

LEWIS RIVER AQUATIC COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Facilitator: ERIK LESKO
503-412-8401

Location: TEAMS MEETING ONLY

Date: August 12, 2021

Time: 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Agenda Items

- 9:30 a.m. Welcome
- Review Agenda, ACC 7/8/21 Meeting Notes
 - Comment & Accept Agenda, 7/8/21 Meeting Notes
- 10:00 a.m. Public Comment Opportunity
- 10:15 a.m. LCFEG Nutrient Enhancement; Carcass Allocation Discussion/Decision
- 10:45 a.m. Study/Work Product Updates
- Fish Passage In Lieu Determination Update
 - Flows/Reservoir Conditions Update
 - ATS Update
 - Fish Passage Update
 - Swift Survey's at Northwoods Update
- 11:15 a.m. ➤ Next Meeting's Agenda
➤ Public Comment Opportunity
- Note: all meeting notes and the meeting schedule can be located at:
<https://www.pacificcorp.com/energy/hydro/lewis-river/acc-tcc.html>
- 11:30 a.m. **Meeting Adjourn**

Microsoft Teams meeting

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Phone Conference ID: 867 438 35#

**FINAL Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting
August 12, 2021
TEAMS Meeting Only**

ACC Representatives Present (19)

Bridget Moran, American Rivers
Eli Asher, Cowlitz Indian Tribe
Amanda Froberg, Cowlitz PUD
Alex Maslov, Fish First
Steve West, LCFRB
Steve Manlow, LCFRB
Logan Negherbon, NMFS
Kim McCune, PacifiCorp
Chris Karchesky, PacifiCorp
Erik Lesko, PacifiCorp
Jim Byrne, Trout Unlimited
Scott Anderson, NMFS
Kate Day, USFS
Jeff Garnett, USFWS
Peggy Miller, WDFW
Sam Gibbons, WDFW
Josua Holowatz, WDFW
Bryce Glaser, WDFW
Bill Sharp, Yakama Nation

Guest (5)

Maurice Frank, LCFEG
Janae Brock, Fish First
Matthew Gardner, WDFW
Kelley Jorgensen, Plas Newydd Farm
Matt Harding, Northwoods

Calendar:

September 9, 2021	ACC Meeting	TEAMS Meeting
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Assignments from August 12, 2021	Status
Lesko/McCune: Email the written statement from PacifiCorp’s Legal team that Lesko read during the August ACC meeting, to include PacifiCorp legal contact information.	Complete – 8/13/21

Lesko: Request the appropriate Utilities staff member provide an update to the ACC at the September meeting that includes steps the	Complete 8/13/21
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Utilities are taking to address fish passage obligations under the Settlement Agreement and License.	
Lesko: provide a summary report of fish surveys conducted in the Northwoods area in 2020 and 2021.	Complete 8/24/21

Assignments from July 8, 2021	Status
Fish First and LCFEG: Report back to the ACC regarding revised carcass distribution plan before the August 12, 2021 ACC Meeting.	Complete
Garnett: Look into if the WSDOT project is on the radar of another USFWS staff member and what consultation it did or did not go through and report back to the ACC.	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. At the request of Steve Manlow, a topic related to the proposed dock expansion at Camper’s Hideaway (Merwin Reservoir) was added to the agenda. Lesko also reviewed the July 8, 2021 meeting notes. The meeting notes were approved at 9:44am with clarifying edits from WDFW and Cowlitz Indian Tribe.

Public Comment Opportunity

None

LFEG; Nutrient Enhancement; Carcass Allocation Discussion/Decision

Swift Upper River Sites - The ACC approved LCFEG to begin with carcass distribution in the upper river sites as they are accessible and utilize these first for early (Type S) returning adult coho. ACC agrees LCFEG will work with WDFW on the coordination and working out the details for lower river distribution sites.

