

**OFFICIAL COORDINATION REQUEST FOR  
NON-ROUTINE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**

**COORDINATION TITLE- 19BON64 Early Bradford Island Orifice Flow**

**COORDINATION DATE- 25 November 2019**

**PROJECT- Bonneville**

**RESPONSE DATE- 29 November**

**Description of the problem**

It has been observed that the need for handling and transporting fish is decreased the earlier orifice flow is initiated before dewatering. The plan is for the ladder to go to orifice flow on Saturday 30 November, dry and fished down to tail water Monday 02 December. This would give fish an additional day to back out on their own.

**Type of outage required**

**Impact on facility operation (FPP deviations)**

Orifice flow for Bradford Island fish ladder to begin 1 day early (Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>)

**Impact on unit priority**

None

**Impact on forebay/tailwater operation**

None

**Impact on spill**

None

**Dates of impacts/repairs**

30 November 2019

**Length of time for repairs**

**Analysis of potential impacts to fish**

1. 10-year average passage by run during the period of impact for adults

mm/dd	Avg09-18:BON:Chin (fish/day)	Avg09-18:BON:Stlhd (fish/day)
11/30	8	28

2. This year's Chinook run has been below average and passage is not expected to exceed the daily average during the work period. The Steelhead run has also been below average and passage is expected to be similar to the daily average during the work period.

3. On average, 8 Fall Chinook pass Bonneville on 30 November
4. Fish that might normally pass up the Bradford Island ladder will be delayed and face predation as they search for alternative routes.

**Summary statement - expected impacts on:**

**Downstream migrants**

None.

**Upstream migrants (including Bull Trout)**

Impacts of migrating salmonids are expected to be minimal due to the time of year. Fish in and approaching the ladder will be delayed until they find an alternate ladder. Sea Lions are present all year and increase the risk of predation for a delayed fish.

**Lamprey**

Minimal. Historically, few lamprey are observed in the adult fishways this time of year.

**Comments from agencies**

191114 FPOM meeting minutes –

- 4.2.3. BON dewatering – BON will take out BI down to orifice flow on 30 Nov. FPOM concurred.

**CRITFC**

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

From: Tom Lorz [mailto:lorz@critfc.org]  
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2019 4:16 PM  
To: Kovalchuk, Erin H CIV USARMY CENWP (US)  
<Erin.H.Kovalchuk@usace.army.mil>  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: FPOM: Official Coordination 19BON64 MOC  
Early BI ladder Orifice Flow

Thinking about it more I was thinking that they could go to orifice flow on midnight on the 30th or sometime after several hours after dark. That way we still get passage for most of the day but then get at least nearly half a day or more of orifice flow before they would start. That seems like a reasonable compromise.

Tom Lorz  
CRITFC

**NOAA**

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

From: Trevor Conder - NOAA Federal [mailto:trevor.conder@noaa.gov]  
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2019 10:30 AM  
To: Kovalchuk, Erin H CIV USARMY CENWP (US)  
<Erin.H.Kovalchuk@usace.army.mil>  
Cc: Lorz, Tom <lorz@critfc.org>; Mackey, Tammy M CIV USARMY CENWP (US)

<Tammy.M.Mackey@usace.army.mil>; Josie Thompson  
<josie.thompson@noaa.gov>  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: FPOM: Official Coordination 19BON64 MOC  
Early BI ladder Orifice Flow

Erin,

After speaking with a few folks about this yesterday, I still have a couple of concerns with this request. My main concern is that the FPP does not require a Bio present on Dec 1 which in this case is Sunday. After the mortality event at the Navlock dewatering this year, I do not feel comfortable having operators maintain orifice flow in the ladder all day Sunday without a Biologist present given there is a risk of total dewater and mortality. That leads me to my second point, having a Bio present Sunday will cost additional O&M funding, which seems to be the main driver for this early dewater request. They can dewater Monday and still give themselves an extra day for fish to back out, but it risks additional overtime for the project and that's the main reason for this. I'm not a big fan of violating the FPP and the precedent it sets because O&M funding is being reduced or prioritized elsewhere. Following the FPP is the cost of doing business, and if anything O&M funding should be increasing given the state of the aging infrastructure, especially at BON. So, I see two options that would satisfy my concerns, either wait until Monday to go to orifice flow as per the FPP, or continue with this plan, but have a Bio on site Sunday to monitor the ladder. Let me know if we need to follow up on anything soon, I am out for the rest of the week after today.

