

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

**Date & Time:** Thursday, October 9, 2014  
9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

**Place:** Conference Call

**Contacts:** Frank Shrier: (503) 320-7423

Time	Discussion Item
9:00 a.m.	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Review Agenda, 8/14/14 Meeting Notes &amp; 9/11/14 Email Update</li> <li>➤ Comment &amp; accept Agenda, 8/14/14 Meeting Notes &amp; 9/11/14 Email Update</li> </ul>
9:00 a.m.	2014/2015 Aquatic Fund Pre-proposals
9:30 a.m.	Study/Work Product Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Eulachon Consultation - Status</li> <li>○ Woodland Release Ponds - Status</li> <li>○ Hatchery Upgrades - Status</li> <li>○ Hatchery and Supplementation Plan (5 yr. update) – Status</li> <li>○ Acclimation Ponds - Status</li> <li>○ Merwin Upstream Passage – Status &amp; schedule ACC tour</li> <li>○ Swift Floating Surface Collector – Status</li> <li>○ Discussion about annual FSC maintenance and summer high temperatures</li> <li>○ Low flow conditions - Status</li> </ul>
10:00 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Next Meeting’s Agenda</li> <li>➤ Public Comment Opportunity</li> </ul> Note: all meeting notes and the meeting schedule can be located at: <a href="http://www.pacificorp.com/es/hydro/hl/lr.html#">http://www.pacificorp.com/es/hydro/hl/lr.html#</a>
<b>10:15 a.m.</b>	<b><i>Adjourn</i></b>

Join by Phone

+1 (503) 813-5252 [Portland, Ore.]

+1 (855) 499-5252 [Toll Free]

Conference ID: 5709805

**FINAL Meeting Notes**  
**Lewis River License Implementation**  
**Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting**  
**October 9, 2014**  
**Conference Call**

**ACC Participants Present (11)**

Erik Lesko, PacifiCorp Energy  
 Kim McCune, PacifiCorp Energy  
 Chris Karchesky, PacifiCorp Energy  
 Adam Haspiel, USFS  
 Baker Holden, USFS  
 Peggy Miller, WDFW  
 Michelle Day, NMFS  
 Aaron Roberts, WDFW  
 Eric Kinne, WDFW  
 Pat Frazier, LCFRB  
 Shannon Wills, Cowlitz Indian Tribe

**Calendar:**

November 13, 2014	ACC Meeting & Tour Merwin Fish Collector	Merwin Hydro
December 11, 2014	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro

<b>Assignments from October 9, 2014 meeting</b>		
McCune/Karchesky: Schedule Merwin Fish Collector after the next ACC meeting on November 13, 2014.		<b>Complete</b>
Karchesky/Shrier: PacifiCorp will proceed with fabricating of the flume for smolt release at Lewis River Hatchery.		<b>Complete; ETA mid-December</b>
Lesko: Contact the WDFW hatchery staff to discuss the timing of additional discussion with the ACC specific to releasing/holding the smolts.		<b>Pending as of 11/13/14</b>

<b>Assignments from August 14, 2014 meeting</b>		
Kahut: Provide a status update of Speelyai Intake Mod to the ACC.		<b>Complete – 8/22/14</b>
Haspiel: Repair needed on FR 90 (between mile posts 13 & 14); serious safety concern and dip in the road that requires attention. Notify USFS engineers of needed repair.		<b>Complete – 10/9/14</b>
Haspiel: Inquire about the status of the safety sign install at the turnoff to Swift Dam.		<b>Complete – 8/18/14</b>
Shrier: Notify Pete Barber (LCFEG) of the LWD availability.		<b>Complete – 8/15/14</b>
Karchesky/Shrier: Provide the latest water temp profiles before the next ACC meeting on September 11, 2014. Add the total number of fish collected in the month (to include bull trout) to the Monthly Fish Collection Mortality Rate graph.		<b>Complete – 9/10/14</b>

<b>Assignments from February 13, 2014 meeting</b>	
Eric 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. Lesko requires this data by February 28, 2014.	<b>Pending – as of 10/9/14 data has not been received and will not be provided in the 2014 report. Awaiting BPA comments before passing on to PacifiCorp</b>

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

Kim McCune (PacifiCorp) called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and reviewed the agenda and assignments. No additional topics have been added to the agenda.