Lower River Sites Next Steps: WDFW is going to review and internally approve the locations Maurice presented for Downstream of Merwin before the next meeting. This list will be a handout at the next ACC meeting to be formally approved by the ACC. WDFW does not object to the upper river sites since the ACC has already approved distribution into the Pine and Muddy drainages. WDFW has also provided other acceptable upper basin sites if needed. Lower river sites will use late (Type N) coho for distribution at approved sites. Proposed nutrient enhancement activities in the Lower Lewis Basin are not funded through the Aquatic Fund, and will be accomplished through coordination between the WDFW and volunteer organizations.

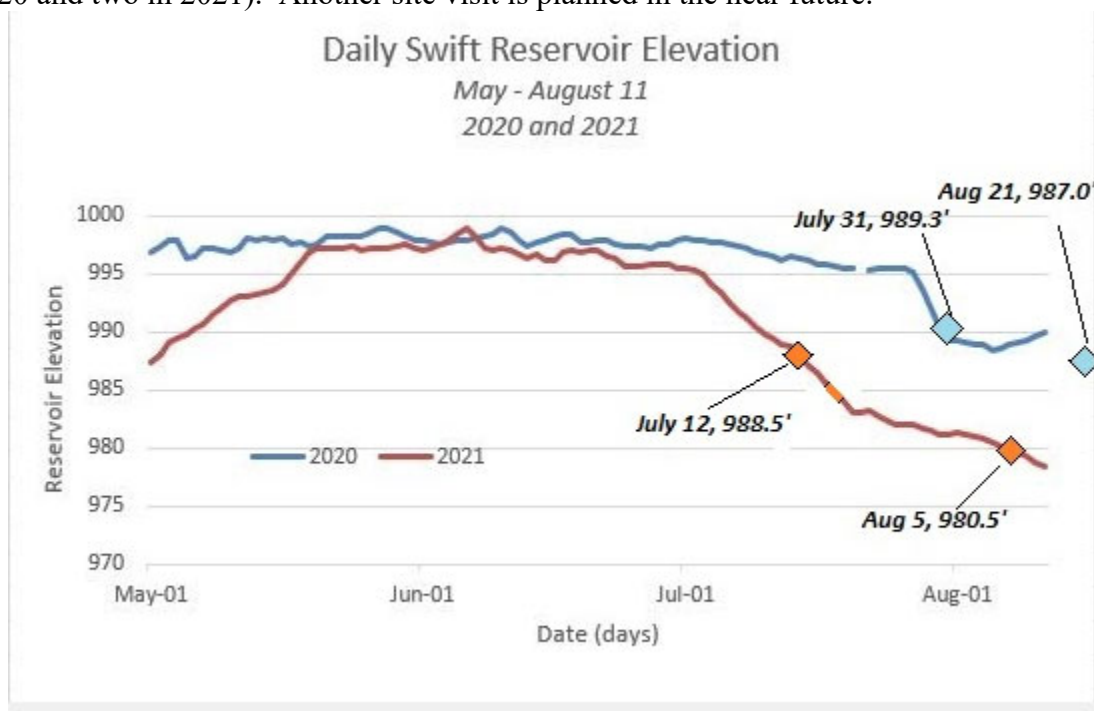
Study/Work Product Updates

Swift Survey’s at Northwoods Update

Matt Harding (Northwoods) expressed ongoing concern about ESA species stranding in Swift and deferred to Kelley Jorgensen (Plas Newydd Farm) to provide a presentation detailing the August

5, 2021 Swift Fish Rescue as he had to depart the meeting at 11:00am. Further detail from Jorgensen provided below.

Lesko first provided water level elevations as illustrated below for 2020 & 2021 (May through Present Day – see Daily Swift Reservoir Elevation Graph below). We are currently at approximately 978' elevation. There were four survey visits to the Northwoods area (two surveys in 2020 and two in 2021). Another site visit is planned in the near future.



