

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD****SUBJECT: 22BON005 early release of 1.1M Tule Fall Chinook from SCNFH**

On 10 March Spring Creek National Fish Hatchery (SCNFH) reported an outbreak of bacterial gill d (BGD) in the tule fall Chinook. Fish were treated at the facility, but due to the water reuse at the facility and the potential for disease spreading at the hatchery FWS Fish Health recommended early release of 1.1M Tule Fall Chinook.

10 March at 1230 – Fish were released to the Columbia River. Smolt Monitoring at Bonneville's JMF were notified and measures to handle the fish were discussed.

11 March at 0700 - the BON JMF switched to bypass to avoid collecting any of these fish. The JMF will stay in bypass through the weekend and resume sampling on Monday to check for presence of these fish.

**UPDATES**

12 March at 2030 – Ken Lujan reported the release of approximately 2.8 million unmarked fish.

14 March – Due to the continued release of infected Spring Creek fish, PSMFC recommends leaving the JMF in bypass. Gallion and Mackey will work with RCC, BPA, and BON to try to coordinate periodic opening of the B2CC to quickly pass fish. SCNFH released 5.6M fish by 1300 hours today, for a total of 10.8M since Thursday. At this time it is expected that the B2CC will remain open, in some capacity, through the week. (See email from RCC below).

- A. Species – *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* Tule Fall Chinook
- B. Origin – Spring Creek National Fish Hatchery
- C. Length – 38mm-51mm (180-220 fish/lb)
- D. Marks and tags – Unmarked and untagged
- E. Marks and Injuries found on carcass – fish appear normal other than their gills
- F. Cause and Time of death – fish were alive at the time of release.
- G. Future and Preventative Measures – BGD is a common disease. Often the best option, when in a hatchery setting, is to release fish early rather than risk contamination of other raceways or species. FPOM may want to consider developing language that would allow for the use of the B2CC to flush these fish through the system quickly, rather than have them enter the JBS and potentially contaminate the DSM and JMF facilities.



Spring Creek raceways.

Sincerely,  
NWP Fish Section  
Smolt Monitoring  
Project Fisheries

Comments from others –

**BPA** - -----Original Message-----

From: Bettin, Scott W (BPA) - EWP-4 <swbettin@bpa.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 2:33 PM

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Notification of emergency release at Spring Creek NFH and early release at Warm Springs NFH

The transmission outage is scheduled to last through the afternoon on the 18th and we have prioritized having the corner collector open until then. Let me know if you will need it longer. If so an SOR will likely be needed. -s

**NWP and RCC** –

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

From: Gallion, Darren G CIV USARMY CENWP (USA) <[Darren.G.Gallion@usace.army.mil](mailto:Darren.G.Gallion@usace.army.mil)>

Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 1:20 PM

Subject: FW: Early Release at Spring Creek NFH - Corner Collector

Hello Doug and Lisa,

Spring Creek NFH released the remainder of their fish today, so 10.8M since Thursday March 10th. I spoke with Dean Ballinger (PSMFC), he said passage timing is depending on overall flow and spill, but thought it might take a week to get those fish to pass Bonneville. So, I'd like to request morning and evening openings of B2CC through 3/21. Please let me know if you need any more information.

Thanks,

Darren

From: Wright, Lisa S CIV USARMY CENWD (USA) <[Lisa.S.Wright@usace.army.mil](mailto:Lisa.S.Wright@usace.army.mil)>

Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 2:05 PM

Subject: RE: Early Release at Spring Creek NFH - Corner Collector

Hi Darren. The BON corner collector is currently already open due to flows that are above hydraulic capacity, and it looks like it will remain open over the next week or so (for at least a portion of each day), based the current turbine outage schedule and forecasted inflows. Also, once the steelhead kelt abundance trigger is met, the corner collector will be opened 24 hours/day – I'm not sure where they are in the counts but that historically happens in mid-March. So it looks like conditions have aligned so that your request is already being met.

To see when the corner collector is open, go to the following website and scroll down to "Miscellaneous Flow" – when the corner collector is open, misc flow will be 12.4 kcfs (misc flow also includes the adult fishways, DSM, sluiceway, etc).

