

# LEWIS RIVER AQUATIC COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Facilitator: ERIK LESKO  
503-412-8401

Location: SKYPE MEETING ONLY

Date: NOVEMBER 12, 2020

Time: 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

## Agenda Items

- 9:30 a.m. Welcome
- Review Agenda, ACC 10/08/20 Meeting Notes
  - Comment & Accept Agenda, 10/08/20 Meeting Notes
- 10:00 a.m. Public Comment Opportunity
- 10:15 a.m. Study/Work Product Updates
- Flows/Reservoir Conditions Update
  - ATS Update
  - Fish Passage Update
- 10:45 p.m.
- Next Meeting's Agenda
  - Public Comment Opportunity
- Note: all meeting notes and the meeting schedule can be located at:  
<https://www.pacificorp.com/energy/hydro/lewis-river/acc-tcc.html>
- 11:00 a.m. **Meeting adjourn**

## [Join Skype Meeting](#)

Join by phone

[\(503\) 813-5252](tel:(503)813-5252) [Portland, OR] (US)

English (United States)

**Conference ID: 5803472**

**FINAL Meeting Notes  
Lewis River License Implementation  
Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting  
November 12, 2020  
Skype Meeting Only**

**ACC Representatives Present (15)**

Bridget Moran, American Rivers  
Eli Asher, Cowlitz Indian Tribe  
Amanda Froberg, Cowlitz PUD  
Steve West, LCFRB  
Josh Ashline, NMFS  
Kim McCune, PacifiCorp  
Chris Karchesky, PacifiCorp  
Erik Lesko, PacifiCorp  
Jim Byrne, Trout Unlimited  
Kate Day, USDA FS  
Jeffrey Garnett, USFWS  
Peggy Miller, WDFW  
Sam Gibbons, WDFW  
Josua Holowatz, WDFW  
Bryce Glaser, WDFW

**Calendar:**

December 10, 2020	ACC Meeting	Skype Meeting
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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.	<b>Ongoing</b>

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

Erik Lesko (PacifiCorp) called the meeting to order at 9:35am and reviewed the agenda. The following update will be added to the agenda – Services Update to Section 18 Process.

Lesko also reviewed the October 8, 2020 meeting notes to include edits and comments received from WDFW. The ACC approved the October 8, 2020 meeting notes at 10:04am to include clarifying edits received from WDFW. Edits will be accepted and the final meeting notes posted to the Lewis River website.

**Public Comment**

None

**Study/Work Product Updates**

**Flows/Reservoir Conditions Update**

Merwin is down 4.7’, Yale down 17.3’ and Swift is down 31.6’. Total hole for all three reservoirs is 53.5’.

Natural inflow at Merwin is 4,369 cfs and current outflow from Merwin is 4,100 cfs.

### **ATS Update**

The group is very busy to get the H&S Plan finalized by the end of this year. PacifiCorp is currently working with WDFW's geneticist as well as Kale Bentley on finalizing the genetic monitoring approach/objective for that plan and hope to have this completed in the next week or so. The goal is to have the H&S Plan completed by December 1, 2020 as it needs to be submitted to the FERC by December 31, 2020. The ATS is also continuing to incorporate comments from the comprehensive periodic review as well as recommendations from the ATS. The ATS is also working on the 2021 Annual Operating Plan (AOP) (review of screw trapping, incorporating the H&S Plan objectives into the 2021 plan, developing protocols and integration of hatchery programs and how that is done). The ATS will be meeting next week and discussing the H&S Plan, screw trapping component and the AOP for 2021.

### **Fish Passage Update**

Karchesky (PacifiCorp) informed the group that record number of natural origin (NOR) coho have been collected at the Merwin Trap earlier this fall, although the numbers of fish collected have tapered down over the past few weeks, as expected. Karchesky noted that the majority of these NORs are from the 2019 out-migration. The upper basin spawner surveys indicate that the fish are distributing very well and crews are seeing them everywhere. The early-run of coho has wrapped up and the late-run coho are just now starting at Merwin Trap.

Karchesky (PacifiCorp) also informed the group that PacifiCorp has been having issues with the lift and conveyance system over the past several weeks and has had to suspended operations for various repairs. He noted that the lift and conveyance system was currently off but expected that it would be back in operation later that day.

Karchesky noted that the FSC was returned to service in mid-October, and that it was currently running. There was a little spike in fish after the first couple of days of operations which is normal, but since then number have dropped dramatically.