At the July 2021 survey, PacifiCorp surveyed and identified 4 isolated pools. The four small, isolated pools contained only sticklebacks (no salmonids). The elevation at that time was 988'. On August 5, 2021, the survey crew collected nine bull trout with sizes between 110mm and 180 mm. All salmonids were recovered from the old river channel that although it was isolated, it still had water in it. Other captures included 268 YOY coho, 7 steelhead/rainbow fry/parr, 19 sculpins, 1 lamprey and 3 sticklebacks. Only one other isolated pool was identified, which contained a small number of three spine stickleback (under 50). All captured fish were released into the NFK Lewis River at the confluence with Swift Reservoir.

The ACC discussed if these stranding impacts are anticipated in the FERC license and settlement agreement or are these unmitigated impacts that were not anticipated. If these impacts were not anticipated what is to be done about it because there is take of ESA listed species. Steve West asked if it's not covered in existing consultations how is it mitigated and what will the Utilities do to provide compensatory mitigation for these losses and to minimize further stranding. The Utilities are not aware of Swift reservoir stranding issues or obligations identified in the License, Settlement Agreement or the BiOp. Stranding is known to occur in natural systems. Bryce Glaser (WDFW) would like the Utilities to provide an update as to what is in the Settlement Agreement, License and/or BiOp as to what is in these documents relating to stranding.

Jim Byrne (Trout Unlimited) communicated that he did his best long ago during discussion with the Aquatic Resources Group (prior to the formation of the ACC) to address stranding and get it into the Settlement Agreement, but he noted it was not incorporated into the Settlement

Agreement. Clearly there is some amount of take and it does need to be addressed. Amanda Froberg (Cowlitz PUD) noted that she conducted a cursory search of the BiOp, and the Settlement Agreement and she found stranding and habitat evaluation in the Settlement Agreement below Merwin, but it doesn't state as a requirement above Swift. Jeffery Garnett (USFWS) also did a search of the BiOp and similarly to Froberg's search the only stranding relates to below Merwin and could find no mention of reservoir stranding in the BiOp.

Kelley Jorgensen (Plas Newydd Farm) communicated to the ACC attendees that one of the first questions that Matt Harding had was about the scale and the scope and the intensity of stranding (see **Attachment A** - August 5, 2021 Fish Rescue) As the reservoir draws down there is lakebed and adjacent shoreline that are at different elevation. Those ground surface elevations become exposed, and you get diversity in the topography and then you get low lying areas that get stranded over time (e.g., formation of isolated pools). This happens over the arch of the drawdown and the faster that happens the more you get areas stranded. The photo below represents what used to be the main channel of the Lewis River coming into Swift reservoir. Over time, this channel became abandoned as ash and cobble deposition shifted the main flow to the other side (cut bank). One of the potential solutions is addressing a large sediment plug, about a 6' – 8' wall of sediment at the upstream end with large wood. The water in the downstream end was 64 degrees and Jorgensen said she was surprised at how cool the water was. Every fish captured from this channel was of natural origin. This channel could be reconnected or flow through channel created as the fish are telling you where the good water is and where the off-channel rearing habitat is. This is a good area for habitat restoration and with drone footage areas could be identified/assessed and where the Utilities can wrap their arms around this problem.



Next Steps: Scott Anderson (NMFS) expressed that when he returns next week from vacation, he welcomes more conversation to try to navigate our way to find coverage to document this matter. Lesko will put together a summary report of the surveys over the last two years to aid with the ongoing stranding discussions. Byrne expressed that he would like to participate in the next survey, depending upon the date.

<Break 11:40am>

<Reconvene 11:50am>

Fish Passage In Lieu Determination Update

PacifiCorp provided the following written statement from PacifiCorp's Legal team, read by Erik Lesko to the ACC Representatives in attendance. This statement was provided in response to Eli Asher's (Cowlitz Indian Tribe) request in July for an update on the Yale fish passage design.

"This issue remains under deliberation by the Services and FERC and as such, the outcome of the Services final determination is not known. During this status, all future inquiries should be made to the Services or PacifiCorp Legal team. The Utilities expect to engage the ACC on the matter at the appropriate time."

