

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

**Date & Time:** Thursday, March 14, 2019  
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**Place:** CONFERENCE CALL ONLY

**Contacts:** Erik Lesko: (503) 412-8401

Time	Discussion Item
9:00 a.m.	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Review Agenda and ACC 2/14/19 Meeting Notes</li> <li>➤ Comment &amp; Accept Agenda and 2/14/19 Meeting Notes</li> </ul>
9:10 a.m.	Public Comment Opportunity
9:15 a.m.	Study/Work Product Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ATS Plan Update</li> <li>○ NOR Tracking Update (NOAA Response) - Status</li> <li>○ Merwin Upstream Passage – Status</li> <li>○ Swift Floating Surface Collector – Status</li> <li>○ Bull Trout Subgroup Update</li> <li>○ Lewis River In-Lieu Status</li> </ul>
10:15 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>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>

Join by Phone

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

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

**Conference ID: 6325627**

**FINAL Meeting Notes**  
**Lewis River License Implementation**  
**Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting**  
**March 14, 2019**  
**Conference Call**

**ACC Representatives Present (11)**

Kim McCune, PacifiCorp  
 Chris Karchesky, PacifiCorp  
 Erik Lesko, PacifiCorp  
 Eli Asher, Cowlitz Indian Tribe  
 Tom Wadsworth, WDFW  
 Peggy Miller, WDFW  
 Amanda Froberg, Cowlitz PUD  
 Joshua Ashline, NMFS  
 Ruth Tracy, US Forest Service  
 Jonathan Stumpf, American Rivers  
 Steve Manlow, LCFRB

**Calendar:**

April 11, 2019	ACC Meeting	Merwin HCC
----------------	-------------	------------

<b>Assignments from March 14, 2019</b>	<b>Status</b>
Josh Ashline – Contact NMFS sampling permit department for their response on NOR Tracking and report back to the ACC and perhaps discuss other tagging options.	

<b>Parking Lot Items</b>	<b>Status</b>
Begin review of aquatic fund document edits no later than May 2019. The 2018 edits are attached to the September 13, 2018 ACC Meeting notes. Wordsmith item 4 & 5 of Attachment D, Evaluation Criteria.	<b>Complete – 4/11/19</b>
Tracy: Stage 0 webinar PowerPoint presentation to ACC.	<b>Tentative – May or June 2019</b>

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

Erik Lesko (PacifiCorp) called the meeting to order at 9:05am and reviewed the agenda. Lesko also reviewed the February 14, 2019 meeting notes. The meeting notes were approved without change 9:10 a.m.

**Public Comment**

None

**Study/Work Product Updates**

**Aquatic Technical Subgroup (ATS)**

Lesko informed the ACC attendees that the ATS is diligently working on the 2019 and 2020 AOP and beginning the (5-year) rewrite of the H&S plan. The ATS is also considering when the scheduled comprehensive periodic review (from and independent party) of the H&S plan will be

conducted. The ATS has discussed having this review during the fall when the plan is also being reviewed by the ACC. The plan is to distribute the document to the ACC October 1, 2019 for its 60-day review period. The H&S plan is due to the FERC by December 31, 2019.

Prioritization of adult Spring chinook broodstock captured in the traps is currently under review by the ATS and a recommendation will be provided to the ACC very soon. Low spring Chinook returns are forecasted for this year and Chinook fisheries in the Lower Columbia and tributaries (including the Lewis River) closed March 1, 2019 due to low run. Also, crews conducting redd surveys downstream of Merwin Dam for late winter steelhead have not identified any redds so far. This is highly unusual as we are approaching peak spawn timing within a month. PacifiCorp will continue to conduct redd surveys on a weekly basis. Low water temperature and low flows may be a contributing factor.

