

CENWP-OD-J

March 30, 2020
Original Coordination: March 23, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: 20JDA02 MFR – Daytime condition sampling starting 1 April

Current sampling protocol is to sample 24 hrs every other day. JDA Project Fisheries covers the swing and graveyard shift to watch over the separator bars and screen cleaners. SMP staff conducts sampling in the morning. (FPP: Appendix K, section 2.3)

Due to the COVID-19 preventative measures, reduced staff and state mandated stay at home orders, starting 1 April, the collection and sampling protocols will be similar to the 70° monitoring protocols. (FPP: Appendix K section 2.4.)

Collection of fish and condition sub-sampling will occur every other day between 0700 -1300. The intent is to collect enough juvenile salmonids for condition sub-sampling. From 1300 – 0600 the switch gate will divert fish and flow to the river and will be interrogated at the full flow pit tag array for tags. The collection of fish and conditioning sub-sampling will continue until the John Day Project limited staff orders are lifted and the stay at home order from the Governors of Oregon and Washington are rescinded. Once the limited staff restrictions and stay at home at orders are rescinded, the SMF will return to normal sampling protocols as prescribed in the FPP.

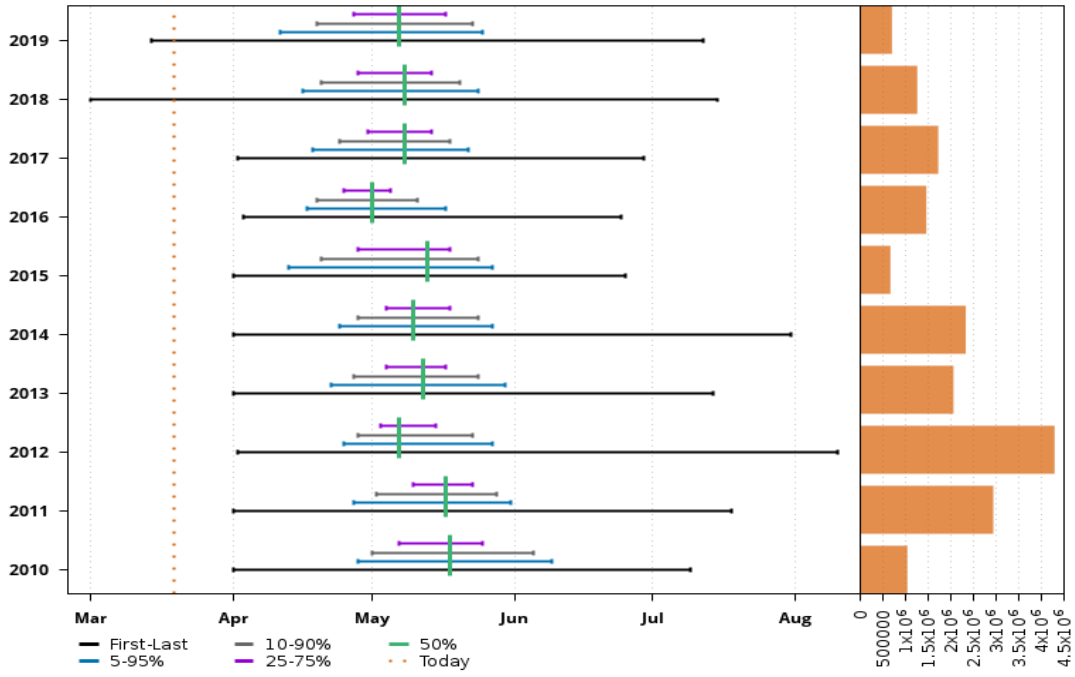
This preventative measure will help maintain social distancing requirements. FPP criteria will still be met, except for the 24 hour index sampling.

Attached are the previous 10 years of smolt run timing at JD for yearling chinook and steelhead.