Asher expressed his disappointment with the Utilities that they have not started with preliminary efforts as what the Utilities must do as outline in the License to determine what sort of fish passage facilities will be necessary and not try to get out of the obligation. Bill Sharp (Yakama Nation) also said he would appreciate the appropriate Utilities staff person and/or legal team to participate in an ACC meeting and speaking to plans going forward regarding fish passage design and schedule. Sharp further expressed that he is encouraged by what we are seeing from the Services. Yakama Nation is ready to roll up their sleeves with folks. We know that fish passage technology, both up and down, has made great strides in the last several decades. It's time to move forward on the Lewis River. Sharp echoes Eli's concerns and let's get back on track with the Settlement Agreement.

Asher would like an assignment added that includes providing an update to the ACC outlining the concrete steps the Utilities are taking to implement full fish passage obligations under the Settlement Agreement and License. Bryce Glaser (WDFW) is also supportive of this request for more information and how the Utilities are going to achieve those. Glaser further suggested that certain ACC representatives are willing to formalize a request to the Utilities if that makes it easier for Lesko. Bridget Moran (American Rivers) expressed that she shares the ACC representative sentiments and offered assistance with creating a letter to the Utilities formalizing their request.

Lesko recommended that the ACC representatives direct this request to the PacifiCorp legal team as suggested in the statement. Lesko agreed to make a verbal request to the legal team expressing the ACC's desire for a representative from the legal team to address the ACC initial request regarding fish passage plans moving forward.

Flows/Reservoir Conditions Update

Merwin Reservoir – currently down 1.5'

Yale Reservoir – currently down 10.4'

Swift Reservoir – currently down 21.8'

Total current hole – 33' (23' when Yale limitation is included)

There is approximately 1,280 cfs outflow from Merwin Dam (minimum flow is 1,200). No rain in the forecast for the next week.

ATS Update

Hatchery & Supplementation – ATS is currently working on protocols for data management. There are so many new objectives and key questions as part of the new H&S plan that that ATS came to realize that a data management system must be in place to store and make available all the new data streams that will be created as part of new monitoring in 2022. PacifiCorp is also reaching out to WDFW and some of its other vendors to solicit support in developing monitoring protocols to be included in the 2022 AOP and have a final 2022 AOP by December 2021. The December 2020 H&S plan submittal to the FERC has yet been approved. FERC has a significant backlog but is aware of the submittal and the ATS anticipates FERC approval of the plan in 2021.

Monitoring & Evaluation – Karchesky (PacifiCorp) provided a brief update on the ongoing 5-year update to the Lewis River Monitoring and Evaluation Plan. He stated that at the last ATS meeting, the group went through initial comments regarding a draft revision. The group is currently refining and fine tuning the comments and build a meeting schedule to go over any final details to the plan. Karchesky mentioned that at this time it still appears that the ATS is on track for providing the ACC with a draft plan for 90-day review in early-November.

Fish Passage Update (see also Attachment B for the July Fish Passage Report)

Merwin - Karchesky (PacifiCorp) informed the ACC that the Merwin Trap is operating daily. Most of the fish collected currently being collected are summer steelhead. It is expected that coho will be showing up in number in early-September. Karchesky did mention that the first coho arrived earlier this week, but said it was unusually early.

Karchesky reminded the group that a planned outage of the facility's lift and conveyance system was scheduled for late-August, or first part of September. As far as spring Chinook upstream in 2021, Karchesky noted that about 1,000 adults were transported upstream and only about 18% were females; the vast majority were for jacks. It was also noted that a number of mini-jack Chinook (10" – 12") are showing up at the trap, and a number of these fish actually have pit tags from Idaho. Further information on this can be found in PTAGIS.

Karchesky reminded the group that a design project is underway for a new crowder for the Merwin Trap. This is being done based on information collected over the 5-year ATE Study, which results indicated that unexpected outages of the crowding mechanism were the largest factor leading to unsuccessful passage. It is expected that the design phase of this project will be completed later this year and construction is tentatively scheduled for summer 2022.

