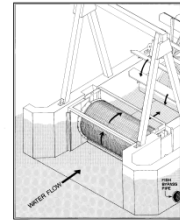




# Fish Screening Task Force (FSTF)

**Date:** October 22, 2021  
**Time:** 9:00 am to 11:00 am  
**Location:** Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife  
 Teams Virtual Meeting



**Type of Meeting:** Fish Screening Task Force (FSTF)

**The following attended (in person or via phone) all or part of the meeting:**

<b>Fish Screening Task Force Members:</b>	Greg Harris Alexis Vaivoda Marc Thalacker William Freeland Judith Barkstedt Darin Olson
<b>Absent</b>	Kristin Bishop
<b>ODFW Staff:</b>	Alan Ritchey, Fish Screening and Passage Program Manager, Salem Katherine Nordholm, Fish Screen and Passage Coordinator, Salem Josh Hanson, ODOT Fish Passage Liaison Nathaniel Ashley, Fish Screening Coordinator (John Day)
<b>Public:</b>	

## Agenda

Initial agenda items included:

- ~9:00 am **Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions (Chair Thalacker)**
- ~9:10 **Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes, Review Meeting Agenda (Chair Thalacker)**
- ~9:15 **Public Comments (if requested)**
- ~9:30 **Task Force Member Round Table (all)**
- ~9:40 **ODFW Budget and Funding Update (Ritchey)**
- ~9:50 **Letter to Director (Chair Thalacker)**
- ~10:00 **Screen Shop Update (Ashley)**
- ~10:20 **North Canal Fish Screen Update (Nordholm)**
- ~10:30 **Fish Screen Task Force**
  - **Volunteer Training (Nordholm)**
  - **Meeting Schedule**
- ~10:50 **Review Action Items**
- ~11:00 am **Adjourn**

## Meeting Summary

### Motions:

#### **Meeting Minutes**

Marc Thalacker moved to approve the August 27<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Harris seconded the motion, and the Task Force approved 6-0.

#### **Letter to Director on Loss of Shop Positions**

Olson motioned to submit the Fish Screening Task Force letter for funding Freeland seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

### **Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions**

Marc Thalacker, Chair, called the meeting to order. Task force members introduced themselves.

### **Review and Approve October Meeting Minutes**

#### **Review and Approve Meeting Agenda**

Handouts:

*Fish Screening Task Force August 27, 2021, Meeting Minutes*

*Fish Screening Task Force October 22, 2021, Meeting Agenda*

#### **Meeting Minutes**

The meeting minutes from the August 27<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed.

### Motion:

Marc Thalacker moved to approve the August 27<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Harris seconded the motion, and the Task Force approved 6-0.

#### **Agenda**

The Task Force reviewed the meeting agenda.

### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **Task Force Member Round Table**

Task Force members discussed fish and water-related activities in their respective areas.

Olson – Shared his concerns about the Santiam River and the Detroit Reservoir after the 2020 fire. The main concern was debris flowing into the river. While this could have been a huge crisis, it hasn't been as bad as people feared.

Freeland – Shared his observations post 2020 fire on the McKenzie and the debris concerns on that river. He shared that the local anglers still felt that fish production was doing well despite the concerns about debris.

Vaivoda – Shared that Farmers Irrigation District has seen high level of sediments. It doesn't seem to be fire-related, but she suspects the hot weather melted more of the glaciers than usual, causing higher sedimentation.

Harris – There is finally some rain in the area; some crops have been delayed. The heat of the summer has really impacted many of the crops this year. Some customers are scrambling to make up their needs.

Thalacker – It has been nice to get some moisture. Central Oregon has been dry, and it has been a rough year for farmers; there have been historic shutdowns. COID shut down early for pipeline construction. The Plainview dam removal is just wrapping up, and they are finishing the channel restoration.

Barkstedt – discussed some of the issues in Portland. Especially impacting the demand for water is the increasing population. The infrastructure also needs updating, which could lead to a need for screening in the future.

### **ODFW Budget and Funding Update**

Nordholm shared an update on budget and funding. She provided background on the budget and funding in the screen program and the staff cuts that led the Task Force to vote to draft a letter to the director. The budget forecast has improved since the projections that were presented at the last meeting. She explained that the surcharges on fishing licenses have not changed since 2009, and the purchasing power of that money has decreased through time.

