

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**SUBJECT: 19JDA19 MFR Early Orifice Flow at North Fishway**

PROBLEM: It has been observed in the past that the need for handling and transporting of fish decreases when the early orifice flow is initiated a few days before the day of dewatering. As a rule of a thumb, JD Fisheries has been setting the fishways on orifice flow at least 48 hours before the day of dewaterings to protect fish from excessive handling.

Consequently, since this year the North Fishway dewatering was scheduled for Monday, December 2, the orifice flow was initiated on November 30, which was 24 hours before the end of fish passage season.

It was important to dewater the fishway ASAP due to the planned maintenance work to be performed within a short amount of time in December. The winter weather in December can create adverse work conditions and there are problems with short labor during the holiday season as well. The fishways' performance and reliability could be impacted during the peak passage seasons in the Spring, Summer and Fall of 2020 if the winter maintenance is incomplete.

There are very few salmonids actively migrating upstream in December and January. The University of Idaho adult salmonids radio-telemetry studies had determined a significant milling of fish around John Day Dam (many salmonids, primary steelhead first pass upstream and then fall back into the tailrace through the turbines).

- A. Species – No mortalities or any significant impact to fish migration has occurred.
- B. Origin – NA
- C. Length – NA
- D. Marks and tags – NA
- E. Marks and Injuries found on carcass – NA
- F. Cause and Time of Death – NA
- G. Future and Preventative Measures – Orifice Flow in all future years will be initiated not earlier than on 1 December.

Sincerely,
Project Fisheries