The August 14, 2014 meeting notes and September 11, 2014 email update were reviewed and approved at 9:10 am without change. McCune will finalize the August 14, 2014 meeting notes and September 11, 2014 email update for posting to the Lewis River website.

### **2014/2015 Aquatic Fund Pre-proposals**

McCune informed the ACC attendees that the Utilities received three (3) aquatic fund pre-proposals by the deadline date of October 3, 2014. The Utilities received two from the U.S. Forest Service (FS) and one from the Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group (LCFEG).

### **Study/Work Product Updates**

#### **Eulachon Consultation**

Michelle Day (NMFS) communicated that she provided the document to her supervisor (Jeff Fisher) in late September for his review. McCune expressed that she will submit a formal extension request letter to the Commission this month to extend until December 26, 2015.

#### **Woodland Release Ponds**

On hold for Eulachon consultation; the construction schedule is currently August 2015. McCune will submit a formal extension letter to the Commission this month to extend to December 26, 2015.

#### **Hatchery Upgrades:**

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

**Speelyai Hatchery Intake Modifications:** DELAYED to 2015 due to additional permitting.

**Merwin Hatchery PLC Ozone Upgrades:** This project is scheduled for completion by the end of November 2014.

**Lewis River Downstream Intake:** Scheduled for completion by end of 2015 pending Eulachon BiOp by December 2014.

### **Hatchery and Supplementation Plan (H&S) –**

The H&S plan is currently out for ACC review and comments are due by close of business on October 10, 2014. To date, PacifiCorp has only received comments from Aaron Roberts (WDFW). After the comment period has ended PacifiCorp will develop a comment matrix and schedule a meeting to respond to comments and other items related to implementation of the H&S plan that have come up with respect to coho transportation.

The draft 2015 Annual Operating Plan (AOP) is complete, however, PacifiCorp is waiting for comments to the H&S plan as this may change the AOP and it would rather have the AOP updated prior to sending out for review.

Therefore, the AOP will be distributed to the H&S subgroup as early as next week depending on the number of comments received for the H&S plan.

As mentioned previously, changes may still be incorporated to the H&S plan or AOP depending on approval of the HGMP prior to the Commission filing date for the H&S plan which is December 26, 2014. However, it is unlikely that the HGMP's will be approved by that date and significant changes in hatchery operations would need to be incorporated as an addendum to the plan. Regardless of the HGMP timeline the Utilities plan to submit the H&S Plan to the FERC by the December filing date.

### **Lower River Coho and spring Chinook Surveys**

Meridian Environmental is continuing to perform weekly surveys of spring Chinook and coho redds, deads and lives. We are past the peak spawn time for spring Chinook and large numbers of coho have been observed. Tributary surveys for coho will begin next pending sample reaches provided to Meridian for surveying.

### **Upper River Carcass Surveys**

WDFW crews are continuing to survey Year 3 reaches upstream of Swift Dam for coho carcasses and redds. PacifiCorp crews are surveying the mainstem Lewis River reaches upstream of Swift reservoir. Reports of larger numbers of coho holding at Eagle Cliff have been received from several people. Low water is likely contributing to coho holding in this area after release, however, some coho have been observed at lower falls. No updates are available from WDFW to date.

### **Acclimation Pond/Crab Creek Status**

On September 9, 2014 McCune formally requested an extension from the Commission to December 26, 2015.