Nordholm also discussed the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Funds (PCSRF) and how those funds can only be used on projects that benefit anadromous fish species. Freeland asked where most of the cost-share funds come from.

Olson asked for an email before the next meeting with information on the budget, where funds come from, and where it goes. Nordholm agreed that that was a good idea.

Harris asked about the Integrated Water Recourse Plan. ODFW gained positions through the program. He asked if the ODFW fish passage or fish screening program would receive some of that money.

### **Letter to Director**

Handouts:

*Draft letter to the director*

Thalacker moved the meeting on to discussing the letter to the director. He read the letter and likes that the Task Force can hopefully help prevent any net losses in the screening program.

Nordholm explained that the letter specifically leaves out any mention of asking for an increase in surcharge fees. Olson asked if that should specifically be stated in the letter. Nordholm said that the intention was to leave it open for future asks. Thalacker noted that the budget situation

might need a legislative fix, and this letter is setting the stage for conversations with the commission and the legislature about sustainable funding for the program.

Olson asked how much more money was needed to keep the program funded to adequate levels. Nordholm stated that a lot would depend on the definition of “adequate levels”, but the program has been shrinking through time in terms of staff and the amount of projects implemented. Thalacker mentioned charts that Alan Ritchey had shared in the past that would be good to share before the next meeting. Thalacker has discussed that the current model is not sustainable, and that he is sure that the legislature will need to get involved. It would be nice to have a split between new screens and maintenance. There is a lot of need out there.

Olson asked about working with the Soil and Water and Conservation Board for funding for screens within their districts. Freeland asked about comparisons with other states with similar programs.

Ashley discussed partnering with the grant SWCD for projects and that being a good model.

Thalacker discussed how this letter was the first step in being proactive and his hope that ODFW could schedule a legislative tour next year.

Olson motioned to submit the Fish Screening Task Force letter for funding Freeland seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

### **Screen Shop Update**

Nathaniel Ashley gave a screen shop update for the John Day Screen shop. He reviewed the projects they have done over the past year. Last year they did five gravity fish screens; for comparison ~12-15 years ago the shop was implementing around 20 screens a year. He gave updates on the major projects they have implemented over the year. He also covered the shop’s struggle with maintenance and complications with getting special use permits.

### **North Canal Fish Screen Update**

Nordholm gave an update on the screens at North Canal. The screen was built in the 1940s. There was a design for a new screen partially funded by ODFW. The cost estimate was \$6 million; NUID was interested in getting a new design that may be less expensive. Nordholm updated the Task Force on the condition of the rubber seal. Around the screen. The seal is still intact and functioning. However, they did get some refined budget cost estimates for the second design, which came in at \$7.25 million due to higher material costs and some additional civil work. NUID is still looking for additional funding for the projects. There is a chance that NUID will be coming to the Task Force again asking for funds.

### **Fish Screen Task Force Issues**

#### **Volunteer Training**

Nordholm had sent the link for the volunteer training. Most members have taken the training; she encouraged task force members who have not taken the training to complete it in the next couple of weeks.

#### **Other Information**

Nordholm mentioned the Beaver State Podcast episodes on water and encouraged the task force to check it out.

**Meeting Schedule**

Before discussing the next meeting, Nordholm mentioned a few of the larger projects that the Fish Screening Program has coming before it this year. The first is the Screening Rules development process, the fish Screening Program is in statute, but there are no Oregon Administrative Rules for screening requirements. The program planned to develop rules in 2021, but the Fish Passage Program is going through a rules revision process, and ODFW did not want to confuse the process.

The second upcoming project is an update on the unscreened diversion priority list.

The task force discussed possible next meeting times and locations. They discussed the desire to have four meetings next year. Thalacker discussed the desire to have an in-person meeting or a site visit. The task force tentatively scheduled an in-person meeting with a possible site visit in any region.

Everyone decided that April was a good time for the next meeting, focusing on Early to mid-April. Nordholm will send out a Doodle before scheduling the next meeting. She will reach out to the screen shops to see about places to go for potential site visits.

Thursdays and Fridays work best for most of the members of the Task Force.

Meetings will be scheduled for April, June, August, October.

**Review Action Items**

**Action:**

- Nordholm will send a Doodle poll to schedule the next task force meeting.
- Develop information on the background and historical charts of funding.
- Send the funding update to the Task Force before to the next meeting.
- Present historical numbers on O&M, New Screens, Replacement Screens, etc.

**Adjourn**