-Trevor

**BON USACE response**

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

From: Hausmann, Benjamin J CIV USARMY CENWP (USA)  
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2019 11:58 AM  
To: Kovalchuk, Erin H CIV USARMY CENWP (US)  
<Erin.H.Kovalchuk@usace.army.mil>  
Cc: Mackey, Tammy M CIV USARMY CENWP (US)  
<Tammy.M.Mackey@usace.army.mil>  
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Re: FPOM: Official Coordination 19BON64  
MOC Early BI ladder Orifice Flow (UNCLASSIFIED)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Erin,

It sounds like there is some misunderstanding about orifice flow and how the dewatering procedure works. We are requesting to go to orifice flow on the 30th for fish protection. We want to get started on winter maintenance as soon as possible since we only have three months and no opportunity to work overtime anymore. With the 1st being a Sunday, if we start orifice flow per the FPP and provide the days required to back fish out, we won't be able to dewater until midweek at the earliest. This runs the risk of not getting things dewatered that first week and potentially losing an entire week of maintenance if it gets pushed back to the week of the 9th. Starting orifice flow on the 30th allows more fish to back out of the ladder prior to fully dewatering so we handle fewer fish. We cannot do this at night because we want a bio to be in charge of setting orifice flow and it requires daylight so you can

clearly see water levels. It takes several hours to get it set to a point where it has stabilized and we are comfortable with it. Once the ladder is to orifice flow on Saturday, it will not need to be touched unit we come back in on Monday. Operations will not be adjusting anything in our absence so there is no risk of mortalities. Funding is not the main driver of this early orifice flow request. It's more based on what day of the week Dec 1st falls on and how many days we need for successfully backing fish out of the ladder. We would like to stick with the request to go to orifice flow on Saturday. Please let folks know that we are willing and able to explain these details to them if there is still confusion or anyone has questions.  
Thanks Erin.

Ben

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

From: Trevor Conder - NOAA Federal [mailto:trevor.conder@noaa.gov]  
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2019 3:07 PM  
To: Kovalchuk, Erin H CIV USARMY CENWP (US)  
<Erin.H.Kovalchuk@usace.army.mil>  
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Re: FPOM: Official Coordination 19BON64 MOC Early BI ladder Orifice Flow (UNCLASSIFIED)

So why is overtime no longer allowed if it is not a funding issue?

Trevor Conder  
NOAA Fisheries

**CRITFC Response**

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

From: Tom Lorz [mailto:lort@critfc.org]  
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2019 12:52 PM  
To: Kovalchuk, Erin H CIV USARMY CENWP (US)  
<Erin.H.Kovalchuk@usace.army.mil>; trevor.conder@noaa.gov  
Cc: Hausmann, Benjamin J CIV USARMY CENWP (USA)  
<Benjamin.J.Hausmann@usace.army.mil>; Mackey, Tammy M CIV USARMY CENWP (US) <Tammy.M.Mackey@usace.army.mil>  
Subject: Re: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Re: FPOM: Official Coordination 19BON64 MOC Early BI ladder Orifice Flow (UNCLASSIFIED)

I am not super excited, worried about slippery slope and not having people there to check but can go along with this but go to orifice flow as late in the day as possible ie start at noon if it takes 4 hours, if it takes 2 do at 2 something like that.....make sure there are low water alarms or some insurance that we do not dry up the ladder and loose any adults. You shld talk to trevor, might have to try his cell he might be chasing elk.

**Final coordination results** – After evaluating the comments, Bonneville felt that it was in the best interest of the fish and the Corps to move forward with the coordination.

**After Action update** – BON went to orifice flow effectively on 30 Nov. Salvage operations began on 03 Dec. No adverse effects were noted from the early orifice flow.

Please email or call with questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Erin

Erin Kovalchuk  
NWP Operations Division Fishery Section  
Columbia River Coordination Biologist  
[Erin.H.Kovalchuk@usace.army.mil](mailto:Erin.H.Kovalchuk@usace.army.mil)

Ben Hausmann  
Chief of Fisheries  
Bonneville Dam