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

During the month of September, a total 4,923 fish were captured at the Merwin Fish Collection Facility; the majority (62%) of these fish were early run coho ( $n = 3,059$ ) and (34%) hatchery summer steelhead ( $n = 1,670$ ). Of the 1,670 steelhead collected, 692 (14%) were fish previously captured at the Merwin Sorting Facility, marked, and released back downstream as part of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) fish recycling program. Fifty-two wild fall Chinook were captured and returned to the lower river. All coded wire tagged (CWT) early run coho, hatchery summer steelhead, and adipose clipped fall Chinook were transported to Lewis River Fish Hatchery and processed by WDFW. Eight spring Chinook were collected during the month of September, which were transported to Speelyai Hatchery for broodstock. In

addition, other species collected in September included cutthroat trout (n=4), sockeye salmon (n=35), resident rainbow trout (n = 14), salmonid smolt (n=3), large scale sucker (n=1), northern pikeminnow (n=1), and chiselmouth (n=1).

To date, 934 spring Chinook have been captured at the Merwin Sorting Facility this year. Early run coho (n=3,062) and fall Chinook (n=131) counts began peaking in mid-September. The Merwin Sorting Facility was non-operational 10 days during this month of operation due to mechanical interruptions which occurred on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, and September 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>.

The Auxiliary Water Supply (AWS) system, which can boost attraction flow up to 400 cfs, was operated daily with the addition of the Ladder Water Supply (LWS) approximately set for approximately 30cfs.

River flow below Merwin Dam remained constant at about 1,280 cfs during September. No spill events occurred.

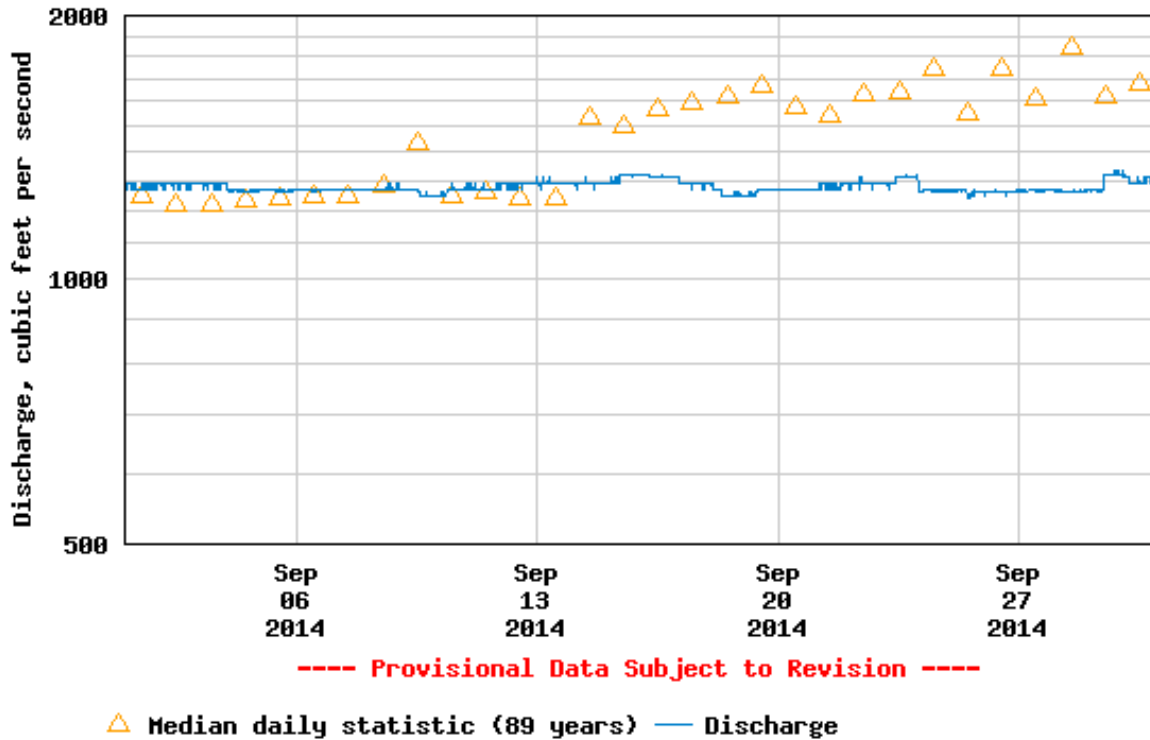
Low dissolved oxygen (DO) conditions have been observed at the Merwin Fish Collection Facility which have attributed to poor fish holding conditions. DO readings as low as 6.5 mg/L have been observed throughout the facility. This has been attributed to reservoir conditions at the service water intake to the facility particularly in the late summer and early fall. PacifiCorp is currently working to incorporate an aeration system into the facility's service water system and/or holding tanks to ensure adequate DO levels year round.