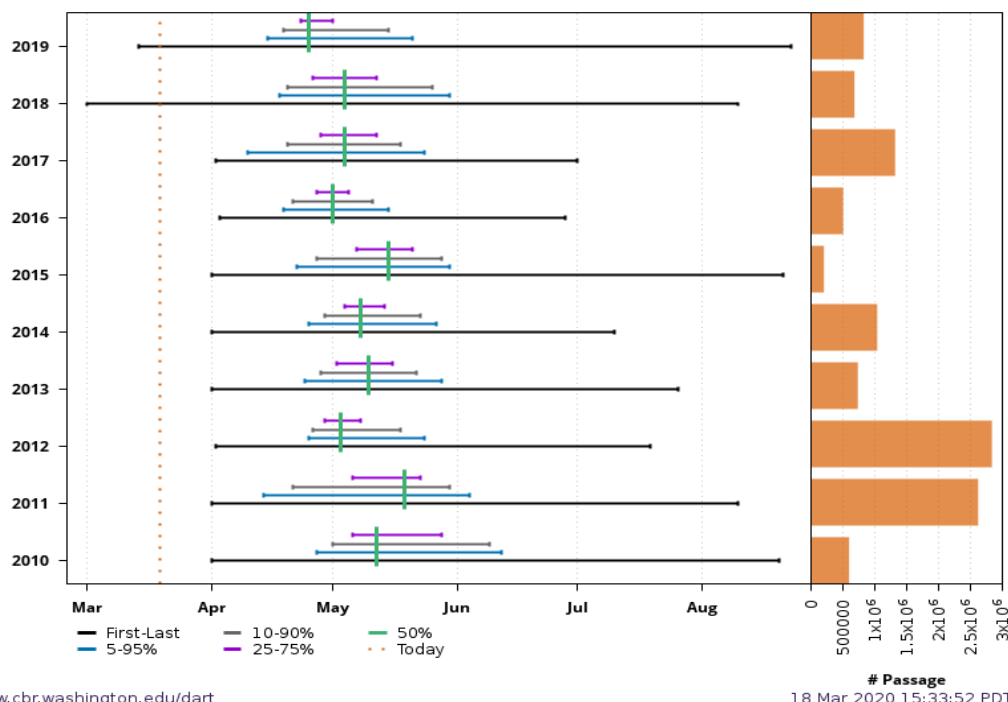
Sincerely,
JD Project Fisheries

Enclosed:
Ron Twiner
Erin Kovalchuk
Tammy Mackey

**Historical Run Timing, 2010 - 2019
Smolt Index Yearling Chinook
John Day Dam, 1/1 - 12/31**



**Historical Run Timing, 2010 - 2019
Smolt Index Steelhead
John Day Dam, 1/1 - 12/31**



Comments:

NOAA

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

From: Blane Bellerud - NOAA Federal [mailto:blane.bellerud@noaa.gov]
 Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 10:45 AM
 To: Kovalchuk, Erin H CIV USARMY CENWP (US) <Erin.H.Kovalchuk@usace.army.mil>
 Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: FPOM: Official Coordination 20JDA02 MFR Daytime condition sampling

OK with me

Fish Passage Center

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

From: Michele Dehart [mailto:mdehart@fpc.org]
 Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 1:18 PM
 To: Kovalchuk, Erin H CIV USARMY CENWP (US) <Erin.H.Kovalchuk@usace.army.mil>; Mackey, Tammy M CIV USARMY CENWP (USA) <Tammy.M.Mackey@usace.army.mil>
 Cc: Erick VanDyke <erick.s.vandyke@state.or.us>; Tom Lorz (lort@critfc.org) <lort@critfc.org>; Ebel,Jonathan <jonathan.ebel@idfg.idaho.gov>; Morrill, Charles (DFW) <Charles.Morrill@dfw.wa.gov>; Chris Wheaton <CWheaton@psmfrc.org>; Swank, David R <david_swank@fws.gov>; claire.mcgrath@noaa.gov
 Subject: [Non-DoD Source] FW: FPOM: Official Coordination 20JDA02 MFR Daytime condition sampling

Ms. Kovalchuk:

As you already know the Smolt Monitoring Program is a regionally agreed upon monitoring program of the state, federal and tribal fishery managers. The Smolt Monitoring Program has an agreed upon design for data collection and data distribution. Would you please advise me as to the process that was utilized to coordinate with the fishery managers, in developing the COE decision to modify SMP sampling at John Day Dam? Did the fishery managers agree to this change in the SMP prior to the COE decision? I am curious because there was no contact with the Fish Passage Center, which is charged with implementing the SMP, prior to receiving this directive explaining the Corps of Engineers decision.

