

**OFFICIAL COORDINATION REQUEST FOR
NON-ROUTINE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**

COORDINATION TITLE- 14 MCN 11 End of Spring Spill TSW Operations

COORDINATION DATE- 29 May 2014

PROJECT- McNary Dam

RESPONSE DATE—~~Noon Monday June 2, 2014~~ No action needed. Request was withdrawn

Description of the problem:

The Spring Spill Operations for McNary Dam as outlined in the 2014 Fish Operating Plan has two spillway weirs in operation from April 10 through June 6. Both spillways were to be removed by June 8 as coordinated with FPOM for the benefit of subyearling Chinook.

From study results of the performance standard testing this spring, both spillway weirs should be to be removed by June 3 and 4 due to the smolt index numbers, flows, temperature predictions, and the need to start starting collection of subyearlings at JDA on June 5. This is 6 days earlier than the original study plan. Collection on the 5th will allow ample time to meet the objectives of tagging the middle 80% of the run.

Type of outage required:

End of season operation of the two spillway weirs in spillbay 19 and 20. The Operating Project can accommodate the removal of the spillway weirs on June 3 and 4.

Impact on facility operation:

Temporary spill pattern changes to allow removal of the spillway weirs will occur, however spill will continue at 40% during the spillway weir removal process using the spill pattern identified in FPP Table MCN-10. Following removal of the spillway weirs, the spill pattern contained in Table MCN-9 in FPP section 5

Dates of impacts/repairs:

June 3 and 4th

Expected impacts on fish passage:

No impacts to fish passage is expected,

Comments from agencies:

SRWG Telephone Conference May 30, 2014 at 1030 hrs.:

Based on the Special SRWG call May 30, 2014 discussing sub-yearling Chinook salmon run timing at McNary and John Day dams we will cancel the MOC 14 MCN 11 End of Spring Spill TSW Operations. This call was requested by the Corps due to a number of questions being raised by regional fish managers upon receiving the proposed MOC. During the SRWG conference call the Corps and PNNL staff presented information regarding the current and predicted run timing of spring and summer salmon and steelhead

runs in order to determine if switching to summer operations at McNary a few days earlier was supported by the fish managers. The Corps was concerned that sub-yearling Chinook salmon may pass through the study area earlier than anticipated due to warmer water temperatures, higher flows, and current smolt indices. The proposed change was to increase the likelihood that the BiOp Performance Evaluation schedule adequately represent the run timing distributions for subyearling Chinook salmon. Due to the following considerations, the MOC is being cancelled:

- 1.) Current year data this early in the migration is very limited for predicting the sub-yearling Chinook salmon run timing at MCN and JDA
- 2.) Currently there is a de-scaling issue being evaluated at McNary Dam and there was concern over beginning the summer BiOp Performance Evaluation before the issue is resolved.
- 3.) There was a concern of over-representing the early run fish and under-representing late run fish.
- 4.) The removal of the TSW's at MCN earlier than called for in the Spring FOP was not supported by the fish managers. The fish managers wanted MCN TSW's left in place to provide passage for the tail end of the spring migrants even though TSW removal has been shown to be a benefit for sub-yearling Chinook salmon (survival study results from McNary Dam and the Snake River PSE's)

Based upon the comments received at this meeting, the Corps and PNNL will plan on releasing the first groups of tagged sub-yearlings the day following the TSW's removal as has been outlined in the Spring FOP and coordinated through FPOM.

Telephone call - May 30, 2014 @1400hrs., Bill Hevlin – NOAA. Bill said he supported SRWG request - leaving the TSW's in place and following the 2014 FOP guidelines.

From: Fryer, Derek S NWW
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 8:09 AM
To: (Casey.Baldwin@colvilletribes.com); (erick.s.vandyke@state.or.us); Aaron Jackson (AaronJackson@ctuir.org); Agnes Lut (axlut@bpa.gov); Ben Sandford (Ben.Sandford@noaa.gov); Bill.Hevlin@noaa.gov; Bob Rose (rosb@yakamafish-nsn.gov); BPA Scott Bettin; Brian McIlraith (MCIB@critfc.org); Christine H - KEWR-4 Petersen (chpetersen@bpa.gov); Chuck Peven; Wills, Dave; ecooper@fpc.org (ecooper@fpc.org); Eppard, Matthew B NWP; gary.fredricks@noaa.gov; Jim Ruff (JRuff@NWCouncil.org); John T - KEWR-4 Skidmore (jtskidmore@bpa.gov); Kathryn Kostow (Kathryn.e.kostow@state.or.us); lort@critfc.org; Morrill, Charles (DFW); Paul Wagner; Rerecich, Jonathan G NWP; Russ Kiefer (russ.kiefer@idfg.idaho.gov); Statler, Dave; Studebaker, Cynthia A NWP; Tackley, Sean C NWP; Tim Dalton (tim.dalton@state.or.us); Tom Skiles (skit@critfc.org); Trevor Conder; Tucker Jones; Ocker, Paul A NWD; Feil, Dan H NWD; Baus, Douglas M NWD; Wright, Lisa NWD; Setter, Ann L NWW; Moody, Gregory P NWW; Wills, Dave; Wik, Tim O NWW
Subject: Conference Call to Discuss Performance Testing At JDA & MCN - TSW Closure at MCN discussion
Importance: High

