

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**

**SUBJECT: 18BON50 MFR –Sea Lion Exclusion Devices (SLEDs) Out Of Criteria.**

According to FPP section 2.4.2.11.iii., “SLEDs will be raised by June 1 for adult sockeye passage and lowered by July 20, or as soon as possible if a sea lion is observed in the fishway.” Bonneville staff did not remove SLEDs during this period, taking BON out of FPP criteria for the period (50 days). We believe that the presence of sea lions at BON for 27 out of 50 days of the timeframe made leaving SLEDs in place a priority, preventing animals from entering the fish ladders.

According to statements taken from “17BON006 – SLEDs Operating Criteria- December 29, 2016 File Memorandum from Gary Fredricks, NOAA,:

“5. The effect of the SLEDs on fish passage was studied in 2005 and 2006 (Jepson et al. 2007 draft report.). Only the 2006 SLEDs were of the current design. No significant effects were found on passage of spring Chinook in either year although there was some slowing of entry into a fishway after first approach in 2005.

6. I could find no evaluation of SLED effects on lamprey or other salmon species, particularly sockeye which, because of their size, may be more sensitive to the SLED hydraulics.”

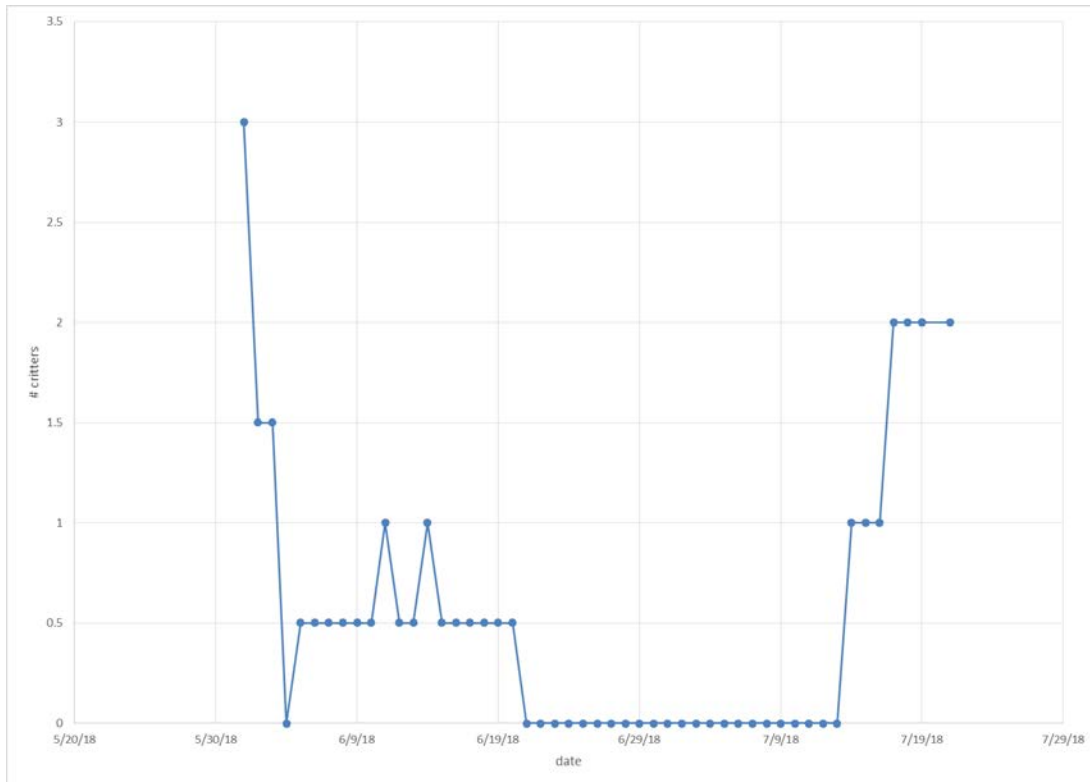


Figure 1. Sea Lion presence at Bonneville Dam from 01 June 2018 to 20 July 18. Courtesy of Kyle Tidwell.

Sincerely,  
Project Fisheries