

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD: 17JFT01 – Fish Barge Release Site Deviation**

**SUBJECT: The juvenile fish transportation (JFT) barge released fish just downstream of the Snake River confluence due to an emergency navigation outage on the Columbia River related to a railroad vertical lift bridge blocking commercial navigation traffic.**

On the afternoon of July 19, 2017 the Union Pacific Columbia River vertical lift railroad bridge approximately 1 mile downstream of the Snake River confluence had a mechanical failure while in the down position. This resulted in blocking all commercial navigation past Columbia River mile 323. The Union Pacific estimated return to normal navigation may take between 48 and 168 hours (one week). The bridge mechanical failure occurred when the fish transportation barge was moving downstream between Lower Monumental and Ice Harbor dams. On board the barge was approximately 20,400 smolts comprised almost entirely of subyearling Snake River fall Chinook salmon collected from Lower Granite, Little Goose, and Lower Monumental dams. An emergency release of the fish was coordinated via phone conversation with NMFS due to the disruption of commercial navigation was estimated to be several days. The emergency fish release was mid-channel, near Columbia River mile 324 (just downstream of the Snake River confluence) at approximately 2300 hours. The next fish transportation barge is scheduled to depart Lower Granite Dam on July 21 at approximately 0830 hours, thus fish collection for transportation is being maintained under normal operations while a revised estimate of when normal commercial navigation would resume is developed by Union Pacific. On July 20 at approximately 0900 hours Union Pacific provided a revised estimate that normal navigation would be restored by 1600 hours on July 20.

- A. Species – NA
- 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 – NA

Sincerely,

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