

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD - 19 IHR 18

SUBJECT: South shore picketed lead debris problem

On October 29 at approximately 0300 hours, a powerhouse mechanic noticed that water was overflowing out of the south fish ladder just upstream of the count station. The picketed leads had become clogged with debris, causing a large differential across the leads and the ladder to overflow. The mechanic raised one of the upstream and one of the downstream picketed leads to alleviate the differential and allow the debris to pass. Upon investigation, the powerhouse operator and mechanic found that the debris boom at the south ladder exit had become disconnected from its anchor points and was up against the dam and south shore. The debris boom had hit and broke the air line that helps keep debris from flowing into the ladder exit. The cause of the damage was the wind, which increased and changed direction during the night, and was now blowing from the northeast. Milfoil and woody debris entered the ladder, clogging up the picketed leads.

There were no fish found on the ground below the fish ladder. At 0800 hours, the picketed leads were cleaned and lowered. During the fish counting period of 0500 hours to 0800 hours PDT on October 29, fish may have bypassed the counting slot. There was no differential at the ladder exit trash rack. The picketed leads will be monitored for further debris buildup. In the event that this becomes a problem tonight and the next couple of nights, the operator may raise one of the upstream and downstream leads after 2100 hours and lower them back down before 0500 hours. The damage to the debris boom and air line piping will be assessed and repaired as feasible.

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