At 1:00 PM today, we had further discussion with Regional Salmon Managers related to sockeye passage at Lower Granite adult ladder, and feasibility of operating the Ice Harbor research trap. Temperature in the fish ladder at the adult trap this morning was 71-72 °F. One sockeye was trapped during the four hour operation today. NOAA Fisheries discussed their concern with still having a noticeable tailrace eddy in front of the powerhouse that likely is affecting ladder entrance by adults. Their recommendation which all parties found acceptable was to shift turbine unit priority from Unit 2 to Unit 1. This alternative has been discussed during previous meetings on this subject. Unit 1 is a fixed blade unit and will operate using 18 – 18.5 kcfs of flow and remainder of river flow will be spilled with a uniform pattern (Table 9) from the Fish Passage Plan. Effective today at 3:05 PM this operation was implemented until further notice. This operation may change this weekend as we were unable to reach agreement on the Sat-Sun operation today, and will have another Regional call with the fishery managers on Friday morning.

The Corps laid out what project readiness would be required to operate the Ice Harbor research trap, and the likely timeframes to implement action if a request is received to utilize it. A decision is likely on Friday based on this week’s success in trapping sockeye at Lower Granite.