### **NOR Tracking Update -NMFS Response**

Chris Karchesky (PacifiCorp) provided a brief summary regarding the use of natural origin (NOR) winter steelhead as part of the ongoing Adult Trap Efficiency evaluation at Merwin Dam. Over the past four years, the ATE Study has focused only on program winter steelhead (those that contain a blank-wire-tag) to assess fish behavior in the tailrace of Merwin Dam. These fish have NOR parents, but were reared at Merwin Hatchery for the purpose of being taken upstream when they return as adults. Because these fish originated from Merwin Hatchery, they are suspected to be driven to enter Merwin Trap (similar to a fish from the upper basin) as a portion of the trap's attraction water comes from Merwin Hatchery. These fish are also easy to identify due to their blank wire tag, retained adipose fin, and stubby dorsal fin. Given the high passage success of these fish, there was some interest in comparing these results with true NOR winter steelhead. However, some consideration needs to be made before true NOR winter steelhead adults are tagged and evaluated. This consideration particularly deals with the fact that there is a known population of NOR winter steelhead that reside in the lower river below Merwin Dam and do not return to Merwin Dam. If these fish are radio tagged using current practices, then it is likely they will die if they do not return to the trap to have the tag removed. Because these are ESA listed species, this type of activity would need to be permitted. Josh Ashline (NMFS) will contact his sampling permit department for their response and report back to the ACC and perhaps discuss other tagging options.

### **Bull Trout Subgroup Update; Tom Wadsworth (WDFW)**

Wadsworth informed the ACC attendees that the BT Subgroup met last month and will meet again March 15, 2019. The Lewis River bull trout report is currently under USGS review process. Wadsworth expect the review to be complete the week of March 25, 2019, at which time the draft report will be sent to the ACC for their reference. Contact WDFW if any questions. WDFW will present highlights of the bull trout report and provided a Q&A session (approximately 30 - 40 minutes) at the April 11, 2019 ACC meeting.

### **Lewis River In-Lieu Status**

Josh Ashline (NMFS) communicated that the In Lieu decision from the Services is expected by March 15, 2019. Eli Asher (Cowlitz Tribe) informed the ACC attendees that they have filed a Motion to Intervene in Post-Licensing Proceedings on March 11, 2019. Asher further expressed that any of the ACC representatives may also file a post licensing motion.

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

During the month of February, a total of 55 fish were captured at the Merwin Dam Adult Fish Collection Facility. All but one of these fish were winter steelhead (54 – 98%). One “winter run” Fall Chinook was collected on February 21 (Figure 1).

The Merwin Trap ran continuously during the month of February except for when it was shut down the week of February 11, 2019 for scheduled maintenance.

River flow below Merwin Dam remained between 2,000 and 5,000 cfs for the majority of the month. Minimum flow requirements below Merwin Dam during the month of February was 2,000 cfs.

