

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD: 18JFT01 – Fish Barge Release Site Deviation****SUBJECT: Lock outage and fish barge release above Ice Harbor**

During the early morning of July 4, 2018 the Ice Harbor Dam navigation lock was removed from service due to the downstream gate control malfunction. While both the cause and duration of the outage were unknown, initial estimates were the outage could last for up to 3-days. The navigation lock outage occurred when the fish transportation barge was moving downstream between Lower Monumental and Ice Harbor dams. The path forward was discussed via phone conversation with NMFS and the USACE Fish Transport Coordinator due to uncertainty of when Ice Harbor lock would return to the service. Their recommendation was to release the smolts upstream of Ice Harbor Dam, monitor the navigation lock repair progress, and reassess fish transport operations based on the repair status.

On July 4<sup>th</sup> at 1220 hours the fish transport barge released approximately 11,000 smolts, comprised almost entirely of subyearling Snake River fall Chinook salmon collected from Lower Granite, Little Goose, and Lower Monumental dams, mid-channel, near Snake River mile 10 (approximately 0.5 miles upstream of Ice Harbor Dam). The next fish transportation barge was scheduled to depart Lower Granite Dam on July 5 at approximately 0830 hours. Fish collection for transportation maintained normal operations at Lower Granite, Little Goose and Lower Monumental dams while Ice Harbor project personnel worked to return the navigation lock to service. On July 4 at approximately 1500 hours the Ice Harbor navigation lock returned to limited service for commercial traffic. On July 5 at 1015 hours the Ice Harbor navigation lock was returned to full operation. No other fish transport operation deviations occurred other than the fish barge release location on July 4, 2018.

Ice Harbor conducts fish condition sampling on Mondays and Thursdays. Sampling is limited to 4 hours or less if the target of 100 fish dominant species are collected. During the previous 3 condition sample dates (June 25, June 28, and July 2), less than 30 smolts/day were collected over a 4-hour period. During the sample the morning of July 5th, approximately 100 subyearling Chinook salmon were collected in less than 30-minutes. The increased passage numbers at Ice Harbor Dam on July 5th were likely due to the fish barge release above the dam 19 hours earlier.

- 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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