

MEETING NOTES

CRCIP AMT Meeting August 22, 2006

The CRCIP Adaptive Management Team held its quarterly meeting from 9:30 am – 3:30 pm on August 22, 2006. The following AMT members and technical support personnel participated:

Laura Hicks, COE	Dale Blanton, DLCDC	Greg Smith, USFWS
Kim Larson, COE	Loree Randall, WDOE (phone)	Agnes Lut, ODEQ
Marci Cook, COE	Dianne Perry, Sponsor Ports	Robert Anderson, NMFS
Steve Bartell, E2 Inc.	Cathy Tortorici, NMFS	

April Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the April 12, 2006 AMT Meeting were approved by the above participants. The finalized minutes will be posted to the Project web site.

E2 FTP Site

An informal Project FTP site (www.e2tm.com/Corps_Portland) has been established by E2. This site provides the AMT access to draft Project documents and other information for review and comment prior to more formal publication on the Corps CRCIP web site. Access to the E2 site will be provided to individuals designated by the AMT. Access to this site is password-protected.

Members of the AMT were generally pleased with their access to the ftp site. There were requests to add names and dates to the document files that would assist the members in identifying files pertinent to their interests. There was also a request to add the state (WA, OR) certification documents to the FTP site. However, following discussion by the AMT, it was decided to avoid possible confusion and leave the state documents at the CRCIP Project web site maintained by the Corps and not duplicate them on the E2 FTP site.

Project Status Update

Construction

A contract was awarded July 25, 2006 for the dredge ship Stuyvesent.

Concerns have been expressed that the shallow water disposal sites might be overloaded as the result of this contract and the large capacity of the Stuyvesent (8,500 cy). If shallow water disposal becomes a problem, the dredge might be used for new Project work. New Project work would focus on CRM 21-32 and CRM 91-94.

The current contract expires at the end of April, 2007.

Dungeness Crab

The Corps (K. Larson) reported that additional crab sampling at Lower Desdemona had been done on June 15-17. The sampling produced a statistically reliable estimate of crab numbers, based on previous studies. The samples included mostly YOY crab (78%). No 1+ individuals were collected; 19% of the sampled crabs were 2+; and the remaining individuals were 3+. Additional salinity data were also obtained. These data will be used to augment the salinity-based crab distribution model. It appears unlikely that more crab work will be done at Lower Desdemona because the dredging activities are essentially completed for this location.

Some preliminary work on crab burial is underway. A razor clam burial study is also ongoing.

Sturgeon

The Corps (K. Larson) reported that the analyses of previously tagged white sturgeon surveys were being analyzed to determine habitat preferences by these fish. The analyses should be completed and a report should be provided to the Corps by the end of September (FY06). Post-Project changes in habitat preference might indicate some impacts of channel modifications.

NMFS expressed interest in green sturgeon and queried if any of the tagged individuals might have been mistakenly identified as white sturgeon. The contractor (M. Parsley) has substantial experience with sturgeon and it is not likely that any of the tagged fish were green sturgeon.

Turbidity

The AMT discussed issues and concerns regarding the measurement and reporting of turbidity data acquired during the dredging. **ODEQ noted that previously provided turbidity data were incorrectly identified as CRCIP data; in fact, the data were the results of O&M dredging.** The main concern is that different methods have been used previously to measure turbidity for the CRCIP and maintenance dredging operations. Actions have been undertaken to standardize measurement (i.e., YSI) and reporting, particularly in support of certification reporting to WA and OR. More recent turbidity data were obtained using a standardized method; these data are being managed in an ACCESS database. The database generates a summary report, an example of which was presented to the AMT and described by Bob Leach, ACOE.

The AMT was generally in favor of the turbidity summary report. However, several modifications were suggested, including some description of what an average turbidity measure was and how it was calculated. There was a request to provide minimum and

maximum values as well. Some minor changes in wording were also suggested for the report. Some narrative discussion of the results should also accompany the summary report (Oregon). NMFS requested that a description of procedures for measuring and reporting procedures be provided for their review and evaluation. Oregon and WA also requested to be informed if no dredging occurs within the reporting period.

An additional concern was the meaning of turbidity values that exceed those values previously predicted for the CRCIP. It is not clear if exceeding the predicted values actually poses a problem for the ecological resources of interest. A suggestion was made by NMFS to perhaps convene a separate meeting to address turbidity issues associated with dredging.

Quarterly Report

MA-1

Summaries of January through June available monitoring data (depth, temperature, salinity) for the MA-1 stations were presented as tables and graphs that included the consensus Project decision criteria. Depth data were not available for red26 and cbnc3 for all months. The plots indicate that a few daily median values exceed some decision criteria. However, the monthly median values for temperature do not exceed the decision criteria. It appears that higher than average river flows could account for some of the elevated temperatures and corresponding lower salinity values observed for the MA-1 stations in 2006. Temperature data for the 'woody' station and salinity data for the Desdemona station have become available since the April AMT meeting. The normalized temperature and salinity plots were subsequently developed and presented at this August AMT meeting. The plots and spreadsheet summaries for the MA-1 reporting are available on the E2 FTP site in the August meeting folder in the Corps_Portland directory.

