

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**SUBJECT: 19BON55 MFR – Emergency Dewatering Nav Lock 2 – Salmon Mortalities.**

Bonneville's Nav Lock was taken out of service to all navigation traffic on 05 September after an ROV indicated significant structural damage to the downstream gate sill. A floating barge-crane was brought in on Friday, 06 September to install the downstream bulkheads and dewatering operations commenced. Due to the emergency nature of the dewatering operation, water was pumped throughout the night to allow access first thing Saturday morning. While cameras were trained on the area, at daybreak the water level was determined to be too low and twenty five mortalities were observed.

- A. Species – (25) Salmon (*Oncorhynchus species*). (21 Chinook and 4 Coho)
- B. Origin – (19) clipped and (6) non-clipped fish observed.
- C. Length – Lengths were not obtained.
- D. Marks and/or tags – No marks and/or tags observed.
- E. Marks and/or Injuries found on carcass – See photo, No marks and/or injuries observed.
- F. Cause and Time of Death – Morning of 07 September, human error.
- G. Future and Preventative Measures – Due to the emergency nature of this dewatering water was required to be pumped overnight. Ordinarily visual inspection occurs minimizing the risk of stranding fish.





Sincerely,
Bonneville Project Fisheries

CRITFC

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

From: Tom Lorz [mailto:lorz@critfc.org]

Sent: Monday, September 09, 2019 4:51 PM

To: Kovalchuk, Erin H CIV USARMY CENWP (US) <Erin.H.Kovalchuk@usace.army.mil>; Trevor Conder - NOAA Federal <trevor.conder@noaa.gov>

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: FPOM: Official Coordination 19BON54 MFR AFF UKN Salmonid Mort and 19BON55 MFR NavLock Salmonid Morts

Thanks for the update.

I am troubled by the morts at the Nav Locke, while I understand this was an emergency, it is apparent that something was missed, either the alarm system was inadequate or why did they not have someone check on the water levels hrly. This was an unnecessary impact that was totally avoidable. What do we need to do to insure that in situations like this adequate precautions are taken. We need more

discussion at this weeks FPOM. I also hope we will be discussing the apparent oversight in coordination for the work that was being done at Bonneville that was noted by NOAA at the end of August.

NOAA

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

From: Trevor Conder - NOAA Federal [mailto:trevor.conder@noaa.gov]

Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 10:27 AM

To: Kovalchuk, Erin H CIV USARMY CENWP (US) <Erin.H.Kovalchuk@usace.army.mil>; Hausmann, Benjamin J CIV USARMY CENWP (USA) <Benjamin.J.Hausmann@usace.army.mil>

Cc: Ritchie Graves <Ritchie.graves@noaa.gov>

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: FPOM: Official Coordination 19BON54 MFR AFF UKN Salmonid Mort and 19BON55 MFR NavLock Salmonid Morts

Erin,

As you are fully aware, the mortalities in the Navlock are unfortunate and every attempt to avoid these instances should be made in future dewaterings. I understand this was an emergency situation that required urgency, but from the FPOM discussion, I heard that the fisheries section provided a sufficient dewatering plan to the operators that should have avoided this issue if the operators simply followed the plan. My questions to the Corps is why was the dewatering plan not followed per instructions, and what steps can be taken in the future to make sure the dewatering plan is followed to avoid these types of situations in the future?

-Trevor

Response from BON project

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

From: Hausmann, Benjamin J CIV USARMY CENWP (USA)

Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 10:53 AM

To: Trevor Conder - NOAA Federal <trevor.conder@noaa.gov>; Kovalchuk, Erin H CIV USARMY CENWP (US) <Erin.H.Kovalchuk@usace.army.mil>

Cc: Ritchie Graves <Ritchie.graves@noaa.gov>

Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Re: FPOM: Official Coordination 19BON54 MFR AFF UKN Salmonid Mort and 19BON55 MFR NavLock Salmonid Morts (UNCLASSIFIED)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Trevor,

I just want to clarify one point. The document that I was referencing in the FPOM meeting is the Nav Lock dewatering protocol. It is not supplied by Fisheries but it does make reference in multiple steps on when and where to hold water for fish. Why this document was not adhered to is my main question. I have discussed the issue one on one with several L-grade operators in order to get their feedback on what changes, if any, should be made to the protocol to assure this doesn't occur again. It has been the consensus of the operators that the process is proper and thorough but that it cannot prevent issues of human error and that's what ultimately caused these mortalities. I realize this explanation will not completely satisfy you and others concerned by this. Please know that those of us who are tasked with preventing these mortalities at Bonneville are very displeased and frustrated with this occurrence and will do everything in our power to insure it doesn't happen again. Process review and re-training and some of the steps we are currently taking.

Thanks for the comments.

Ben