

Columbia River Total Dissolved Gas TMDL
Adaptive Management Team (AMT) Meeting
04/08/2008
National Marine Fisheries Service
Portland, OR

Attendance: See list at end.

Action Items:

- Send feedback to Andrew and Agnes by 4/15/08 on how Team wants the COMPASS outputs presented.
- Bring calendars to May meeting to reschedule June meeting. It is tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of Wednesday, June 11th, at the ACOE office.

Meeting Notes:

Meeting opened with introductions, overview of meeting agenda, goal of AMT, and progress to-date. AMT will not be addressing transport of fish. This is a management issue and will not be taken into consideration in the decision making process of answering the need for 115% TDG forebay limit question. Rudd said that transport is a part of the Federal analysis and COMPASS modeling as a point of clarification. Andrew and Agnes discussed relevance of the Camas/Washougal TDG gauge in regards to Bonneville data. The water quality agencies no longer require forebay monitoring at Camas / Washougal according to their standards or waiver; thus the Camas / Washougal gauge data does not have to be included in the AMT discussions.

Project Configuration and Operation for Fish Passage at Bonneville, The Dalles, and John Day Dams (Presented by Dennis Schwartz, USACE) (presentation posted on AMT website)

The numbers in this study are from COMPASS. The ACOE's goal is to maximize reach average survival, not survival by project. Several projects exceed limits, but the averages are OK. Dan said that the 93%/96% figure takes into account proposed structural improvements at each project. The goal is to hit the standard at each project, but they can average the four Columbia and four Snake River dams. Brad said that juvenile survival numbers are based on radio telemetry. The pit tag collection is 60% and will be improved in the future when another coil can be added. The data presented by Dennis in the survival charts is based on 2002-2005 data. There are 1-2 releases per day to develop these statistics. The confidence interval is +/-3% which makes the Bonneville Dam Juvenile Fish Survival numbers statistically not different. Spill way erosion for Bonneville Dam will likely be fixed in 2011. Currently Bonneville Dam experiences the most erosion due to increased volume spill than Lower Monumental and McNary dams. However erosion is due to the bathymetry and the composition of the substrate (soft clay) rather than solely due to spill volume. In the new BiOp, the John Day spill changes to 30% all the time in the spring and summer. This makes the 115% question irrelevant according to current operations. Mortality associated with turbine passage is due to the pressure related injuries caused by the turbines, as opposed to strike injuries. Spill regime is the most critical management issue related to TDG generation and spill volume (gate opening

sequencing). The John Day longer tailrace egress times are increasing predation by fish, typically pikeminnow in the tailrace.

Fish Passage and Survival at Lower Snake and McNary Dams (Presented by Ann Setter, USACE) (presentation posted on AMT website)

Bonneville and Lower Monumental dams are most significantly affected in terms of spill volume by the removal of the 115% TDG forebay limit. The Lower Monumental Spring Chinook with and without gauge percent efficiencies are estimated values.

USACE/NOAA – SYSTDG, HYDSIM, and COMPASS Discussion

ACOE will model the 1999 (high flow), 2002 (average flow), and 2007 (low flow) water years with SYS-TDG. SYS-TDG provides data on an hourly time step. The SYS_TDG outputs will then be converted to a daily time step for input into BPAs HYDSYM model. The HYDSYM model calculates flows on a monthly scale but BPA will convert the monthly data to a modified daily time step which will be used in COMPASS. The HYDSYM model takes into account over-generation spill. COMPASS will then provide a daily estimate of SARs for the spring period (April to June) for the three years modeled. The COMPASS model does take transport into account, which is considered a management issue at the AMT. The modeling results and an associated report will be provided at the May AMT meeting. There has been no independent science review of any of these models, but they are currently used to manage the system and for Bi-Op purposes. Laura presented on SYSTDG (handout). Kim presented on HYDSIM (handout). Blane presented on the COMPASS model.

BPA estimates that 1/3 of the time increasing the gas cap does not influence the spill volumes.

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 13th, 9:00 AM at NOAA

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