[http://pweb.crohms.org/dd/nwdp/project\\_hourly/webexec/rep?r=bon&ago=0](http://pweb.crohms.org/dd/nwdp/project_hourly/webexec/rep?r=bon&ago=0)

Hope that helps but please let me know if anything else.

Best,

Lisa

**FPC/PSMFC/Gallion/USFWS email traffic –**

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

From: Brandon Chockley <BChockley@fpc.org>

Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 8:45 AM

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Spring Creek NFH HET meeting

I agree that the JBS at BON should remain in primary bypass for at least the next few days while these additional releases from Spring Creek NFH pass.

Brandon R. Chockley

Data Analyst/Fishery Biologist

Fish Passage Center

847 NE 19th Ave, Suite 250

Portland, OR 97232

Office: 503-833-3907

Fax: 503-232-1259

[bchockley@fpc.org](mailto:bchockley@fpc.org) <<mailto:bchockley@fpc.org>>

From: Rick Martinson <[rickdm@gorge.net](mailto:rickdm@gorge.net)>

Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 8:34 AM

Subject: RE: Spring Creek NFH HET meeting

Sounds like a good idea Dean.

Thanks,

Rick

From: Dean Ballinger [<mailto:Deanb@gorge.net>]

Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 8:16 AM

Subject: RE: Spring Creek NFH HET meeting

All,

Given this update and the subsequent millions of additional fish released into the system, I recommend the SMF remain in bypass mode for at least the next several days while the bulk of these fish pass the project.

Dean

From: Gallion, Darren G CIV USARMY CENWP (USA) [<mailto:Darren.G.Gallion@usace.army.mil>]

Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 7:36 AM

Subject: RE: Spring Creek NFH HET meeting

Correction, SCNFH has release ~5M fish in total and are monitoring those left on station to see if they have to release those. I verified with Andrew Derugin The CC is NOT open currently and there is no spill, apparently a flow forecast changed.

Darren

From: Lujan, Kenneth <[kenneth\\_lujan@fws.gov](mailto:kenneth_lujan@fws.gov) <[mailto:kenneth\\_lujan@fws.gov](mailto:kenneth_lujan@fws.gov)>>

Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 8:30 PM

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Spring Creek NFH HET meeting

Hello all,

**From:** Carie, David <[david\\_carie@fws.gov](mailto:david_carie@fws.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2022 10:17 AM

**To:** Lujan, Kenneth <[kenneth\\_lujan@fws.gov](mailto:kenneth_lujan@fws.gov)>; Gallion, Darren G CIV USARMY CENWP (USA) <[Darren.G.Gallion@usace.army.mil](mailto:Darren.G.Gallion@usace.army.mil)>

**Cc:** Clark, Michael L <[michael\\_l\\_clark@fws.gov](mailto:michael_l_clark@fws.gov)>

**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Re: [EXTERNAL] Rearing Status Update

Darren, the decision was made to release the remainder of the fry today to take advantage of the conditions at the Dam. I'm not sure who else to contact, so could you please forward this info to the appropriate people?

thanks

Dave Carie, Manager  
Spring Creek National Fish Hatchery  
Deputy Complex Manager  
Columbia River Gorge NFH Complex  
61552 State Hwy 14  
Underwood, WA 98651  
(509) 493-1730 Office  
(509) 433-1236 Cell

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Total from today's release was approximately 2.8 million unmarked fish. Please let me know if any questions.

Ken  
Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 12, 2022, at 5:33 PM, Thompson, David <[david\\_thompson@fws.gov](mailto:david_thompson@fws.gov)> <[mailto:david\\_thompson@fws.gov](mailto:david_thompson@fws.gov)> > wrote:

Hi folks,

Since bacterial gill disease has been causing an explosive mortality situation coupled with Spring Creek being a 95% recirculating facility hatchery and fish health staff went over today's mort numbers and the health of the fish in the raceways and decided, in order for the hatchery to be able to keep up with treating the healthier raceways that we needed to emergency release a total of 9 raceways on Saturday and will be evaluating 6 more Sunday for an emergency release Sunday.