Swift - (see also Attachment B the July Fish Passage Report)

Karchesky indicated that they were in full outage season. The FSC was turned off on July 12, 2021 following usual high air temperature which shut fish passage numbers down. Karchesky noted that the de-ballasting process was complete, and they are currently in the process of general maintenance and cleaning. Beginning Monday, August 16th, PacifiCorp will begin a substantial overhaul to the inside of sorting area, including additional traveling screens to help with debris management. The goal is to get the floating surface collector re-ballasted and in operation by October 2021.

Floating Surface Collector (FSC) Efficiency Evaluation Update

Karchesky provided a brief update to the FSC Collection Efficiency Study, which is in the data analysis phase. He noted that the study was conducted based on methodologies outlined in Objective 2 of current M&E Plan, with an emphasis on evaluating where fish rejection occurred within the fish channel. An overview of the field activities and projected schedule were provided

(see below). Karchesky reminded the group that a full-length presentation discussing the results of the study will be provided to the ACC in January 2022.

2021 FSC Collection Efficiency Evaluation -Update

- ❑ 3D Acoustic Telemetry Study – using JSAT positional tags.
 - Acoustic Receivers used to monitor tagged fish movement within the forebay and as they pass through the FSC
 - Additional receivers within the fish channel to provide high resolution tracking of where fish are rejecting.
- ❑ 443 smolts tagged:
 - Acoustic/PIT Tags
 - Coho (n = 212)
 - Chinook (n = 39)
 - Steelhead (n = 192)
- ❑ Comparable to 2019 & 2020 efforts
 - Emphasis on variables effecting passage success within the fish channel
- ❑ Schedule
 - Field Study - March - July
 - Data Processing/Analysis - August - November
 - ACC Presentation - December?
 - Report will be included as an appendix in the ACC/TCC Annual Report
- ❑ Next Steps?

Request to FERC for Consent to Issue Shoreline Use Permit for Multi-Slip Boat Dock Expansions

Lesko provided an introduction and electronic visual of the July 1, 2021 request to the FERC (**Attachment C**) for a dock expansion (total of 92 slips) request PacifiCorp received from Lake Merwin Campers Hideaway. The approval was beyond the approval authority of PacifiCorp, so it was sent to the FERC. Steve West (LCFRB) expressed to the ACC that this project got their attention as Merwin Campers Hideaway already has a heavy footprint on the shoreline on the reservoir, so LCFRB has some questions about this expansion request. There are ESA-listed species in the reservoir and with reintroduction there will be a lot more so after review of what was proposed there will be a lot more over the water structures, and if you look at the design, we didn't see any sort of mitigation measure in terms of graded over water structures. For those who work in a regulatory world you will understand that over-water structures create habitat for predatory fish species. There is obviously going to be an impact to ESA-listed fish and the design is not in adherence with what you see elsewhere in the region, including the Columbia River. The question the LCFRB has is what is the role of the ACC in looking at a project like this and providing impact in terms of mitigation and impacts? Lesko noted that while PacifiCorp does issue permits for docks under their shoreline management plans, any proposals must still proceed through a traditional permitting process and obtain all necessary approvals from regulatory agencies prior to implementing any project. Glaser noted that each of our independent organizations may have some form of engagement and review of these projects in terms of permitting. Peggy Miller (WDFW) noted that their habitat program is usually brought in early in the process so they can guide the design of what they would permit or not. Miller does not know if an HPA biologist was brought in early, but definitely they will need to permit anything that is in-water work. Lesko noted that the ACC does not typically weigh in on permitting projects, however, he believes that any projects that may affect implementation or goals of the Settlement Agreement should at least be brought to the attention of the ACC and if necessary reviewed by the ACC. Lesko said this was the first he had heard of the project and will check with appropriate

PacifiCorp staff to determine if there is a mechanism to receive notification of planned aquatic projects in the future.

