

Yakama Nation Fisheries

Yakama Nation Fisheries has reviewed the the Agreed Order and supporting documents for the Port of Longview TPH site. As discussed with Matthew Morris, WA Department of Ecology site manager, this site is a priority site due to its impacts to the Columbia River. The Yakama Nation expects to work with Ecology at this site as described in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Yakama Nation and Ecology.

Additionally, Yakama Nation has waited to submit information to be included in the findings of fact in the Agreed Order until the public comment period as instructed by Ecology in an August 16th email from Mr. Morris. Please see our comment below in regards to Yakama Nation's standing and Treaty resources in this area of the Columbia River to be included Agree Order. Similar language has been included by Ecology for Agreed Orders at other sites.

Language for inclusion in the Findings of Fact (page 6):

All five Pacific salmon species, steelhead, Pacific lamprey, eulachon (smelt), American shad and white sturgeon can be found in the Columbia River estuary near the vicinity of the Site. Habitat conditions in the estuary are important to the survival of these species during critical rearing, migration, and saltwater acclimation periods in their life cycle. Juvenile anadromous fish use the river in the vicinity of the Site as a migratory corridor, as well as a rearing and foraging area. The State of Washington and the Yakama Nation are co-managers of these fish species pursuant to the 2018 U.S. v. Oregon Management Agreement. Under federal law tribal fishermen are entitled to a 50% share of the harvestable spawning adults when they return from the ocean.

The Yakama Nation conducts winter subsistence smelt fisheries on the Cowlitz River, which empties into the Columbia approximately two miles east of the Site. These fisheries are regulated through annual tribal government permits to enrolled members, who use traditional dip nets. Adult smelt return to the Cowlitz River to spawn in January through March, with peak abundance usually in February. Adult smelt require moderate flows and water temperature around or above 40°F, and will often enter the Columbia and hold in the area near the Site until conditions are suitable before moving into the Cowlitz to spawn.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (509)865-5121 ext. 6413 or tosm@yakamafish-nsn.gov

Sincerely,

McClure Tosch, Superfund Section Technical Lead
Yakama Nation Fisheries