

FPOM - ADULT FISH COUNTING PROGRAM TASK GROUP

10/7/04

Chairman – Robert Stansell, COE

Participants – Larry Basham FPC, Steve Richards and Victor Albaladejo WDFW,
Cal Sprague and Rex Baxter COE.

Purpose – The Adult Fish Counting Program Task Group is established to deal with issues concerning which species to count at which dam, special counting needs for research, fish passage problems or issues noted by or involving fish count stations, timely reporting of fish count information on the Corps' website, and implementation of improvements to the fish counting program in general.

Current Problem to Resolve:

Fish counts are required to be posted to the Corps webpage no later than the following morning Monday through Friday. This is not always the case due to several causes. One error in typing code for entry into CROHMS results in 0's for all fish for that dam and counts need to be re-entered when this is discovered. Errors made by incorrect addition and multiplication of the raw data may not be discovered or corrected up to a month later. If FFU personnel are unavailable to run the program to post the counts, or there are server or network connection problems, the counts are delayed.

Current Goal:

Improve the process of collecting and reporting fish counts so that human calculation and entry errors no longer exist, so that counts are posted to the Corps' fish count website soon after the day's counts are completed, and that the counts are posted 7 days per week.

Status:

The Fisheries Field Unit has worked with a contractor to develop a software program and hardware that enables fish counters to tally fish counts directly to a computer file, makes the expansion calculations automatically, and automatically sends the counts to a new and improved Corps fish count website at the end of the day. Hardcopies are printed out, and files are stored locally as a backup every hour and at the end of each shift. Contracting disputes delayed the expected implementation this spring, but have been resolved and we are moving ahead.

Proposed Schedule:

10/5-7/04 – Programmer will set up computers and train counters at Bonneville, The Dalles, and John Day count stations.

10/04 – Begin actual counting with the new system at NWP dams and post to the new website. Hard copies will still be sent to the bio-techs for entry into the old system. If problems arise, the old way will still be available and used so no data should be missed. This October is mainly for training and finding flaws.

Spring 2005 – Train and implement automatic program for NWP fish counters and fully implement new website. Get NWW district up to speed as soon as money and details can be worked out. New website will be used and pull NWW counts from old system so users can go to just one site for counts.