The Swift FSC Collection Efficiency Evaluation conducted last spring (2020) is on schedule. The consultant will be giving a presentation at the January 2021 meeting, but the report will be distributed to the ACC in December for their 30-day review period.

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

A total of 7,286 fish were captured at the Merwin Dam Adult Fish Collection Facility (MFCF) during the month of October. The overwhelming majority of these fish collected were early run coho (93.4%). Over a third (34.9%) of the coho collected in October were of natural origin (NOR). By the end of October, eighty-three (83) adult coho containing PIT tags been collected at the facility. All these fish had been PIT tagged as juveniles at the Swift Floating Surface Collector (FSC) in the spring of 2019. All PIT tag detection recorded at the Merwin Trap can be found on the region wide PIT Tag information System (PITAGIS).

The MFCF fish lift and conveyance system ran continuously until October 31<sup>st</sup>, when it had to be taken offline due to frayed cables on the lift and conveyance system. The cables were replaced, and the system was put back in operation on November 3, 2020. PacifiCorp reimplemented 7 days per week fish sorting and transport starting the week of October 12<sup>th</sup>. This was previously

implemented due to COVID-19 protocols, however the number of adult fish returning to the trap required that the protocols be modified to allow for weekend operations. At this time, PacifiCorp anticipates that fish sorting and transport at the Merwin Trap will remain 7 days per week for the foreseeable future.

Total river flow below Merwin Dam was generally increasing throughout the month and ranged between 1,200 and 7,120 cubic feet per second (cfs; Figure 1). Minimum flow requirements below Merwin Dam increased from 1,200 to 2,500 cfs on October 16, 2020. The next minimum flow adjustment below Merwin Dam is scheduled to occur on November 1, 2020 when minimum flows increase to 4,200 cfs.