### Discharge, cubic feet per second

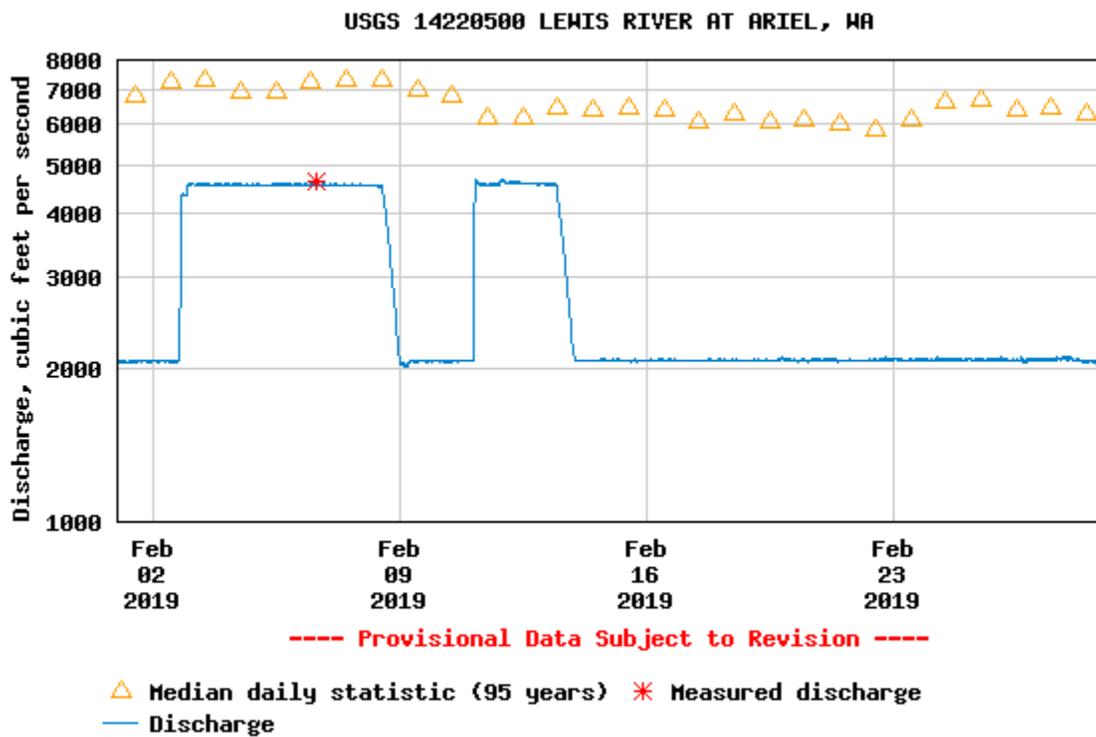




Figure 1. Fall "Winter Run" Chinook captured at the Merwin Fish Facility February 21, 2019. The fish was returned downstream.

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

Seven Blank Wire Tag (BWT) winter steelhead were captured in December 2018 and were transported upstream as part of the 2019 run year. An additional 38 fish were taken upstream in January 2019 and another 30 in February 2019 for a total of 75 BWT winter steelhead as part of the 2019 run year. One additional winter steelhead of natural origin containing a PIT tag from the upper basin was also transported upstream as part of the 2019 run year.

<b>Run Year</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total adult winter steelhead taken upstream of Swift Dam</b>
<b>2012</b>	141	48	<b>189</b>
<b>2013</b>	440	301	<b>741</b>
<b>2014</b>	452	581	<b>1,033</b>
<b>2015</b>	746	477	<b>1,223</b>
<b>2016</b>	378	376	<b>754</b>
<b>2017</b>	331	261	<b>592</b>
<b>2018</b>	682	535	<b>1,227</b>
<b>2019</b>	37	38	<b>75</b>

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

The Swift FSC was turned off on January 11, 2019 to allow for divers to install the new false floor within the Net Transition Structure (NTS) that is located at the entrance of the FSC. This project was designed to increase the entrance water velocity of the NTS and improve the hydraulic signature at the front of the vessel. A detailed presentation regarding this work was provided at the October 11, 2018 Aquatics Coordination Meeting. A copy of those meeting notes can be found online at:

[http://www.pacificorp.com/content/dam/pacificorp/doc/Energy\\_Sources/Hydro/Hydro\\_Licensing/Lewis\\_River/li/acc/10112018\\_ACC\\_MN.pdf](http://www.pacificorp.com/content/dam/pacificorp/doc/Energy_Sources/Hydro/Hydro_Licensing/Lewis_River/li/acc/10112018_ACC_MN.pdf)

The FSC was returned to service on February 4, 2019 following installation of the NTS false floor. A total of 140 out-migrants were collected before the FSC was turned off due to inclement weather conditions and snow loading. The FSC was again returned to service on February 14, 2019. Fish collection numbers remained low through the remainder of the month. Daily water temperature recorded at the Swift FSC remained about 4 °C throughout the month. Surface ice was observed forming in the upper portion of the reservoir (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Ice forming across the upper portion of Swift Reservoir near Swift Forest Camp boat launch.

### **Other**

Large Woody Debris Program - Lesko reminded the ACC attendees that PacifiCorp is beginning to assess the amount of drift removal that may be required on the Lewis River reservoirs this spring. At this time there doesn't appear to be considerable drift, however we do have a few logs and the spring flows have yet to arrive. If your organization needs large woody debris (LWD) for projects in the Lewis River basin please contact Kendel Emmerson ([kendel.emmerson@pacificorp.com](mailto:kendel.emmerson@pacificorp.com)) with as much detail as possible (diameter, length, rootwad required and if so fan size, and quantity).

