

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: 13BON87 MFR – Chinook and coho salmon mortalities at Bonneville's Adult Fish Facility (AFF).

On the morning of 03 October 2013, WDFW researchers contacted Project Fisheries to report two salmon mortalities (one Chinook and one coho). While in transit (release group 2 of 4) the day prior two salmon escaped the transportation tank via topside filling port. This topside filling port had a piece of wood that was clamped down and apparently became free from the tank at some juncture. WDFW researchers stopped after witnessing the second fish escape and secured the piece of wood. The mortalities were not immediately recovered as researchers had the remaining fish to release. Once sampling had finished for the day WDFW researchers returned to the location they observed the fish escape the tank. These fish were brought to WDFW office and froze overnight. They were returned to the Bonneville project the following morning for project fisheries to examine and photograph. All research groups currently working in the AFF have been reminded that retaining dead fish and notifying Project Fisheries in real time is an FPP requirement.

(See attached email correspondences)

Information is collected below:

- A. Species – Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*).
 - B. Origin – Unknown.
 - C. Length – 60 cm.
 - D. Marks and tags – PIT: 3DD.003BB93619.
 - D. Marks and Injuries found on carcass – Difficult to tell as fish were frozen when observed by project fisheries. It is not believed there were any though.
 - E. Cause and Time of Death – Release group 2 of 4 on 02 October 2013.
 - F. Future and Preventative Measures – Researchers will verify that the topside filling port is secure prior to transporting fish. Improvements to this particular feature of the tank should be investigated to avoid future occurrences.
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- A. Species – Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*).
 - B. Origin – Unknown.
 - C. Length – 65 cm.
 - D. Marks and tags – Adipose Clipped & PIT: 3DD.003BB93636 .
 - E. Marks and Injuries found on carcass – Difficult to tell as fish were frozen when observed by project fisheries. It is not believed there were any though.
 - F. Cause and Time of Death – Release group 2 of 4 on 02 October 2013.
 - G. Future and Preventative Measures – Researchers will verify that the topside filling port is secure prior to transporting fish. Improvements to this particular feature of the tank should be investigated to avoid future occurrences.



Thank you the reply. As you can imagine, I was not happy to get the call last night, well after the facet. I understand things like this can happen, but the fact that it wasn't reported to the Corps immediately (nor to me) was not acceptable, as the technicians know to report all mortalities. I will pass your message on again, so that something like this does not occur in the future.

A few of us walked the section of Highway 14 from Skamania Landing to the AFF this morning, to double check that no other fish escaped, and no additional fish were found.

Ann

Ann E. Stephenson
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Region 5 Fish Program - Alternative Gear
WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
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(360) 696-6211 ex. 6866
(360) 600-8274 cell

-----Original Message-----

From: Hausmann, Ben J NWP [<mailto:Ben.J.Hausmann@usace.army.mil>]

Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2013 8:42 AM

To: Stephenson, Ann E (DFW)

Cc: Kinne, Eric B (DFW); Bissell, Brian M NWP; Royer, Ida M NWP; Traylor, Andrew NWP; 'slee@uidaho.edu'; Joosten, Daniel; Johnson, Eric

Subject: RE: 10-2-2013 jumpers

Ann,

Please stress to your employees the requirement for notifying our office of any mortalities in real time. It is my understanding that they returned and continued sampling without any notification coming our way. Not only is this an FPP requirement (Appendix G), but there are situations where the circumstances of a particular mortality may warrant action on our part prior to further sampling. In addition, fish jumping out on the highway from a truck pulling out of Bonneville Dam gives the impression to the public that those incidents are the responsibility of the Corps. This is the second incident by WDFW of failing to properly report mortalities to us this year. I've included U of I personnel on this e-mail as there is a tight working relationship with the two groups in there right now. There shouldn't still be misunderstanding of the requirements among the folks working in the AFF.

I know everyone is in a hurry to try to meet study objectives but having sampling shut down due to these types of issues will move everyone in the wrong direction.

I'm teleworking today with construction going on in my office but feel free to get in touch with me if you like.

Thank you.

Ben

Ben Hausmann
Fisheries Biologist
Bonneville Lock and Dam
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-----Original Message-----

From: Stephenson, Ann E (DFW) [<mailto:Ann.Stephenson@dfw.wa.gov>]

Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2013 6:58 AM

To: Bissell, Brian M NWP; Hausmann, Ben J NWP

Cc: Kinne, Eric B (DFW)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: 10-2-2013 jumpers

Brian,

Regarding our phone conversation, see below. This was the second transport for the day out of I believe 4 total. U of I did the drop before this one. The Coho was AD clipped and the Chinook was unmarked/unclipped.

Please let me know if you have any question. The techs that were working yesterday will not be at the AFF today, but I can always call them for more information. I'm am heading out that way this morning to make sure there weren't any fish they missed in the dark.

Ann

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From: Lloyd, Laurie L (DFW)
Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2013 10:49 PM
To: Stephenson, Ann E (DFW)
Subject: 10-2-2013 jumpers

During the transport of WDFW tank 1, from Bonneville to Skamania Landing a piece of wood blocking a port hole in the top of the recovery tank came free, and two fish jumped from the tank. I did not witness the first fish jump, but I did witness the second and immediately pulled over to cover the hole. I did not immediately recover the witnessed jumper as I had fish to deliver and needed to return to Bonneville as quickly as possible. Jerry saw the second fish during his transport, and when the AFF had been shut down we returned to the sites where the fish had been seen, and recovered both.

Both fish were scanned for pit tags, after our return to Region 5, and the data imputed to the datalogger/computer.

Fish info:

1. Coho male, AD, 650mm, partial pit 1993753
2. Bright female, NM, 600mm, partial pit 1993782

Both fish are in the smelt freezer, 3rd from the ext. door.

The block of wood was replaced and the clamps checked for tightness.

Laura Lloyd

Sincerely,
Bonneville Fisheries