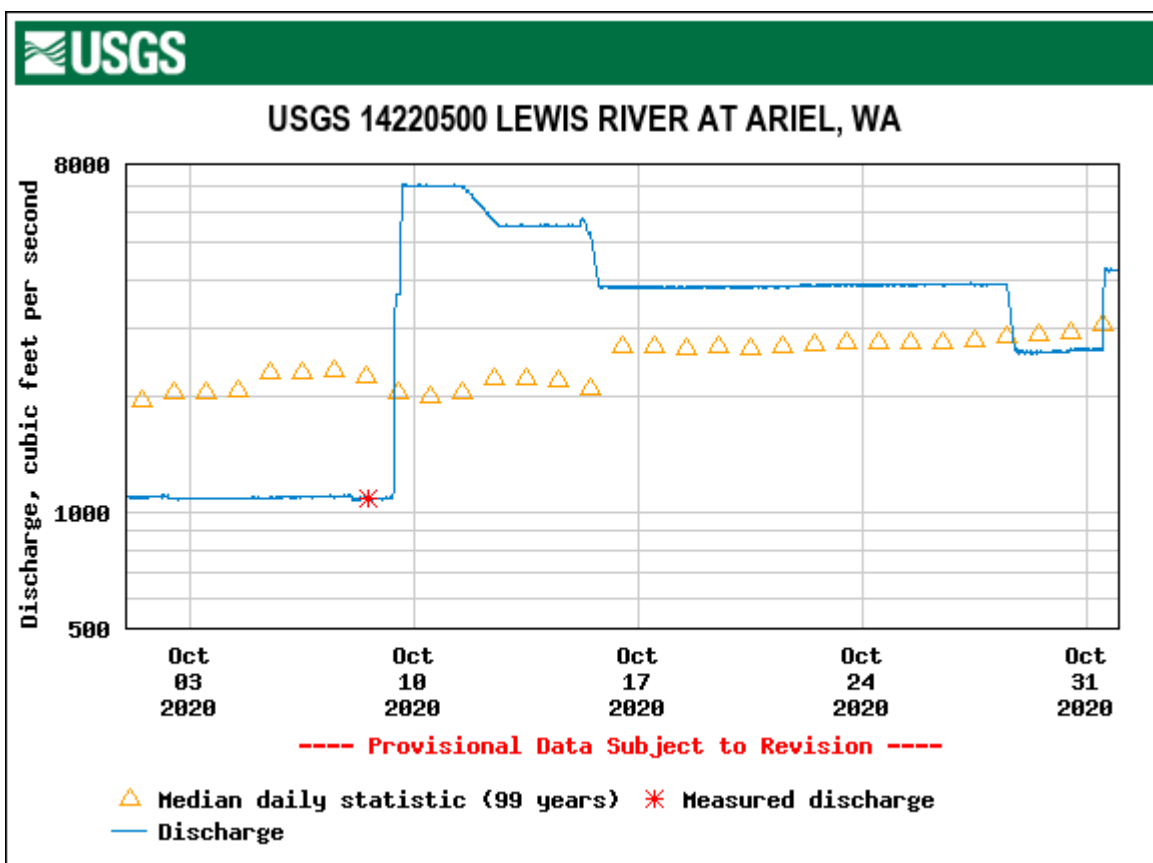
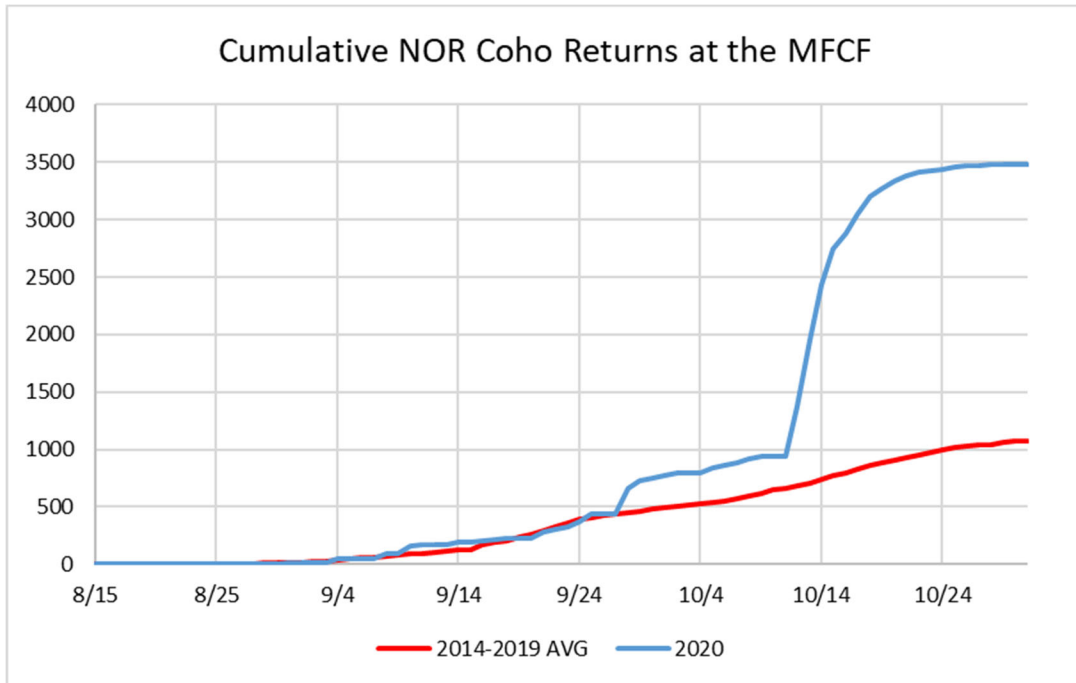


Figure 1. Discharge in cubic feet per second recorded at the USGS Ariel, WA gauge (14220500) located immediately downstream of Merwin Dam.

### Upstream Transport ([Attachment A](#))

Upstream transport of adult coho increased significantly during the month of October. The dramatic increase of fish collection and transport coincided with the increase in river flows below Merwin Dam that occurred on October 9, 2020. A record number of NOR coho were collected during the month of October (Figure 2). The year-to-date total of 3,495 NOR coho is greater than any year since the facility has been in operation. A total of 5,882 fish were transported upstream throughout the month, of which 4,643 came from the MFCF and 1,239 from Lewis River Hatchery. In addition to adult coho, 37 cutthroat trout were also transported upstream in October.

For calendar year 2020, a total of 7,943 coho, 725 Blank Wire Tag steelhead, 634 spring Chinook, 325 true wild steelhead, and 66 cutthroat have been transported upstream of Swift Dam.