PacifiCorp will continue to keep the ACC advised if the Merwin trap is not operational.

The ACC concurred that a good time for a tour of the Merwin Collector is after the November ACC meeting. McCune and Karchesky will make the arrangements and notify the ACC.

## **Discharge, cubic feet per second**

USGS 14220500 LEWIS RIVER AT ARIEL, WA



**Upstream Transport**

A total 2,180 early run coho were collected from the Merwin fish trap in September and transported upstream of Swift Dam. In addition, two cutthroat trout greater than 13 inches were also transported upstream in September. To date, a total 1,033 (452 m: 581 f) BWT winter steelhead, 8,129 early run coho (4,273 m: 3,697 f: 159 Jack), and 18 cutthroat trout exceeding 13 inches in length have been transported and released into the headwaters of Swift Reservoir for 2014.

**Swift Floating Surface Collector**

The FSC was turned off on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014 for annual maintenance followed by contracted work scheduled throughout the month of September. The FSC was put back into service on October, 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Only two (2) smolts (one coho and one Chinook) were collected after the first day of operation. Based on last year’s data the majority of fish that were collected in the fall were collected in the month of November.

There was discussion regarding how to release smolts being transported from the FSC this coming year. Last year, it was decided that smolts could be released directly into the river because the Woodland Smolt Recovery Ponds were not yet built. With the possibility of further construction delays, it was recommended that PacifiCorp begin releasing the smolts at Lewis River Hatchery so they can be monitored and allowed to recover 24-hours before being released into the river. However, the conditions for releasing smolts from Lewis River Hatchery back into the river are not ideal. Karchesky (PacifiCorp) recommended that only a subsample of transported smolts be initially released at the hatchery to evaluate how smolts transition from the raceway to the river and whether releasing fish at the hatchery was doing more harm than good. Pat Frazier (LCFRB) agreed that would be a good approach, but commented that if release conditions are found to be benign, then the goal should be that all smolts released at the hatchery

to recover until the Woodland Release Ponds are built. Shannon Wills (Cowlitz Indian Tribe) is in favor of holding fish to stay on the safe side. Michelle Day (NMFS) expressed that she is worried about holding all of them and is supportive of holding some; but the appropriate percentage has not been determined since the discharge pipe that smolts will be traveling through is not intended for fish passage. Day also communicated that the temporary release ponds will allow them time to acclimate before dumping them in the river. In theory, we may disadvantage fish by dumping them directly into the river; the ACC needs to try to figure out the best approach to minimize risk. Kinne indicated that he will have WDFW staff present to observe during discharge efforts.

Lesko will contact the hatchery staff to discuss the timing of additional discussion with the ACC. The following wish to be part of any subgroup discussion specific to releasing/holding the smolts:

Michelle Day, NMFS  
 Shannon Wills, Cowlitz Indian Tribe  
 Eric Kinne, WDFW  
 Aaron Roberts, WDFW  
 Erik Lesko, PacifiCorp Energy  
 Chris Karchesky, PacifiCorp Energy

*<10:10 a.m. meeting adjourned>*  
**Agenda items for November 13, 2014**

- Review October 9, 2014 Meeting Notes
- Review/Discuss Final Plans for 2014 Haapa Habitat Enhancement Project
- Review of 2014/2015 Aquatic Fund Pre-proposals – Utility comments
- Study/Work Product Updates
- Depart for Merwin Fish Collector Tour

