

JOHN DAY DAM

SOUTH ADULT FISHWAY

**REMOVE UNNEEDED WEIRS 156-158 (THREE TOTAL)**

1. **PURPOSE:** To improve adult fish passage at JD South Adult Fishway by eliminating slow velocities/increasing flow at the base of its Collection Channel (south end/90 degrees bend area.)
2. **PRIMARY REFERENCE:** *HELCRABS - JD South Fish Ladder, Hydraulic/Operational Evaluation, 2005 by COE, Portland District.*  
This report is slightly outdated as its baseline hydraulic measurements were performed in 2004, when the JD South Collection Channel still operated with 10 FOGs (Floating Orifice Gates.) The current operation involves Four FOGs; six FOGs were deemed unnecessary by biological/radio telemetry evaluations and were eliminated in 2005.
3. **NATURE OF PROPOSED ACTION:** It is an old issue, with the symmetrical action already implemented as part of the JD North Fishway Entrance Improvements/Modifications in 2013. JD South Weirs' removal used to be on the CFRM list of work to be performed, but has never been implemented due to logistical and schedule difficulties during the same time frame (2012-2013.)
4. **HELCRABS recommends** Weirs 156-158 removal as STEP # 3, Executive Summary, page VIII. As a practical matter, I believe that it could provide the best bang for the buck and therefore it should be done first (STEP # 1.) A justification is that the historical JD radiotelemetry studies have consistently identified their location as place, where the migrating adult salmonids stall/turn around/ fall back and leave the fishways entirely. Therefore, a relative biological value of their removal could significantly exceed the small hydraulic benefits stipulated/predicted by the HELCRABS' Hydraulic analysis.

5. **BOTTOM LINE:**

-JD Weirs 156-158 were judged as unnecessary and official permission for their removal has been given by the District's Hydraulic Engineering Section.

- Their removal won't have any negative impact on the fish passage in the JD South Fishway.

- Why not remove them and see if this action could significantly solve/ improve the JD South Fishway's fish passage problem?