David  
Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 12, 2022, at 9:08 AM, Carie, David <[david\\_carie@fws.gov](mailto:david_carie@fws.gov)> <[mailto:david\\_carie@fws.gov](mailto:david_carie@fws.gov)> > wrote:

Folk's, sorry to say, but we'll be releasing three more ponds today. All the fish are unmarked and will be about 8-900K total. We may need to do the same tomorrow. Mortality is through the roof and if these fish don't go out today, we could lose everything. I'll do my best to get the word out, but being Saturday, my options are limited.

Dave Carie, Manager  
Spring Creek National Fish Hatchery  
Deputy Complex Manager  
Columbia River Gorge NFH Complex  
61552 State Hwy 14  
Underwood, WA 98651  
(509) 493-1730 Office  
(509) 433-1236 Cell

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From: Thompson, David <[david\\_thompson@fws.gov](mailto:david_thompson@fws.gov)> <[mailto:david\\_thompson@fws.gov](mailto:david_thompson@fws.gov)> >  
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 3:54 PM  
Subject: Re: Spring Creek NFH HET meeting

Thank you Kyle and Jeremy for all the legwork. We will email this group if there are emergency releases Saturday or Sunday.

David  
Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 11, 2022, at 3:02 PM, Hanson, Kyle <[kyle\\_hanson@fws.gov](mailto:kyle_hanson@fws.gov) <[mailto:kyle\\_hanson@fws.gov](mailto:kyle_hanson@fws.gov)>>>  
wrote:  
Hello Everyone,

Thanks for the robust discussion on the topic. I reached out to NOAA today to inform them that there may be emergency releases if the condition of the fish deteriorates. While I continue to hope for the best, I will support the Hatchery and Fish Health if they make a call to release fish. If that happens, please let this group know. Also please reach out to the Fish Passage Center and PSMFC if there are releases so that they are aware of the fish coming through the system.

Cheers,  
Kyle  
Kyle Hanson, Ph.D.  
Deputy Assistant Regional Director, Fish and Aquatic Conservation  
Columbia - Pacific NW Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
911 NE 11th Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232  
503.231.2217 office  
503.201.2266 cell  
[kyle\\_hanson@fws.gov](mailto:kyle_hanson@fws.gov) <[mailto:kyle\\_hanson@fws.gov](mailto:kyle_hanson@fws.gov)>

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From: Thompson, David <[david\\_thompson@fws.gov](mailto:david_thompson@fws.gov) <[mailto:david\\_thompson@fws.gov](mailto:david_thompson@fws.gov)>>  
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 12:28  
Subject: Re: Spring Creek NFH HET meeting  
Thanks for the update Jeremy.  
Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 11, 2022, at 12:18 PM, Voeltz, Jeremy <[jeremy\\_voeltz@fws.gov](mailto:jeremy_voeltz@fws.gov) <[mailto:jeremy\\_voeltz@fws.gov](mailto:jeremy_voeltz@fws.gov)>>> wrote:  
Thanks for the update David,  
Kyle is getting ahold of Allyson P with NOAA to discuss options dealing with ESA compliance issue if additional unmarked fish have to be released.

Dave Swank called BPA and they've actually had the corner collector open "since Wednesday only because they have 4 turbines out of service for maintenance. They have also been spilling anywhere from 10k to 25k through the spillway today [March 11]. Those four turbines go back on line on March 18th, so the CC will likely be closed at that point unless we hit the steelhead kelt criteria."

If we need to release more fish, they'll have some favorable spill conditions (as best as could be expected this time of year) until the 18th.

Jeremy Voeltz  
Supervisory Fish Biologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
[Jeremy\\_Voeltz@fws.gov](mailto:Jeremy_Voeltz@fws.gov) <[mailto:Jeremy\\_Voeltz@fws.gov](mailto:Jeremy_Voeltz@fws.gov)> | [www.fws.gov/columbiariver/](http://www.fws.gov/columbiariver/)  
623.670.2854 cell  
Columbia River Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office  
1211 SE Cardinal Court, Suite 100, Vancouver, WA 98683

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From: Thompson, David <[david\\_thompson@fws.gov](mailto:david_thompson@fws.gov) <[mailto:david\\_thompson@fws.gov](mailto:david_thompson@fws.gov)>>  
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 9:05 AM

