

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD: 23 LGS 11 Second Adult Chinook Mortality****SUBJECT: Isolated Fish Ladder Incident – Single Adult Chinook Mortality**Background

On the morning of July 20, USACE maintenance personnel informed LGS JFF staff of an adult fish mortality below the lower run fish ladder (see photos). The fish was found between a concrete column and plastic barricades. The abdominal and pericardial cavities were torn open and internal organs were gone. No sign of fish scales, etc. were found in the section of fish ladder walkway above where the salmon was found. We believed the fish jumped from the fishway and over the 56” railing, then fell to the ground where it was moved to the location where it was found by a scavenger.

- A. Species – Chinook salmon *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*
- B. Origin – Wild
- C. Length – 30 inches
- D. Marks and tags – None, adipose intact
- E. Marks and Injuries found on carcass – Large wounds posterior to right pectoral fin exposing abdominal cavity and another immediately anterior to right pectoral fin exposing the pericardial cavity, skull apparently crushed, descale.
- F. Cause and Time of Death – Blunt force trauma, hypoxia. Estimated window for time of death early 7/14/23 based on first observation by USACE maintenance personnel.
- G. Future and Preventative Measures – LGS has experienced very few adult ladder “jumper” mortalities, with an occurrence rate of approximately 1 every 3 years. Serious consideration is being given to expand taller plastic mesh lining options at steeper ladder inclines, however addition of netting / mesh infrastructure presents major obstacles in regards to ladder access and fish rescue operations during annual unwatering activities in preparation for winter maintenance.
- H. Regional coordination and responses/comments –
- I. Next FPOM meeting (add to agenda for review) -



Sincerely,  
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