Aquatic Fund Process Review – McCune email the draft aquatic fund process documents to the ACC for their review and comment on March 13, 2019. The ACC was asked to review and prepare for the April 11, 2019 meeting and what changes/edits they would like to see for the 2019/2020 aquatic fund process.

Lewis River Potential Beaver Habitat; Relocation – Lesko informed the TCC attendees that the TCC representatives would like their input and interest in relocating beaver on Lewis River WHMP lands. Several ACC representatives are aware of the relocation effort and are supportive. The Cowlitz Tribe will report back to the TCC and the ACC Committees on its findings of suitable

habitat in the Lewis River basin. The Forest Service will be actively involved in the relocation efforts with Cascade Forest Conservancy and will tie in with the Cowlitz Tribe.

**Agenda items for April 11, 2019**

- March 14, 2019 Meeting Notes
- NOR Tracking Update; NOAA response
- Bull Trout Presentation, Tom Wadsworth (WDFW)
- Aquatic Fund Process Review
- In Lieu Update
- Study/Work Product Update

*Adjourn 9:50am*

**Next Scheduled Meeting:**

April 11, 2019
Merwin HCC
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Meeting Handouts & Attachments:**

- Meeting Notes from 2/14/19
- Agenda from 3/14/19
- **Attachment A** - Lewis River Fish Passage Report (February 2019)

# Lewis River Fish Passage Report

## February 2018

### Merwin Fish Collection Facility and General Operations

During the month of February, a total of 55 fish were captured at the Merwin Dam Adult Fish Collection Facility. All but one of these fish were winter steelhead (54 – 98%). One “winter run” Fall Chinook was collected on February 21 (Figure 1).

The Merwin Trap ran continuously during the month of February except for when it was shut down the week of February 11, 2019 for scheduled maintenance. .

River flow below Merwin Dam remained between 2,000 and 5,000 cfs for the majority of the month. Minimum flow requirements below Merwin Dam during the month of February was 2,000 cfs.

