

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: 13 LWG 19**Subject: Emergency Release of Trucked Fish at McNary Dam on October 25, 2013.**

An emergency fish truck release occurred at McNary Dam on Friday, October 25 at approximately 1700 hours. These fish were collected at Lower Granite Dam and were slated to be released at the Dalton Point boat ramp below Bonneville Dam.

A total of 1,331 juvenile fish were loaded into Lower Granite's 3500 gallon fish tanker-trailer on the morning of October 25, including 8 clipped subyearling Chinook, 1,319 unclipped subyearling Chinook and 4 unclipped sockeye. Two juvenile subyearling Chinook mortalities were noted during the release (ad-clip status unknown); otherwise, fish appeared to be in good condition.

The semi-trailer combination departed the Lower Granite Juvenile Fish Facility as usual that morning bound for Dalton Point. At approximately 1030 hours while passing through Dixie, WA the driver noticed oil leaking through the hub of the right rear wheel of the fish trailer. Because the loss of lubricant could lead to the loss of the wheel, axle and trailer, the driver parked the vehicle and called for assistance. A mechanic was dispatched to this location and repairs were completed at approximately 1400 hours.

Because of this delay, a release at Dalton Point was not feasible or practical for 2 reasons. Corps safety regulations only allow a driver to be on duty for 10 hours a day. This limit would have been well exceeded had the driver continued to Dalton Point. In addition, the Dalton Point Ramp is not lighted at night, making a fish release with the 3500 gallon tanker-trailer a hazardous operation.

While the truck was being repaired, Carl Dugger (McNary Project Fishery Biologist) scoped out potential emergency release sites in the vicinity of McNary Dam. We were able to release fish into the bypass outfall pipe section right behind the Juvenile Fish Facility. This option was discussed with Paul Wagner of NMFS. Paul Wagner agreed that a fish release into the McNary bypass pipe was the most practical option given the circumstances, saying, "at least the fish are halfway there". Attempts to contact RCC personnel on Friday were unsuccessful; follow up contact was accomplished on Monday, October 28. Regional Fish Managers will be formally notified of this incident at the upcoming Wednesday, October 30 TMT meeting.

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