During the April 2006 quarterly meeting, the AMT requested that monthly summaries of Columbia River flow data be provided to assist in interpreting values of depth, temperature, or salinity that are borderline in comparison to the decision criteria. E2 obtained data from the Bonneville Dam location. Daily average flows (kcfs) were presented for the AEM reference years (1996-2004) and the Project years 2005 and 2006 (through May). The results suggest that 2005 flows were similar to low flow reference years (e.g., 2001). Flow data available for 2006 suggest that this year compares to high flow reference years. The flow data summary plots are available in the 'BonnevilleFlowData' folder in the Corps_Portland directory on the E2 FTP site.

The AMT agreed that the summary of the monitoring results for January through June did not violate the decision criteria and the AMT decided that there was no need to initiate adaptive management in relation to Project construction.

MA-2 Dredging Volumes Spreadsheet

Discussion of MA-2 focused on revisions made to the dredging volume spreadsheets presented at the April 2006 meeting. The AMT was agreed with the revisions. At the same time, it was noted that several disposal sites have not been included in the E2 spreadsheet summary of disposal. The original NEPA document will be examined to make the necessary disposal site additions. Re-handled sites should also be designated in the summary tables using R as a code. Values are also needed for the projected total in-water disposal volumes.

In addition, the previous concerns were again raised that dredge disposal site capacity would be exceeded as the result of combined Project and maintenance dredging. NMFS questioned how the total estimated capacity values were defined and estimated. These values derive from the 2003 NEPA document.

Some more general discussion ensued regarding the evaluation of Project and O&M dredging within a more comprehensive sediment management plan for the LCR. (Also see Sediment Management section below). NMFS expressed interest in knowing how much of the dredged materials would 'leave the system' as the result of upland disposal and subsequent utilization of dredged materials by various public and private entities.

MA-3 Cross-line Surveys

No new Project survey data have been generated.

MA-4

The previous reporting template and discussion for MA-4 were replaced by new text and a table that focuses on changes in habitat opportunity (hours/month) for juvenile salmonids. The components of habitat opportunity include depth and current velocity estimated for six regions within the lower river and estuary. Pre-Project values of habitat opportunity were obtained from the Bottom et al. (2005) report. Post-Project values will be included in the table as they become available. Decision criteria for MA-4 have not yet been developed.

MA-5

The Corps (D. Ebner) reported on recent efforts to identify and evaluate sediment contaminant data for evaluation in relation to the Project. The work has focused on Columbia River Reach 2 (CRM 85-95), Reach 5 (CRM 41-56), and Reach 6 (CRM 35-41). The work consisted of sampling trips and various SEDQUAL data reported from 1986 – 2005.

In Reach 2, seven sampling trips and five SEDQUAL surveys (1986-1997) produced 341 chemical analyses for 25 sampling stations. Several samples exceeded DMEF screening

values for total PAH and DDT. These samples were obtained outside of the navigation channel.

In Reach 5, 22 sampling trips and 20 SEDQUAL surveys (1990-2005) resulted in 2,818 chemical analyses for 106 sampling stations. No analyses exceeded DMEF screening values.

In Reach 6, eight sampling trips and six SEDQUALI surveys (1990-1997) resulted in 406 chemical analyses for 15 sampling stations. No analyses exceeded DMEF screening values.

In summary, total PAH or DDT concentrations exceeded DMEF screening levels in 3 of 3,565 chemical analyses. These three samples were collected outside the navigation channel and advanced maintenance areas. The majority of samples resulted in no exceedence for metals or organic contaminants. **The AMT was concerned about the distance from the dredging channel and side-slopes to the three samples that exceeded the screening levels. Donna Ebner will provide more detailed description of these sample locations in relation to the dredging.**

Additional data sets are being examined for possible inclusion as part of the MA-5 monitoring. Data from the 2000 EPA EMAP will be examined pending completion of the EPA data validation process. Additional EMAP 2004 data are similarly not yet available. Validation of a 2005 *Corbicula* study is also in progress and might yield useful contaminant data. A NOAA study of fish tissue analyses is currently underway (LCREP) and these data will be examined when they become available.

MA-6

E2 revised the MA-6 workbook summary tables to focus on the salmonid species of concern. E2 will review these modifications for accuracy in the pre-Project values obtained from the Pearson et al. (2005) report on fish stranding. The corresponding post-Project values will be incorporated into their respective tables when they become available.

Smelt

No new issues concerning smelt were raised during the meeting.

Sediment Management Issue

Washington Ecology will collaborate with the Corps in developing a document that addresses Project-related sediment management within a more comprehensive framework.