

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD 21-IH-10

SUBJECT: Adult Chinook salmon mortality found near the south fishway count station

- A. Species – *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*.
- B. Origin – Unknown.
- C. Length – 30”.
- D. Marks and tags – Adipose clip, female (fish eggs scattered nearby)
- E. Marks and injuries found on carcass – Severe body injury.
- F. Location – On the concrete walkway near the top of the stairs to the south fish count station.

- G. Cause and time of death – The Chinook was found at approximately 0830 hours on July 15. Judging by the severity of the wound on the body (see photo below), the fish is presumed to have jumped out of the fish ladder just downstream of the upper diffuser and landed on the deck below (see photo). The fish likely jumped out the day previous to when it was found.

- H. Future and preventative measures – The deteriorating fish-jump netting at the upper south fish ladder was replaced last winter. However, some of the netting has already become detached from the fish ladder handrail from wind and weathering, creating a few gaps where fish can jump through (see photos). The netting will be reattached or new, stronger netting or perforated plate will be purchased that will hold up better in the weather. Personnel access to repair the netting in-season is difficult because of the fall hazard on the outside of the ladder. Access from the inside of the ladder is only possible when the ladder is unwatered, such as during the annual winter maintenance period for the ladder. The feasibility of using a crane/man basket to access the netting in-season will be determined.

- I. Pictures included – Yes.

Ken Fone
Project Fishery Biologist
Ice Harbor Dam
509-544-3137
kenneth.r.fone@usace.army.mil



Gap in netting

Fish found here



Gaps in netting