Good Morning SRWG-

WE have a need to have a conference call this morning to discuss fish passage numbers at MCN and JDA in regards to the survival study being conducted this year.

All spring fish have been collected, tagged, and the last release is today.

Spring fish numbers are declining rapidly, and sub-yearling numbers are on the rise.

DART Forecast is very likely WAY off on predicting the subyearling outmigration.

We would like to talk through our line of thinking with the fish managers.

I propose a conference call at 10:30 AM this morning. Please let me know if you can make the call, or propose another time today to make the call.

Conference number:

Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Derek

From: Moody, Gregory P NWW

Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 8:32 AM

Subject: RE: End of Spring Spill TSW Operations at McNary Dam (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

FPOM:

Planning Division is reviewing their data this morning and will be replying later today. A conference call in the mean time will be scheduled to discuss fish passage and this requested operation.

Thanks

From: Wills, David [mailto:david_wills@fws.gov]

Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 5:17 PM

Greg,

The explanation for the early closure of the McNary TSWs leaves more questions than answers. Maybe I have an outdated study design, but it states the summer test would run from June 11 through July 17. I'm not finding any references to smolt index numbers, flows, temperature predictions, and the need to start collection of sub-yearlings at JDA tied to the early removal of the TSWs at McNary. What smolt index is being used to make the removal decision and how is the percent passage being calculated? Was this reviewed by the SRWG? I'm not finding any of this described in the study design, therefore it seems the changes are being driven by something other than just the study.

This should all be covered in the request memo. Additionally, are there any impacts to the spring evaluation that would later call into question any of those results.

The memo needs to clearly, with details, explain and justify why this request is being made. Until then and based on a review of SMP index numbers for yearling and sub-yearling Chinook I would not support the early removal of the TSWs.

From: Tom Lorz [mailto:lorz@critfc.org]

Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 4:34 PM

To: Moody, Gregory P NWW

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: MOC: End of Spring Spill TSW Operations at McNary Dam (UNCLASSIFIED)

Only issue I have is how is debris at the project right now. Given the issues we have been having I would be concerned by taking the TSW out if we are still seeing large mats of debris. Otherwise should be ok, I think they are starting the spill on June 5th so if we had to push it off a couple of days/week that would not be the end of the world.

thanks

From: Erick VanDyke [mailto:erick.s.vandyke@state.or.us]
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 5:14 PM

Afternoon Greg,

Judging from the number of responses you've received about this MOC, more information seems warranted. It might be useful to have a summary of the "spring" performance test information/data (including the study plan) for which decisions to end testing are described, and specifics about what was planned for implementing "summer" performance test (again study plan couldn't hurt). Given the McNary debris and dewatering issues, removing the TSW's might influence debris removal at McNary... so it might not be the most prudent change for addressing removal of debris at McNary. Similarly, Russ Kiefer's comment seem to add additional questions that should be addressed before any change is implemented.

Erick

From: Kiefer, Russell [mailto:russ.kiefer@idfg.idaho.gov]
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 4:07 PM

Greg,

After reviewing smolt index numbers, we did not see a need to change the planned operations and study dates. It appears that subyearlings are just starting to show up at MCN and the planned study dates should still cover the middle 80% of the outmigration. IDFG prefers to continue using the surface weirs for the remaining spring outmigrants as planned.

Have we missed anything?

Also, the reason for the requested change was not clear, could you explain further?

Thanks,
Russ

From: Lut, Agnes (BPA) - KEWR-4 [mailto:axlut@bpa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 3:26 PM

Greg,

Are we still on track for completing our MCN spring test on or before June 1st?

Originally we thought the summer tests would end on July 2nd, but with the new start date of June 5 do we know what the new summer end test date will be?

Thanks.
Agnes-

Final results

This MOC was requested to be withdrawn.
The study will continue as described above.

Thank you,

Greg Moody

509-527-7124