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**To:** WEI Technical Working Group members

**From:** Jayson Kurtz, TWG Coordinator, Ecofish

**Date:** March 31, 2021

**Re:** Summary of TWG meeting held Wednesday, March 31, 2021, 9:00 am to 12:00 am

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Attendees:

- Dan Sneep (DFO)
- Andrea Byrne (City of PG)
- Andy Lecuyer (RT)
- Alec Mercier (RT)
- Duncan McColl (FLNRORD)
- Rahul Ray (EDI)
- Jayson Kurtz (Ecofish Research Ltd.)
- Jennifer Carter (Ecofish Research Ltd.)
- Katie Healey (Ecofish Research Ltd.)
- Wayne Salewski Nechako Environment and Water Stewardship Society

Meeting Objectives:

- Discuss attendance – some members are very busy and are unable to attend upcoming meetings. Katie Healey (Ecofish) has joined the team to help with PM development and modeling.
- Review last meeting and action tracker.
- Discuss interests list and refine objectives to present to the MT.

Refining Objectives:

- Goal is to refine a few objectives and provide preliminary objectives for those not refined.
- There are six group of interest, but we will only focus on flow related interests (social, economic, and environmental receptors).
- Review what makes a good objective and how to get there.
- Objectives will be provided to MT as a guide for them to provide comment and adjust.
- Very important to highlight that the objectives have to be related to operations.
- Review of interest and objectives:
  - Pathway for MT presentation - given the lengthiness of discussion we have decided to refine three objectives within this meeting to bring to the MT. In addition, we will present the remaining preliminary objectives as drafts in case the MT quickly works through the first three objectives presented.
  - Fish & Wildlife – Salmon
    - Objectives are targeted to two key life history stages affected by flow.
    - Need to highlight that all objectives are only related to the area of interest (i.e., Nechako river).
    - Objective “Maximize chinook salmon production”:
      - Do we want to specify chinook as other species are also of interest? Do we want to add sockeye and coho?
        - If we talk about sockeye, however, we have little influence on production as a whole because the life history affected by operations is ONLY migration.
      - Suggest main objective be “maximize salmon production” and sub-objectives be specific on life-history of interest (i.e., maximize sockeye and chinook migration survival).
      - Should be more specific on the mechanism of concern so that this doesn’t eliminate other salmon species (i.e., minimize temperature effects on sockeye and chinook migration).
      - Pathway - rather than having specific species in object, PMs would specify date range that would be specific to species of interest (i.e., objective – minimize temperature effects on salmon and PM – minimize temperatures <20°C from July to August)
        - For presentation to the MT keeping the objective broad (i.e., salmon vs species specific) and when developing PMs making it more specific.
        - For MT pre-read have objectives and factors that objectives encompass
    - Objective “maximize rearing habitat”:
      - This would lead to several PMs to represent species specific rearing preferences.

- Suggest having 1:1 PMs to objectives or having a lump objective that can be captured by a single PM (i.e., flow above x will fill side channels, maximize riparian habitat, access to tributaries)
- Usually having 1:1 allows for more transparency and then PMs can be narrowed down.
- Flooding at Vanderhoof:
  - General objective should be to minimize flooding with sub-objectives or PMs to identify the types of flooding (i.e., minimize ice jam flooding, groundwater flooding).
  - Again, PMs are really going to relate back to specific interest of concern.
- Caribou:
  - Should link objective and PM to logs on shoreline (depth or logs, # of logs).
- Trout and Kokanee:
  - DFO does not distinguish sportfish from any other fish, therefore, should state resident vs anadromous.
- RT Operations:
  - BC sales agreement objective – need to explore if there is flexibility. If it's binary it becomes a bookend.
- Water Quality:
  - Objective should be to minimize exceedances of thresholds.
- Cultural and Heritage
  - Objective “minimize inundation and erosion”:
    - May be non-negotiable, then the PM's would be set to 0.
    - Need to discuss with the MT this directional approach to setting objectives and how the non-negotiable objectives are dealt with (i.e., hard constraints).
- No other flags or alarms raised for other objectives.