

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: 14JDA08 MFR PNNL clipped Chinook mortalities at JDA SMF holding tanks.

On the morning of 24 May approximately 20 Chinook smolts of hatchery origin were found dead in PNNL's holding tanks. These fish were collected from the 23 May sample.

On 25 May another 21 Chinook smolt of hatchery origin were found dead at the PNNL holding tanks. Due to these mortalities, tagging was halted for two days. Chinook smolts were again collected the morning of 25 May for tagging the following day.

On 26 May seven hatchery Chinook smolt morts were found in PNNL's holding tank.

There were no morts found on 27 May.

The total number of smolts collected and held by PNNL at JDA SMF was approximately 200 per day over those three days. PNNL has been collecting/holding/markings seven days a week since late April. These are the first mortalities found at JDA SMF this year.

- A. Species – 47 clipped Chinook smolt mortalities, total for three days (24-26 May)
- B. Origin – Hatchery stock of unknown origin
- C. Length – 100-150mm
- D. Marks and tags – Coded Wire Tags (CWTs) were recovered from over 50% of smolts. Awaiting findings.
- E. Marks and Injuries found on carcass – sent to lab for further investigation by PNNL
- F. Cause and Time of Death – cause unknown or obvious, but appears that only one type of smolts (clipped Chinook/, hatchery) were affected. Water quality has been closely monitored by auto sensors and appears to be excellent. Possible some fish health issue/disease?
- G. Future and Preventative Measures – It is highly unlikely that those morts were a result of the John Day JBS/SMF operational issues, as a great majority of collected/sampled smolts were healthy/completely unaffected. No future or preventive measures are feasible at this time due to an unknown cause behind these morts.

Sincerely,
JDA Project Fisheries