



To: WEI Technical Working Group members
From: Jayson Kurtz, TWG Coordinator, Ecofish
Date: October 7, 2020
Re: WEI Technical Working Group meeting on October 7, 2020

Review of previous meeting Action Items:

PG Flooding

- City of PG presentation Oct 9 (invite attached, and presentation will be made available after)

Action item: Jayson will work with Andrea to summarize relevant info and present to TWG

Caribou

Action item: Jayson and James get info from Anne-Marie Roberts (FLNRORD Smithers)

Ramping

- Justus has provided data to Jayson
- Defer discussion re ramping-related erosion until Mike R is present

Action item: Jayson assess ramping rates re-fish and report back

Temperature

Action item: Jayson working on thermal tolerance summary

- Agreement that we don't need to pursue historical rationale for STMP: focus on forward-looking

Action item: Alec Mercier attend TWG and discuss operational influence on temp

Action item: Justus will seek update from climate researchers (Richard Arsenault)

- James committed BC's support for climate, weather and flow forecast support, as needed

Fish access to reservoir tributaries

- James: BC Omineca Region responsible for Kemano River; reservoir is in Smithers Region (James will coordinate appropriate BC support)

- Collectively no knowledge of specific issue in reservoir, but recognized issue for other reservoirs and has been brought forward by MT

Action item: Jayson will reach out to Gary Blackwell and Mike Robertson to see if they have info

Action item: Jayson will review Ootsa Lake Management Report

- Will question FLNRORD Smithers staff in subsequent reservoir-focused TWG
- If needed, can use air photos to identify potential areas of concern, then follow-up as needed

Discussion on approach to resolving issues

- Agreement we need to narrow list of issues
- Consider “parking” issues that are not within operational influence or are very difficult to achieve through operations: important how we communicate this to MT so no one feels interests are being ignored
- Don’t need to resolve issues that are out of scope, can provide suggested next steps (kokanee in west arm example: if there are no operational divers for population declined; identify steps to understand drivers and who can best address – FLNRORD for example)
- Consider whether best approach is to “zoom in” on detail to address interest (e.g., “reservoir fish” issues can be considered in terms of components like entrainment, access, productivity, spawning habitat etc) or “zoom out” (reservoir fish can be considered broadly – are the populations stable, at an ecologically-appropriate level etc.). Communicate approach and rationale when reporting back to MT
- Advance issues that require specific study etc. to resolve data gaps so these are not a bottleneck in future
- Advance issues that can be easily resolved (easy wins)
- General meetings for most topics
- Topic-specific meetings for complicated issues (e.g. reservoir fish, river fish)
- Leverage knowledge and experience from WUPs and apply here, including professional opinion
- Try to schedule meeting agendas to match participants interests/knowledge, but recognize that our experience is important to the process regardless of specific topic/issue

Action item: Jayson to share interests with TWG

Reservoir productivity

- Common reservoir issue
 - Some research in reservoir/river by experts already (Chris Perrin, John Stockner)

Action item: Jayson to contact Chris Perrin for opinion on likely scope of issue, TWG to discuss and consider next steps

Float plane access in river

- Issue raised at MT and recently from outside MT
- Low water in Sept And Oct creates hazard

- At least one known location, but other known float plane users
- Vanderhoof aerodrome decommissioned

Action item: Justus to investigate other areas of concern

Action item: Justus to hire consultant to develop rating curve at known area of concern

- RT bring info back to TWG to develop objective and PM

Entrainment

- Discussion re typical issue with hydro facilities, 2 potential locations: Kemano intake and Skins spillway
- Hard to determine quantitatively with high certainty
- BC Hydro has developed risk assessment/screening tool to identify risk based on fish species, infrastructure, and operations
- Risk assessment on Kemano intake suggest low risk, but might be revisited to consider anecdotal other info
 - Jayson to complete risk assessment for Skins spillway, also consider data from spillway dewatering events etc.
- River fish issues
 - James: FLNRORD will provide support (Ian and Nicholas)
 - Defer to topic-specific meeting