

PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224
Portland, Oregon 97201

Telephone: (503) 326-6352

November 3, 1994

CHAIRMAN
Frank R. Warrens

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Lawrence D. Six

Ms. Lois D. Cashell, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Mail Code DCPA, HL-21
825 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Ms. Cashell:

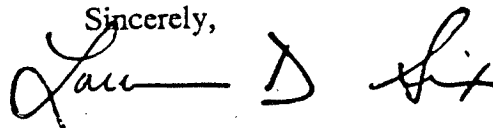
At its October meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council adopted two resolutions which pertain to projects licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC): Condit Dam on the White Salmon River and Iron Gate Dam on the Klamath River. The resolutions are attached for your information and response.^{1/}

The resolution regarding Condit Dam (FERC Project #2342) requests FERC to reject any further delay by PacifiCorp (licensee) in implementing anadromous fish passage and restoration in the White Salmon River basin. The Condit Dam has completely blocked anadromous fish passage to significant natural production areas for over 80 years. Issuance of any new license should be conditioned upon the restoration measures proposed by the fishery agencies and tribes. Short of this action, immediate decommissioning of the project would be in order, to include removal of the dam structure and full restoration of habitat affected by the dam.

The Council's second resolution, directed to the Bureau of Reclamation, requests that FERC-required minimum flow releases not be violated below Iron Gate Dam. Additional study is necessary to determine the actual amount of water needed to restore and maintain Klamath River anadromous fish stocks to assure successful long-term stock productivity. Klamath River fall chinook provide an important contribution to commercial, recreational and tribal fisheries and at currently depressed levels have been one of the primary stocks constraining ocean salmon fisheries in the past several years.

Thank you for your cooperation in resolving these fish habitat issues.

Sincerely,



Lawrence D. Six
Executive Director

JCC:clw
Attachments
c: Habitat Committee

1/ The Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852 [i]) requires federal agencies receiving comments or recommendations from the Council to provide a detailed written response within 45 days.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ANADROMOUS FISH RESTORATION
IN THE WHITE SALMON RIVER, WASHINGTON**

Whereas, the White Salmon River once supported substantial anadromous fish populations, as well as provided chinook salmon broodstock for Spring Creek National Hatchery and elsewhere; and

Whereas, Condit Hydroelectric Project (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission [FERC] #2342), which was constructed in 1912, still blocks upstream fish migration at river mile 3.3 and has seriously depleted the White Salmon River's anadromous fish populations; and

Whereas, since 1982, the Northwest Power Planning Council's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program has, without success, directed the project operator, PacifiCorp, to construct fish passage facilities at the dam; and

Whereas, the FERC license for the project expired in December 1993; and

Whereas, pursuant to the FERC licensing process, Pacific Northwest fishery agencies and tribes recently (May 1994) submitted terms, conditions and prescriptions for fish passage facilities and other mitigation measures or dam removal and habitat restoration; and

Whereas, the White Salmon River is located low in the Columbia River Basin, habitat is exceptional and the likelihood of fishery restoration is excellent; and

Whereas, recently the U.S. District Court and the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals have reiterated the agency/tribal contention that more aggressive actions are needed to restore anadromous fish stocks; and

Whereas, PacifiCorp remains opposed to proposed agency-tribal terms, conditions, and prescriptions, and proposed to FERC that more studies be conducted;

Now therefore, the Pacific Fishery Management Council urges that FERC reject PacifiCorp's continued delay of implementing anadromous fish passage and restoration of the White Salmon River Basin.

The Council further urges that any new license be conditioned upon the restoration measures proposed by the agencies and tribes or that FERC immediately decommission the project, including removal of the dam structure and full restoration of habitat affected by the dam.

PFMC
10/25/94

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SALMON HABITAT EDUCATION

Whereas, many of the Pacific states' salmon and steelhead trout fishery populations have suffered long-term declines; and

Whereas, these declines are a direct result of habitat destruction resulting from land-disturbing activities associated with human population such as logging, road building, agriculture, residential development and water development; and

Whereas, the fish and wildlife resources of these states are a valuable resource, important for their commercial, recreational, aesthetic and educational values; and

Whereas, one of the most effective ways to reach large numbers of people is through public education; and

Whereas, fish habitat and life cycle awareness programs such as Salmon-in-the-Classroom have proven to be an effective means of educating children about life cycles of salmon, steelhead and trout, and their habitat needs; and

Whereas, these programs have reached over 20,000 children and their parents in over 360 school classrooms in the 1993-1994 school year in California alone; and

Whereas the funding for these programs is increasingly in jeopardy because of limited funds for fishery restoration activities; and

Whereas, the long-term survival of healthy salmon and steelhead populations in the face of human population expansion depends on recognition of aesthetic and economic values of fish and careful protection of their habitat.

Therefore, be it resolved by the Pacific Fishery Management Council that all Pacific states should continue, expand, develop or reinstate Salmon-in-the-Classroom, Adopt-a-Stream, Adopt-a-Watershed, or similar programs within their fish and wildlife agencies and school systems.

PFMC
10/25/94

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SPILL TO PASS JUVENILE SALMONIDS
AT COLUMBIA AND SNAKE RIVER DAMS**

Whereas, Pacific Northwest fishery agencies and tribes have concluded that controlled spill is in many cases the safest way to pass migrating juvenile salmon through Columbia Basin dams; and

Whereas, this conclusion is based on substantial research and monitoring of both spill and alternative passage methods over the past decade; and

Whereas, spill is used as the principal method of passing juvenile salmon through the mid-Columbia dams; and

Whereas, a spill program is designed to improve inriver survival by leaving a larger percentage of juvenile salmon migrating inriver; and

Whereas, the Columbia Basin fishery agencies and tribes have developed a detailed spill plan for each mainstem Snake and Columbia river dam, incorporating flexibility to immediately change spill levels and timing as needed; and

Whereas, monitoring is in place to evaluate nitrogen supersaturation and to adjust spill when concentrations occur at harmful levels; and

Whereas, the recent loss of substantial numbers of juvenile salmon in McNary Dam's bypass facilities could have been reduced if the fish had been spilled;

Now, therefore, The Pacific Fishery Management Council urges that spill be employed, if and when requested by northwest fishery agencies and tribes, as a primary means of juvenile salmon passage at mainstem federal Columbia Basin dams.

The Council further urges that thorough, daily dam-by-dam monitoring by northwest fishery agencies and tribes be used to evaluate the immediate and near-term effects of spill regimes and serve as the basis of adjustments, up to and including ceasing spill, as determined by northwest fishery agencies and tribes.

PFMC
08/02/94