Subject: Re: Spring Creek NFH HET meeting

Hi folks,

Fish health took a look at the raceways this morning. The morts are still high in most raceways (300-700) after releasing the really bad raceways yesterday. There are maybe 7-10% moribund in almost all the raceways. Fish that aren't morts or moribund appear better; meaning more normal behavior as opposed swimming high or gulping at the water surface, poor coloration and/or "hiding" in the corners. The moribund numbers seem a bit lower in general, but there are still a lot of morts. I think this bears a little more attention from the HET. We recommend the option of emergency releasing any raceways this weekend if mort/moribund/general fish health deteriorates in any individual raceway to the point we were seeing Wednesday and Thursday. We're not recommending release of the entire population, but only raceway by raceway IF fish health condition deteriorate in any particular raceway. To refresh the group, the raceways we released had 1000-5000 morts, the majority of the fish were moribund or obviously showing poor health (gulping at the surface, swimming close to the surface or in the eddy or dead zones, poor coloration).

Let me know if there are any questions.

David

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 10, 2022, at 10:38 AM, Voeltz, Jeremy <[jeremy.voeltz@fws.gov](mailto:jeremy.voeltz@fws.gov)> <<mailto:jeremy.voeltz@fws.gov>> wrote:

Hi all,

To close the loop for today, I talked with Judy and got her approval of the partial emergency release pending coordination with co-managers and NOAA. Thankfully, I was able to get ahold of Eric Kinne (WDFW), Tom Schriber (Yakama Nation), and Natasha Preston (NOAA) to inform them of our action for today to release ~4 (~1-1.5M) of unmarked fish due to the Bacterial Gill Disease outbreak. I also informed CTUIR and Warm Springs as an FYI since I think on occasion they get surplus adults from Spring Creek; haven't heard back from CTUIR yet, but Warm Springs PAC rep will inform their harvest manager and followup if they have any questions. Judy is also going to notify EA in case there's any inquiries and we may need to put together some talking points for EA/RDT.

WDFW and YN understood the issue and are okay with our action, and I let them know we're meeting again on Monday to see where things stand, as today's action may not (or it may!) solve the issue. NOAA will want documentation at some point for the files, though I think we should wait to see how the next few weeks play out before we finish the formal notification to NOAA.

Let me know if you have any questions....

Jeremy Voeltz

Supervisory Fish Biologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service

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From: Carie, David <[david.carie@fws.gov](mailto:david.carie@fws.gov)> <<mailto:david.carie@fws.gov>> >

Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 7:28 AM

Subject: Re: Spring Creek NFH HET meeting

HET members, due to an unforeseen event here at SC, we need to have an emergency HET talk to make some decisions.

Within the past 5-6 days, Bacterial Gill Disease has hit our production hard and mortality, at least in a few ponds, has hit critical levels. Fish Health has recommended that we release or bury the fry in those ponds (~1.1M). Re: with our recirculating water system, we are unable to effectively treat those ponds and cannot get ahead of the problem. FH feels that the only way to effectively combat this is to get the sick fish off station so the remainder of the production has their best chance of survival. I'll be sending out a Teams invite soon, and will apologize in advance with the non-option of picking a convenient time that works for everyone. We need to deal with the fish today so please attend the meeting, unless you don't have an option.

Dave Carie, Manager

Spring Creek National Fish Hatchery

Deputy Complex Manager

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**USFWS –**

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

From: Swank, David R <david\_swank@fws.gov>

Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 12:16 PM

To: Mackey, Tammy M CIV USARMY CENWP (USA) <Tammy.M.Mackey@usace.army.mil>

Subject: [URL Verdict: Neutral][Non-DoD Source] Re: [EXTERNAL] FPOM: Official Coordination - MFR early release of tules from Spring Creek

Hi Tammy,

I was actually just on the phone with Scott and Tony about the Corner Collector. Turns out it's been open since Wednesday due to the four turbines that are out of service, and will likely be closed on the 18th when they return to service (if we haven't hit the kelt criteria). I'd love it if we could come up with a plan to open it during fish emergencies of this type, but I'm betting that BPA will resist. Let's put in on the next FPOM agenda anyway and see what they say.

Dave

David Swank, Ph.D., he/his

Fish Biologist | US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

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<Blocked<http://www.fws.gov/columbiariver/>>