**Figure 2. Cumulative number of Natural origin (NOR) coho collected at Merwin Adult Fish Collection Facility in 2020, relative to the 2014-2019 average.**



**Figure 3. Adult coho salmon being released into the Lewis River near Eagle Cliff, upstream of Swift Reservoir.**

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

The Swift Reservoir Floating Surface Collector (FSC) returned to service on October 14<sup>th</sup> following the summer maintenance period. A total of 1,614 fish were collected at the FSC in the month of October. Most of these fish were juvenile coho (87.9%) and Chinook (8.6%).

**Other**

Services Update to Section 18 Process – Services are working on Section 18 currently and the plan is to get them to the FERC by November 20, 2020.....at the very latest the submittal will be November 23, 2020. The Services are coordinating to submit at the same time.

**Agenda items for December 10, 2020**

- Review November 12, 2020 Meeting Notes (**ACC COMMENTS DUE November 30, 2020**)
- 2020/2021 Aquatic Fund Presentations
- Study/Work Product Updates

*Adjourn 10:30am*

**Next Scheduled Meeting:**

December 10, 2020
Skype Call Only
9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**Meeting Handouts & Attachments:**

- Meeting Notes from 10/8/20
- Agenda from 11/12/20
- Attachment A - Lewis River Fish Passage Report (October 2020)

# Lewis River Fish Passage Report

## October

### Merwin Fish Collection Facility and General Operations

A total of 7,286 fish were captured at the Merwin Dam Adult Fish Collection Facility (MFCF) during the month of October. The overwhelming majority of these fish collected were early-run coho (93.4%). Over a third (34.9%) of the coho collected in October were of natural origin (NOR). By the end of October, eighty-three (83) adult coho containing PIT tags been detected passing the facility. All of these fish had been PIT tagged as juveniles at the Swift Floating Surface Collector (FSC) in the spring of 2019. All PIT tag detection recorded at the Merwin Trap can be found on the region wide PIT Tag information System (PITAGIS).

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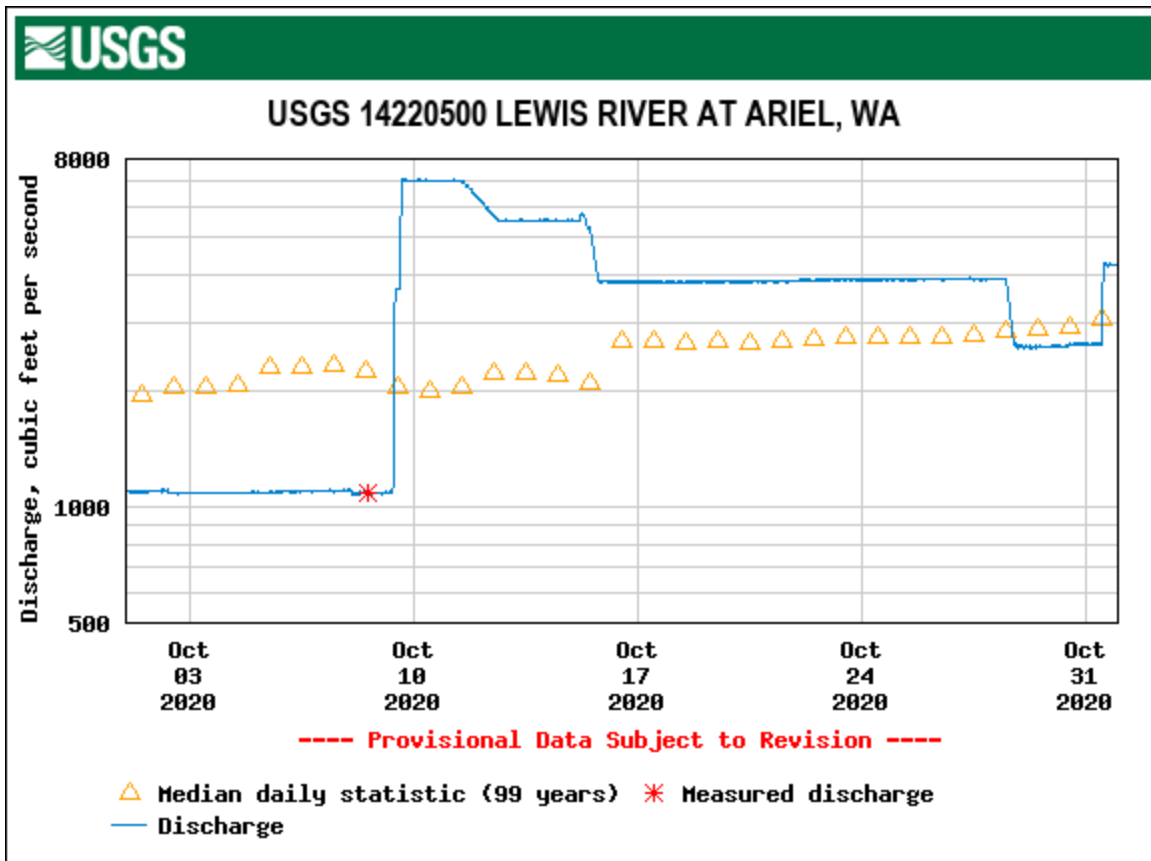


