

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD: 17JFT02 – Secondary Bypass and Raceway Release due to Navigation Outage

SUBJECT: The juvenile fish facilities were switched to secondary bypass and collected fish in the raceways were bypassed at Lower Granite, Little Goose and Lower Monumental dams due to an emergency navigation outage on the Columbia River related to a railroad vertical lift bridge blocking commercial navigation at river mile 323.

On the afternoon of July 19, 2017 the Union Pacific Columbia River vertical lift railroad bridge approximately 1 mile downstream of the Snake River confluence had a mechanical failure while in the down position blocking all commercial navigation past Columbia River mile 323. The Union Pacific initial estimate for return to normal commercial navigation was between 48 and 168 hours (one week). On the morning of July 20 the Union Pacific revised their estimate to return to commercial navigation by 1600 hours on July 20. By late afternoon, Union Pacific revised the length of the navigational outage by an additional 48-hours (return to normal late afternoon July 22) due to more extensive problems. Late afternoon on July 20 the CENWW Transportation Coordinator consulted with NMFS. A decision was reached to change to secondary bypass (end collection) at Lower Granite, Little Goose, and Lower Monumental dams as soon as possible. Fish already collected for transportation would be held until morning, at which time the navigation outage would be reassessed. Depending on this assessment, collected fish would either be transported if commercial navigation had resumed or bypassed to the river.

At approximately 1900 hours on July 20 Lower Granite and Lower Monumental dams switched from juvenile fish collection for transportation to secondary bypass operation. Little Goose switched from juvenile fish collection for transportation to secondary bypass operation at 0700 hours on July 21 when experienced staff were on-site. Previously collected juvenile fish in the Lower Granite Dam raceways were transported downstream approximately 1 mile by barge and released mid-channel at 0830 hours on July 21. At Little Goose Dam, previously collected juvenile fish in the raceways were bypassed to the river at 0900 on July 21. Previously collected juvenile fish in the raceways at Lower Monumental Dam were bypassed to the river at approximately 1100 on July 21.

Lower Granite, Little Goose, and Lower Monumental dams will remain in secondary bypass until commercial navigation in the Columbia River past mile 323 resumes. When commercial navigation in the Columbia River past mile 323 resumes Lower Granite, Little Goose, and Lower Monumental dams will resume collection/transportation operations as described in the FPP.

Repairs to the bridge were completed the evening of 23 July and Lower Granite, Little Goose, and Lower Monumental dams returned to collection by 0800 24 July.

- A. Species – NA
- B. Origin – NA
- C. Length – NA
- D. Marks and tags – NA
- E. Marks and Injuries found on carcass – NA
- F. Cause and Time of Death – NA
- G. Future and Preventative Measures – NA

Sincerely,
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