**Public Comment**

None

**Next Scheduled Meetings**

November 13, 2014	December 11, 2014
Merwin Hydro Control Center	Merwin Hydro Control Center
Ariel, WA	Ariel, WA
9:00 a.m. – 3:00pm	9:00 a.m. – 3:00pm

**Meeting Handouts & Attachments**

- Notes from 8/14/14 and 9/11/14
- Agenda from 10/9/14
- **Attachment A** – Merwin Adult Trap Fish Facility Report – September 2014

# Lewis River Fish Passage Report

September 2014

## Merwin Fish Collection Facility and General Operations

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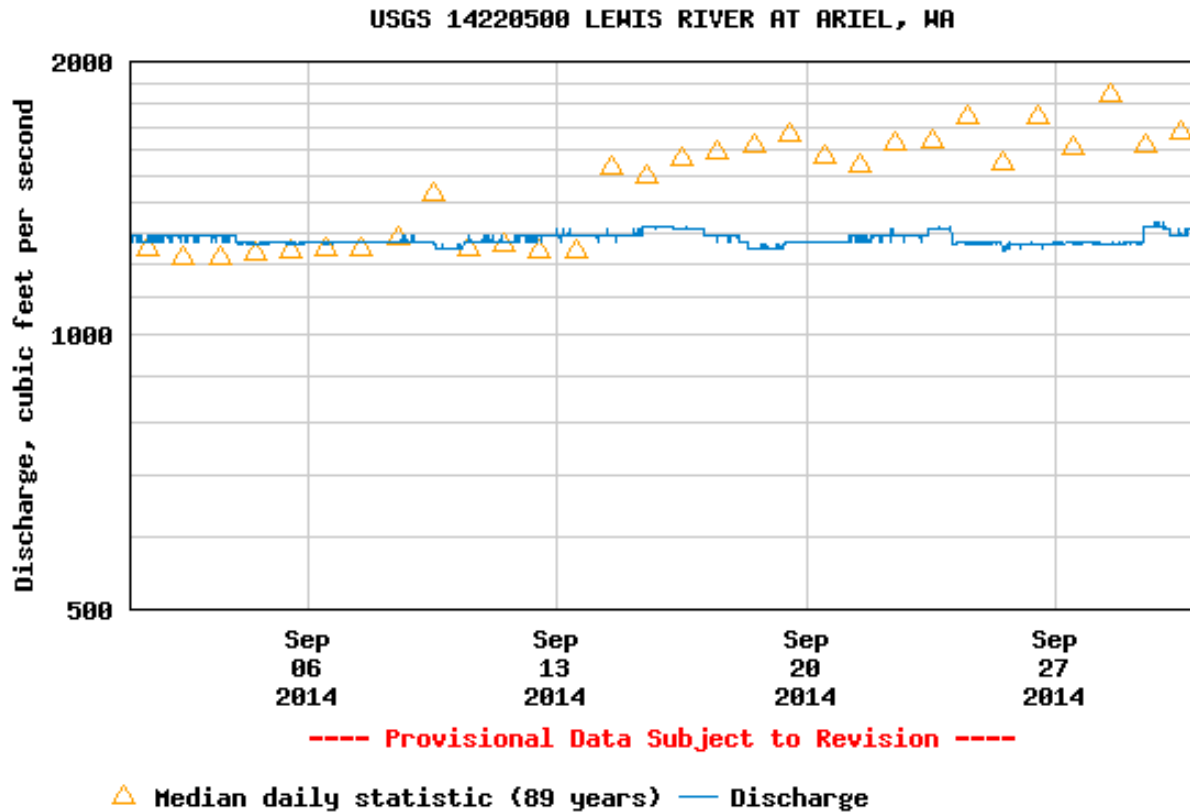
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