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### Upstream Transport

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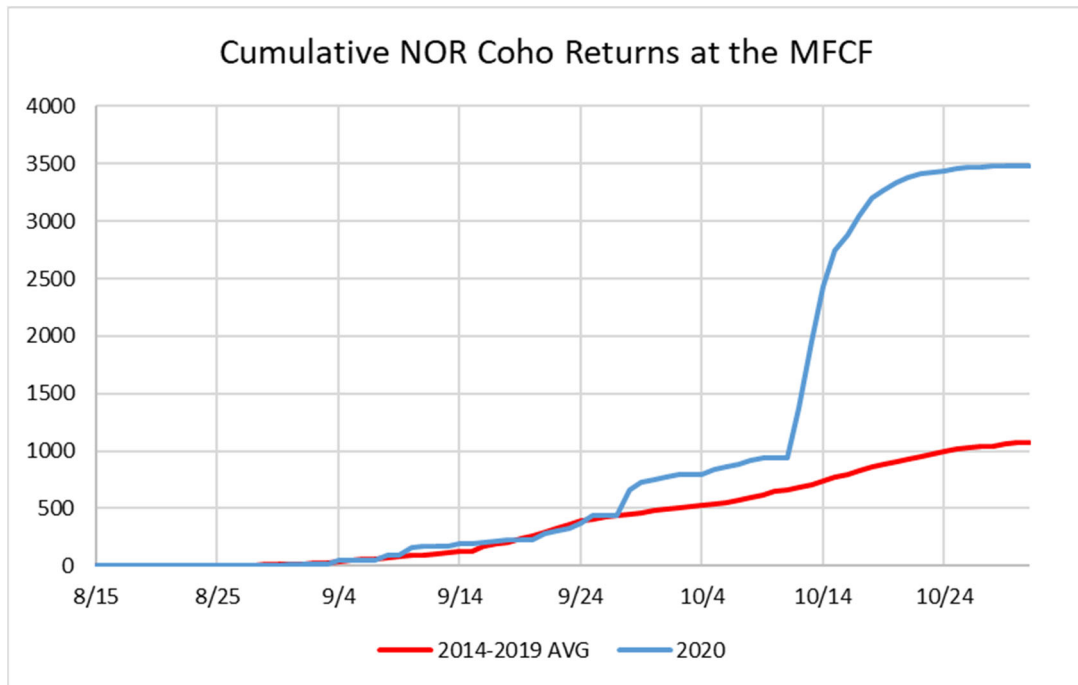


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## **Floating Surface Collector**

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**Fish Facility Report**  
**Swift Floating Surface Collector**  
**October 2020**

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																
2																
3																
4																
5																
6																
7																
8																
9																
10																
11																
12																
13																
14																
15		171	123			3			2					0	0	299
16		72	87			6			3	1				0	0	169
17		57	124			14	2		7	1		3		0	0	208
18			93			9			5					0	0	107
19		19	37			7			2					1	0	66
20		48	19			13			3					0	1	84
21		59	22			13			4			1		0	0	99
22		27	21			11			0			1		0	0	60
23		66	42			16			1					0	0	125
24		50	43			12			0					0	0	105
25		59	36			5			1					0	0	101
26		16	41			16			2			1	1	0	0	77
27		9	28			7			1					0	0	45
28		13	11			6			1			5		0	0	36
29		6	3			0			0			2		0	0	11
30		8	2			2			1	1				0	0	14
31		1	5			0			0			2		0	0	8
<b>Monthly</b>	0	681	737	0	0	140	2	0	33	3	0	15	1	1	1	1614
<b>Total</b>	79	4512	25784	3	3037	12625	66	46	4080	123	1	440	28	21	2073	52918