Michele DeHart, Manager
The Fish Passage Center
503-833-3901

ODFW

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

From: Erick VanDyke [mailto:Erick.S.VanDyke@state.or.us]
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 10:52 AM
To: Kovalchuk, Erin H CIV USARMY CENWP (US) <Erin.H.Kovalchuk@usace.army.mil>;
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: FPOM: Official Coordination 20JDA02 MFR Daytime condition sampling

Hi Erin,

During this difficult time it seems more important than ever to assure a standardized regional response. Currently individual technical staff may be responding without a more regional prospective of issue that may occur. Is there a regional approach that is being provided from Corps policy staff that can be shared with regional participants, or will this approach of project by project directions continue to be the norm?

Erick

Response:

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

From: Mackey, Tammy M CIV USARMY CENWP (USA)
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 11:13 AM
To: Erick VanDyke <Erick.S.VanDyke@state.or.us>; Kovalchuk, Erin H CIV USARMY CENWP (US) <Erin.H.Kovalchuk@usace.army.mil>;
Subject: RE: FPOM: Official Coordination 20JDA02 MFR Daytime condition sampling (UNCLASSIFIED)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

We understand the desire for a Regional response, unfortunately that is not the route we have taken. NWW has provided guidance for their projects. NWP has not limited those actions required in the FPP, however, as research requests come in, there may be more scrutiny of what is essential. This will be a project by project response... at least that is the path we are on for now.

If it is helpful, we can schedule a FPOM call for Thursday this week and talk through the frustrations and anticipated paths forward.

Tammy

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

From: Erick VanDyke [mailto:Erick.S.VanDyke@state.or.us]

Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 12:12 PM

To: Ebel,Jonathan <jonathan.ebel@idfg.idaho.gov>; Kovalchuk, Erin H CIV USARMY CENWP (US) <Erin.H.Kovalchuk@usace.army.mil>

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: FPOM: Official Coordination 20JDA02 MFR Daytime condition sampling

Erin,

Thanks for your effort to set-up a coordination call on this topic. It is this kind of coordination action that Oregon supports for decisions as it has generally occurred. It is well understood that all have challenges in effectively dealing with COVID-19 protective measures, but these should not include elimination of communication and information sharing through appropriate pathways. Jonathan's response below expresses concerns I would like to convey as well, so I will not belabor his points further. In addition, it was somewhat unsettling in today's call that reductions to JDA monitoring periodicity that were implemented prior to COVID-19 situation somehow justified not including regional coordination when acting to suspend regionally important monitoring programs. I stand ready to participate in coordination that helps navigate Corps stated goals and hope that future coordination continue to be arranged inclusive of monitoring staff input prior to restricting regionally important monitoring and coordination. All stay well.

Erick Van Dyke
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ocean Salmon and Columbia River Program
Fish Passage/Mitigation Technical Analyst
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Cell: 503-428-0773
erick.s.vandyke@state.or.us

IDFG

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

From: Ebel,Jonathan <jonathan.ebel@idfg.idaho.gov>

Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 11:38 AM

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

Subject: RE: FPOM: Official Coordination 20JDA02 MFR Daytime condition sampling

The lack of congruence between Portland and Walla Walla District actions or considerations regarding which projects are mission essential is problematic. Currently, the Smolt Monitoring Program (SMP) is considered essential in Walla Walla District, but is restricted by this MFR at JDA. The Smolt Monitoring Program is integrated across the basin and restrictions or elimination at one project reduces the effectiveness of the program. Implementation of these programs can be adjusted to optimize human safety and it is unclear if there was adequate consideration of other options. For example, monitoring staff can adjust how they work and how their workspace is organized to minimize contact.

We suggest that COE have further discussion with state and tribal agencies regarding the importance of potentially affected monitoring programs to fish management objectives, the impacts of restrictions of eliminations on long-term datasets and in-season management, and the minimum level of staff and man-hours required to implement an effective program that maintains both human and fish safety. We

understand that this is a challenging situation and are committed to remain flexible in working with COE to prioritize essential monitoring programs and how implement them safely while maintaining their integrated designs. We also hope that COE is open and flexible to working with fish managers on these issues.

Additionally, there is no end date on the restriction listed in the MFR, no date for reconsideration of the restriction, nor criteria for how a decision to resume 24 hour sampling would be made. We suggest this addition.

Jonathan D. Ebel
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