CENWW-OD-EL **6/12/2013**

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: 13 LWG 11

Subject: Research fish loss at Lower Granite on June 11, 2013

Research is currently being conducted at Lower Granite Dam to evaluate the feasibility of utilizing 14-inch orifices and/or overflow weirs to replace the existing 10-inch orifice system in the fish collection gallery. A prototype 14-inch orifice and broad–crested overflow weir have been installed and are currently being tested. A combined research group consisting of Blueleaf Environmental, University of California (Davis), and Biomark have been contracted to mark fish with PIT-tags and release them into the two prototype structures to test fish passage efficiency and gatewell residence times in comparison with the existing 10-inch orifice system. The sort by code system at the juvenile fish facility is then utilized as the recovery mechanism. Fish are examined for descaling, digital photos taken, and the fish are then released into the facility sample recovery tank for later barge transport.

On the afternoon of June 11, 2013 at approximately 5:45 pm a COE biological technician (separator tech) noticed numerous dead juvenile salmonids on the ground beside the sample recovery tank. A lid on the recovery tank had been left open allowing fish to jump out and expire. Unfortunately, this was not discovered immediately and 98 juveniles were lost. All the fish were subyearling Chinook of which 97 were clipped and one was unclipped. Many had PIT-tags implanted.

Research personnel associated with putting fish into the sample recovery tank were notified of the incident the following morning (June 12, 2013).

A. Species – Juvenile Subyearling Chinook
B. Origin – 97 clipped (hatchery origin), 1 unclipped (hatchery origin)
C. Length – 105 – 120 mm
D. Marks and tags – Most fish PIT-tagged, the exact number is unknown. The unclipped fish had an embedded coded wire tag.
E. Marks and Injuries found on carcass – none – all found on ground.
F. Cause and Time of Death – June 11, 2013 @ 5:45 PM, loss caused by fish jumping out of uncovered tank.
G. Future and Preventative Measures – Research management personnel will now be staying onsite daily until fish handling activities are complete to help ensure this type of thing does not happen in the future.

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