### Discharge, cubic feet per second

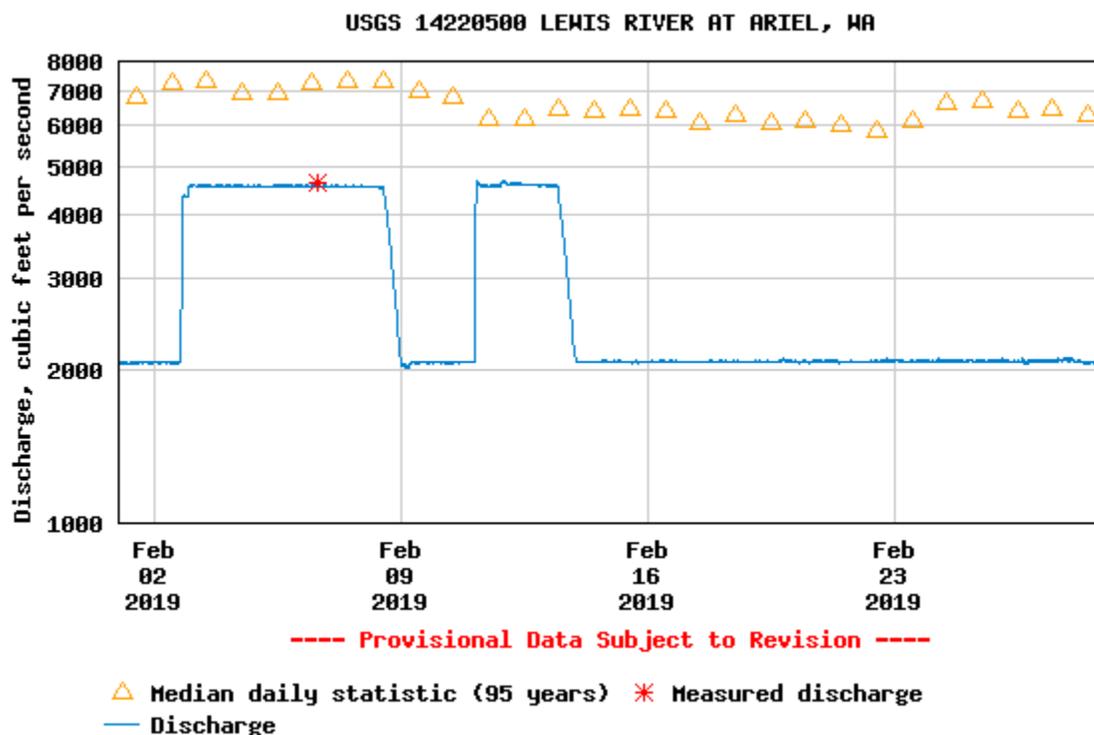




Figure 1. Fall "Winter Run" Chinook captured at the Merwin Fish Facility February 21, 2019. The fish was returned downstream.

### **Upstream Transport**

Seven Blank Wire Tag (BWT) winter steelhead were captured in December 2018 and were transported upstream as part of the 2019 run year. An additional 38 fish were taken upstream in January 2019 and another 30 in February 2019 for a total of 75 BWT winter steelhead as part of the 2019 run year. One additional winter steelhead of natural origin containing a PIT tag from the upper basin was also transported upstream as part of the 2019 run year.

<b>Run Year</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total adult winter steelhead taken upstream of Swift Dam</b>
<b>2012</b>	141	48	<b>189</b>
<b>2013</b>	440	301	<b>741</b>
<b>2014</b>	452	581	<b>1,033</b>
<b>2015</b>	746	477	<b>1,223</b>
<b>2016</b>	378	376	<b>754</b>
<b>2017</b>	331	261	<b>592</b>
<b>2018</b>	682	535	<b>1,227</b>
<b>2019</b>	37	38	<b>75</b>

## **Floating Surface Collector (FSC)**

The Swift FSC was turned off on January 11, 2019 to allow for divers to install the new false floor within the Net Transition Structure (NTS) that is located at the entrance of the FSC. This project was designed to increase the entrance water velocity of the NTS and improve the hydraulic signature at the front of the vessel. A detailed presentation regarding this work was provided at the October 11, 2018 Aquatics Coordination Meeting. A copy of those meeting notes can be found online at:

[http://www.pacificorp.com/content/dam/pacificorp/doc/Energy\\_Sources/Hydro/Hydro\\_Licensing/Lewis\\_River/li/acc/10112018\\_ACC\\_MN.pdf](http://www.pacificorp.com/content/dam/pacificorp/doc/Energy_Sources/Hydro/Hydro_Licensing/Lewis_River/li/acc/10112018_ACC_MN.pdf)

The FSC was returned to service on February 4, 2019 following installation of the NTS false floor. A total of 140 out-migrants were collected before the FSC was turned off due to inclement weather conditions and snow loading. The FSC was again returned to service on February 14, 2019. Fish collection numbers remained low through the remainder of the month. Daily water temperature recorded at the Swift FSC remained about 4 °C throughout the month. Surface ice was observed forming in the upper portion of the reservoir (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Ice forming across the upper portion of Swift Reservoir near Swift Forest Camp boat launch.



**Fish Facility Report**  
**Swift Floating Surface Collector**  
**February 2019**

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			
01																
02																
03																
04																
05	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
06	3	3	24	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	33
07	3	6	18	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	34
08	1	1	44	0	1	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	62
09																
10																
11																
12																
13																
14																
15	1	6	0	0	2	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
16	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
17	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
18	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
21	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	8
22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
24	0	2	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	9
25	0	2	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7
26	0	0	0	0	1	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
27	6	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Monthly Total</b>	20	32	99	0	8	52	0	1	1	0	0	4	0	0	3	220