Agenda items for September 9, 2021

- Review August 12, 2021 Meeting Notes (**ACC COMMENTS DUE August 31, 2021**)
- LCFEG Nutrient Enhancement; approval of lower river Carcass Allocation sites
- Scott Anderson, NMFS – Stranding Issue Discussion
- Study/Work Product Updates

Adjourn 12:40pm

Next Scheduled Meeting:

September 9, 2021
TEAMS Call Only
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Meeting Handouts & Attachments:

- Meeting Notes from 7/8/2021
- Agenda from 8/12/2021
- **Attachment A** – Swift Reservoir Fish Rescue, August 5, 2021
- **Attachment B** - Lewis River Fish Passage Report (July 2021)
- **Attachment C** - Request to FERC for Consent to Issue Shoreline Use Permit for Multi-Slip Boat Dock Expansions

Lewis River Fish Passage Report

July 2021

Merwin Fish Collection Facility and General Operations

During the month of July, a total of 851 fish were captured at the Merwin Dam Adult Fish Collection Facility (MFCF). Hatchery summer steelhead were the most prevalent species collected this month (n=499), followed by spring Chinook (n=345). Hatchery-origin “mini jacks” made up the majority (69.6%) of spring Chinook collected in July. Two of the “mini jacks” collected in July had been previously PIT-tagged in central Idaho; one at Rapid River Hatchery (3DD.003D3E2BD5), and the other at the Salmon Trap (3DD.003D8D5566) located in the Lower Salmon River.

The MFCF ran continuously throughout the month of July. PacifiCorp implemented the summer operations schedule on July 17th. Under this operations schedule, the conveyance system and fish lift are operated 7 days per week, with fish sorting and transport taking place Monday through. Flows below Merwin Dam were generally decreasing in July, starting at approximately 2,700 c.f.s. and ending at approximately 1,370 c.f.s. (Figure 1). Note: Due to unseasonably low water conditions, river flow below Merwin Dam was reduced to a level below the minimum flow requirements from July 20 through July 31 as agreed to by the low flow committee.

