

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: TSW closures for navigation safety.

Narrative: In the past, bays 19 and 20 had standard gates in place into August. At times, other bays were used for August’s 20 kcfs in order to install the TSW in bay 20 for the fallback season. This is the first year both TSW’s have remained open into August and provide most of the spill flow of 20 kcfs. This surface flow may have led to a condition not previously encountered. To our knowledge, there has never been an issue with one TSW in bay 20 open.

Tidewater is having trouble navigating on the upstream approach with TSW spill from bays 19 and 20. There is guidance for the Corps to adjust spill patterns as necessary to accommodate navigation safety (FPP 2024, Appendix E (FOP), Sections 4.1 and 4.6). After being contacted by a Tidewater spokesman, the chief operator spoke with the assistant biologist (who spoke to district biologists), the Chief of Operations and the project biologist to develop a feasible plan for the weekend. The Tidewater spokesman was contacted back at 1720 hours on August 23, Friday.

For the weekend, when we were contacted by a barge on the upstream approach, if they requested a navigation friendly pattern or to shut TSW’s, or words to that effect, we’ll closed bays 19 and/or 20. Tidewater expected six barges between Friday and Monday. There was enough time for the TSW’s to closed and flow to settle with their 30-minute radio call on the approach. Once the barge was past the wing wall we restored flow. If there were two barges in short order coming up, it was best to leave the TSW’s closed so both barges could enter. See the table below.

Weekend Barge Traffic.

Date	Time Closure Started	Time Fully Closed	Time Fully Open	Bays	No. Barges
Aug 24	0718	0734	0753	19/20	1
Aug 24	1310	1315	1341	19/20	1
Aug 25	0824	0840	0918	19	2
Aug 25	1334	Barge entered. Bays not fully closed.	1402	19/20	1
Aug 25	1415	1433	1502	19/20	1

Location: McNary spillway.

Method: Close bays 19 and/or 20 for barge traffic. Some slight effects were reported when only bay 19 was closed.

Timeline - Duration: As outlined in above table.

A. Species: NA

B. Origin: NA

C. Length: NA

D. Marks and Tags: NA

E. Marks and Injuries Found on the Carcasses: NA

F. Future and Preventative Measures: There will need to be a discussion for a longer-term approach to support the barge traffic and meet fish passage requirements. There needs to be a contingency to cover this issue until end of month. During the weekend, these adjustments appeared to be practical but Monday through Thursday, this may not be the case. Also, starting September 1, we are required to operate bay 20 open four hours every morning until November 15. However, it has never been stated before that one TSW is detrimental to navigation.

G. Photos Taken: No

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