would allow the Company to collect additional salmon and steelhead distribution data in the upper Lewis River watershed. While the contribution is small and it is not the primary means of gathering upper watershed data, this information would help develop the big picture of the fish's habits in the upper watershed.

Jim Malinowski (Fish First) and LouEllyn Jones (USFWS) would like to know the cost for full-duplex readers and changing the systems. Wills requested a cost breakdown, including looking at dual readers that could work for both full and half-duplex.

Jones asked about when the first discussion was held regarding PIT tagging. It was during the comment period of the M&E plan that this was addressed. Shrier sent out the

notes and report regarding this discussion with his email for people to reference the original discussion.

Olson advised that looking at a cost breakdown would be helpful, but reminded the group that the utility has shareholders and customers to answer to in regards to spending additional funds when a less-expensive option would meet the company's needs.

Kinne advised that WDFW is committed to FDX PIT tag detection and purchased new equipment last year to monitor fish migration, including sport and fisheries in the Lower Columbia River and ocean fisheries. Kinne needs to find out if the wands being used (All-Flex) will read both half and full-duplex.

Shrier added that PacifiCorp preferred half-duplex because the systems are low-maintenance, use less energy, and do not lose effectiveness when flows are high.

Malinowski and Jones pointed out that the group seemed to be at a standstill and questioned how this issue could be resolved. Shrier stated that a subgroup had previously been discussed and seemed like the way to go. Malinowski felt the subgroup would be appropriate. Kinne agreed. It will be good to include technical experts, like someone from the vendor. Dave Hu abstained. Asher agrees to the subgroup idea and would not want to participate because he is not comfortable enough with the technical aspects to have a strong position. Jones said subgroup is great and she doesn't have time to participate, but looks forward to the recommendations.

The subgroup will consist of PacifiCorp, WDFW, NMFS, and Cowlitz Tribe. Bob Rose from the Yakama may participate or give information to Wills. Hickerson will schedule the meeting. She requested that Lesko get with the vendor to find their availability first, and will try to narrow everyone's schedule to sometime in late July. Those participants who want to bring in other experts were requested to gather some availability information prior to Sabrina sending her meeting invite.

### **Study Updates**

*Release Pond Site* – PacifiCorp has signed the purchase documents, but is not in ownership of the lands as of yet. FERC must approve of the plan before moving forward with finalizing the transaction.

Permitting has also begun. There is concern about the eulachon which were recently listed and how this might affect the permit for operating the pump for the release ponds. The screen on the pump is regulated for fry, but not for eulachon larvae which have been found in the middle of the river. A consultation with NMFS will be required.

FERC submittal of the release pond plan is scheduled for the end of this month.

The eulachon is also of concern for the work being done at Merwin – are these fish even found at the base of the dam? Wills said that Craig Olds of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe might have this information and that she would follow-up and get back to Shrier.

*Lewis River Hatchery Upgrades Pond 16* – Construction is currently underway, set to be complete by August 1, 2011, which may be a struggle to meet that deadline. The contingency plan will be to put the juveniles in Pond 15, similar to last year.

*Upstream Intake (USI) at Lewis River Hatchery* – Project is likely to be delayed until 2012 due to several permitting issues (Section 10 of the Rivers & Harbors Act) and the recent listing of Eulachon (smelt). The intake screen on the upper intake imploded, and will require a permit from the Corps of Engineers to do the repairs. Lesko has a consultant onboard to prepare the permit for this project as well as the Downstream Intake modifications scheduled for 2012.

*Merwin Rearing Pond Header Modifications* – This will be completed after the July fishing derby.

*Speelyai Kokanee Weir* – On schedule.

*Speelyai Hatchery Pond 14* - Conversion is on schedule.

*Speelyai Intake Modifications* – On schedule.

*Hatchery & Supplementation Plan* – Meeting announcement for June 30<sup>th</sup> has gone out. Lesko would like to address the following at the meeting:

- The feasibility of placing screw trap(s) downstream of Merwin.
- Monitoring criteria for Adult Coho returning this fall.
- 2012 activities, including the movement of winter steelhead, spring Chinook and Coho upstream and proposed changes to the spawning and rearing for wild winter steelhead (i.e. use of circular tanks).

*Habitat Preparation Plan* – This Plan has been finalized. Next year is full reintroduction upstream of Swift dam so this is the last HPP for that area. The Habitat Preparation Plan for Yale will start in 2016.

*Bull Trout Monitoring* – Bull trout have been really hard to collect this year due to the cooler temperatures. The bull trout that have been caught have been small.

*Merwin Upstream Construction* – Construction is underway and on schedule. The goal is to be able to capture fish by December 26, 2012. An operational tour will be scheduled once the facility is complete.

*Swift Fish Collector* – Construction is on schedule, though there has been a six week delay due to difficulty getting the large crane delivered. Depending on how the drilling goes, it may be necessary to approach USFWS for an extension to October or November to finish the in-water work. Turbidity is being monitored and managed for the drilling.

### **Agenda items for July 14, 2011**

- Review June 9, 2011 Meeting Notes
- Update on Subgroup for Discussion PIT Tagging Salmon and Steelhead Smolts with Full-Duplex or Half-Duplex Tags
- Study/Work Product Updates

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Next Scheduled Meetings**

July 14, 2011	August 11, 2011
Merwin Hydro Control Center	Merwin Hydro Control Center
Ariel, WA	Ariel, WA
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	9:00 a.m. – Noon

*Meeting Adjourned at 10:56 a.m.*

### **Meeting Handouts**

- Meeting Notes 5/12/11
- Agenda 6/9/11