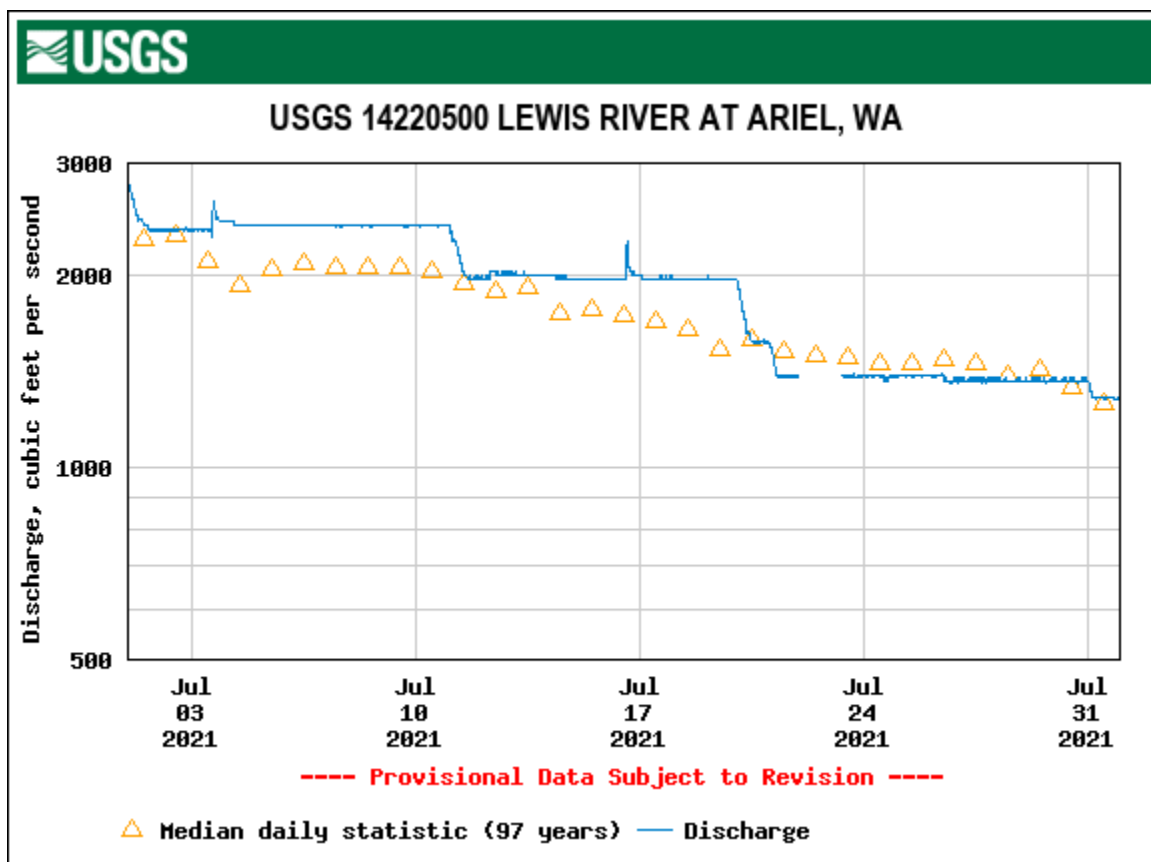


Figure 1. Discharge in cubic feet per second recorded at the USGS Ariel, WA gauge (14220500) located immediately downstream of Merwin Dam.

Upstream Transport

A total of total of 181 adult fish were transported upstream in July, of which the majority were spring Chinook (n=174), followed by a few coastal cutthroat (n=7). Lewis River Hatchery supplied 75 of the fish transported upstream in July, the balance came from the MFCE.

By the end of July, 968 spring Chinook (253 NOR/715 HOR), 311 winter steelhead (207 BWT/104 NOR), 83 coho (from 2020 run year), and 40 cutthroat trout have been transported upstream of Swift Dam.

Floating Surface Collector (FSC)

The Swift Reservoir Floating Surface Collector (FSC) was taken out of operation on Monday, July 12th for the facility's summer maintenance period. It is tentatively scheduled to return to service in mid-October, following the completion of various construction upgrades and maintenance projects. Fish collection totals decreased considerably the week prior to taking the FSC offline due to increased reservoir water temperatures. Collection totals in July 2021 were generally consistent with recent years and were dominated by juvenile coho (Table 1).

Table 1. Number of coho, Chinook, and steelhead juveniles transported downstream from the Swift Floating Surface Collector by run-year.

Run Year	FSC Turned Off for Summer Maintenance	July Collection Numbers by Run Year at Swift FSC				
		Coho	Chinook	Steelhead	Cutthroat	TOTAL
2013	NA	190	17	1	16	224
2014	NA	383	95	20	10	508
2015	July 7	42	1	0	0	43
2016	July 14	340	0	30	4	374
2017	July 21	739	7	15	3	764
2018	July 16	429	52	18	6	505
2019	July 22	1,454	575	17	27	2,073
2020	July 17	641	80	90	2	813

2021	July 12	756	66	18	6	846
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Fish Facility Report
Swift Floating Surface Collector
July 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	4	2	331	1	22	0			3			3		0	2	368
2	2		162	1	6	0	1		0					0	2	174
3			91		10	1			0					0	0	102
4		2	32		4	0			0					0	1	39
5		1	33		6	0			0					0	1	41
6			28		1	3	1		0					0	0	33
7	3	2	2		2	0	1		0					0	2	12
8	4	6	21		3	0	3		1				1	0	0	39
9	2	4	7		2	0	3		0			1		0	0	19
10		2	2			0			0					0	0	4
11		3	2		2	1	1		0					0	0	9
12		1	7		1	0	3		1			1		0	0	14
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Monthly	15	23	718	2	59	5	13	0	5	0	0	5	1	0	8	854
Total	400	4201	39736	27	512	1936	23	146	5390	34	3	645	17	6	4130	57206