

FPOM - AVIAN PREDATION TASK GROUP

11/2004

Chair: Tim Darland, USACE
Members: Robert Stansell, USACE
Bob Cordie, USACE
Cal Sprague, USACE
Rex Baxter, USACE

Purpose:

The Avian Predation task group is established to effectively deal with issues involving piscivorous bird species at Walla Walla and Portland District projects.

Current Problem/s to resolve:

1. High gull activity at the B2 SMF outfall.
2. Western Grebes in the McNary juvenile transportation channel and in the forebay of John Day Dam.
3. Hazing and lethal take on piscivorous birds. USFWS inquired as to when lethal take is recommended.

Current Goal:

Implement and maintain effective means of discouraging avian predation at Corps projects. 2000 Biological Opinion, RPA 101

Status:

1. A product delivery team (PDT) has been developed to look into the feasibility of designing a wire grid system at the B2 SMF outfalls. The team is comprised of biologists, engineers, and a budget technician. To date, we have decided on a design that would cover the small area around the SMF outfalls. USACE engineers are optimizing the design and looking at loading on the outfall structures. Tim D. ran the idea by FPOM group (11/04) and received no objections.
2. Bill Hevlin brought this subject up at the July FPOM meeting. Can Walla Walla add to this topic? Bob Cordie; please comment for John Day forebay?
3. Walla Walla and Portland District biologists submitted recommendations to FPOM for lethal take. Walla Walla lower Snake River projects and Bonneville Dam said April – June but would like some flexibility in July if necessary. The Dalles and John Day said April – August. The reason for the longer season is juvenile gulls remain in the area.

Proposed Schedule:

1. The team will make a decision during November 2004 if we can install the wire grid during FY 05 in-water work period or wait until FY 06 (if funding available).
2. ?

3. Waiting for Walla Walla to finish incorporating comments into the EA (Avian Predation Deterrent Program). This should be completed mid-January 2005.