

FISH PASSAGE O&M COORDINATION TEAM
Adult and Juvenile Fish Facilities Status Report
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Walla Walla District
May 11, 2004

Construction

There is nothing new to report (see last month's report).

Operations and Maintenance - Juvenile Fish Facilities

All facilities are operating. Everyday fish barging began April 22 and is scheduled to continue until May 28. Daily fish collection at Lower Granite recently exceeded 800,000 fish – twice. These are the second and third highest daily collection totals ever (highest was about 910,000 a few years ago). Special spill occurred from 1510 hours on May 5 to 0600 hours on May 6 to avoid running fish through the facility that would have been bypassed anyway. Over 200,000 fish have been bypassed since May 5. Bypass due to excessive fish numbers has not yet occurred at the other projects. Daily mortality rates at Lower Granite have been unusually high several times during the past couple of weeks (maximum = 1.65%) but no definite cause has been determined. The lock outage at John Day is delaying the barges. Ice Harbor continues primary bypass. McNary continues with alternate days of primary and secondary bypass.

	Daily Fish Collection			
	LGR	LGS	LMO	MCN
22-Apr	42,538	26,686	35,900	0
23-Apr	24,180	29,102	45,200	9,340
24-Apr	79,552	148,506	63,900	658
25-Apr	172,537	180,809	26,400	26,685
26-Apr	284,627	151,014	20,100	2,552
27-Apr	416,119	93,407	15,424	28,876
28-Apr	209,353	215,412	23,350	1,455
29-Apr	360,448	190,904	14,620	48,207
30-Apr	397,014	154,205	17,414	2,529
1-May	328,186	119,006	12,267	50,124
2-May	234,496	66,207	6,813	1,931
3-May	284,293	189,808	3,076	50,011
4-May	378,759	81,402	1,297	1,827
5-May	805,523	95,823	9,609	41,435
6-May	822,686	102,625	10,318	1,626
7-May	603,581	333,016		29,720
8-May	662,805	344,210		1,635
9-May	462,389	165,819		30,104
Totals Since Startup	7,118,340	2,832,758	757,948	366,632

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 fishway operating criteria with two pumps. Repairs to pump 3 will likely begin in early November. 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). Repairs are anticipated to be completed May 10.

Research

This is a partial summary of current research. See last month's report for a complete listing and points of contact.

McNary Dam

McNary Modernization: The Corps is considering the installation of new turbines that would pass more water within the next few years. Some present studies in support of this effort include project survival using radio tags, FGE using hydroacoustics, and gatewell fish condition. Work began in mid-April but was stopped for a week or two due to concerns over high fish descaling rates. Efforts resumed on May 8.

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.

Kelt Study: The Fisheries Field Unit has so far this season outfitted over 400 steelhead kelts with radio tags (521 tags available). They are monitoring abundance, condition, passage routes, and return rates. Fish condition was generally very good in 2002, poorer in 2003, and is again very good so far in 2004. They are also doing a post-construction evaluation of The Dalles spill wall and Bonneville P2 corner collector.

Lower Monumental Dam

Spillway Survival Testing at Lower Monumental: This testing is similar to that at Ice Harbor. Spring/summer Chinook and steelhead are being outfitted with radio-tags and balloon tags. The bulk spill pattern was changed on May 10 because fish were being splashed from the river by using spillway bay 1. Bay 2 is now in use rather than bay 1.

Lower Granite Dam

Hydroacoustic Evaluation of Removable Spillway Weir: This study was scheduled to take place during much of the spring but only lasted from April 15 – 23 when spill was stopped due to low river flows. Hydroacoustic monitoring occurred for several days with the biological guidance structure (BGS) removed and for several days with the BGS in place.

Kelt Condition and Transport Evaluation: Tagging and barging of steelhead kelts began about April 10. Fish are being transported in net pens, separate from smolts. Some 290 kelts had been transported as of April 29.

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