

FISH PASSAGE O&M COORDINATION TEAM
Adult and Juvenile Fish Facilities Status Report
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Walla Walla District
June 3, 2004

Construction

McNary Dam

Rehabilitation of Spillway Gates: Four spillway gates were scheduled for rehab work to begin in February (resurfacing wheels, installing low-friction seals, and painting). This work has been delayed until October at the earliest due to contract and funding problems. An additional four gates may also be rehabbed if funding permits. Conceivably, a total of eight gates could be completed by next spring.

Lower Granite Dam

Load Testing of Biological Guidance Structure: A test to determine loads on the cables and anchors of the BGS is tentatively scheduled for June 3-5 at the earliest. The BGS would be moved to its operating position on the first day, tested on the second day when the powerhouse is passing all flow, and moved back to its storage position on the third day. Flows of a little over 100 kcfs on the test day (June 4) would make for suitable testing conditions. The RSW would operate with training spill when the BGS is in its operating position and powerhouse flows are backed off.

Operations and Maintenance - Juvenile Fish Facilities

All facilities are operating. Daily fish barging began April 22 and continued until May 30. Alternate day barging will continue until August 15. Ice Harbor continues primary bypass. McNary will continue with alternate days of primary and secondary bypass until about late June when “springlike conditions” no longer exist (flows \geq 220 kcfs and water temps < 62°F), at which time barging of all fish will begin (except selected research fish).

	Fish Collection			
	LGR	LGS	LMO	MCN
2004 to-date	10,628,991	4,250,839	1,117,700	884,092

Operations and Maintenance - Adult Fish Facilities

All adult fishways are in operation. Pump 3 at McNary remains out of service, but the project is doing well in achieving operating criteria with two pumps. At Lower Granite, various problems with fishway operation began on May 7 (pump 1 shut down on overload, NPE weirgates not responding to commands, broken cable on NSE-2 weirgate). All repairs were completed by May 25.

Research

This is a partial summary of current research.

McNary Dam

McNary Modernization: The Corps is considering the installation of larger turbines within the next few years. Biological testing began in mid-April but has been occasionally interrupted due to concerns about fish mortality and descaling rates when turbine units are operated above the 1% range. After a conference call on May 28, the Corps recommended returning all units to operation within 1%. The Modernization team is now considering objectives of the planned 2004 tests, which objectives have been met, can be met, and how to get the required data either this year or in 2005. Another conference call is scheduled for June 4 to discuss testing for the rest of this year, including data needs for subyearlings.

McNary Transport Study: Juvenile fish transportation is being evaluated by using spring Chinook and steelhead PIT tagged and released at mid-Columbia River hatcheries. Barging of study fish began on April 17 and continues.

Lower Monumental Dam

Spillway Survival Testing at Lower Monumental: Spring/summer Chinook and steelhead were outfitted with radio-tags and balloon tags, and then passed through the spillway using bulk spill and BiOp spill. Testing ended on May 14.

Ice Harbor Dam

Spillway Survival Testing at Ice Harbor: Testing is scheduled to end July 15, using spring/summer Chinook, fall Chinook, and steelhead that have been radio-tagged and balloon-tagged at Lower Monumental. Test conditions include BiOp and bulk spill. Control fish are being released into the juvenile fish bypass.

Dworshak Dam

Just a heads up...The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is looking into the possibility of fertilizing the lake and/or watershed to increase the average size of kokanee and improve the fishery. Since completion of the dam, there has been a loss of marine-derived nutrients (e.g. carcasses of spawned out salmon and steelhead) that has adversely affected aquatic productivity. The problem of kokanee entrainment through the dam still needs to be solved, but recent research using strobe lights has shown promise. NEPA and ESA compliance would precede any action and fertilization is still several years away, if it happens.

Should We Reorganize Task Groups?

Three options:

1. Maintain the present task groups.
 - Fish Counting (Chairman: Stansell)
 - Headburn (Chairman: Basham)
 - Shad Fishery (Chairman: ?)
 - HELCRABS (Chairman: ?)
 - Avian Abatement (Chairman: ?)
 - TDA Sluiceway Operation (Chairman: Bettin)
 - BON Winter Spill for Adult Fish Attraction (Chairman: Bettin)
 - TDA Upstream/Downstream Fishway Entrance Priorities (Chairman: Cordie)
 - Special Operations (Chairman: ?)

2. Have two core task groups organized by district. Add other members as needed for specific issues.

Portland District Task Group

Gary Fredricks, NOAA

Larry Basham, FPC

Tom Lorz, CRITFC

Cal Sprague, USACE

Rudd Turner, USACE

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Wayne VanderNaald, ODFW

David Wills, USFWS

Walla Walla District Task Group

Bill Hevlin, NOAA

Larry Basham, FPC

Tom Lorz, CRITFC

Rex Baxter, USACE

Scott Boyd, USACE

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Wayne VanderNaald, ODFW

David Wills, USFWS

3. Have two core task groups organized by adult and juvenile fish issues. There would be 1 or 2 reps from both NWW and NWP on each group, and enough other FPOM members to round out the groups. We may want a “Special Project Task Group” that would take care of items that do not fit under the “adult” or “juvenile” categories.

Adult Task Group (at least 6 people)

Fish Counting

Headburn

Shad Fishery

HELCRABS

BON Winter Spill for Adult Fish Attraction

TDA Upstream/Downstream Fishway Entrance Priorities

Special Operations

Juvenile Task Group (at least 6 people)

Avian Abatement

TDA Sluiceway Operation

Special Operations

Prepared by: Rex Baxter