July 1, 2014

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** FPOM Avian Task Group

**FROM:** Gary Fredricks, NOAA Fisheries

**SUBJECT:** Weekly Avian Monitoring Reporting

It has been a couple of months now since we put together a unified approach to avian monitoring at the projects. In my review of the weekly reports I have noticed a couple of things I wanted to discuss with the work group. **First, I want to say that the data included in the weekly reports is appropriate for each project and I think we have achieved our highest priority goal of assuring that each project has a standardized approach to monitoring avian activity.** With that said, I have noted a couple areas where I think we can make improvements. The one that most concerns me, and the reason I asked for this task group meeting, is the need to achieve some level of weekly reporting consistency (this was a part of the first action item listed in our May meeting minutes).

I have noticed that each project is reporting the monitoring results somewhat differently. **There is nothing incorrect about the way this is done from project to project**, however, as a regional manager, I often look at these reports to see how avian predator activity varies within reaches in the hydrosystem and thus, some consistency in project to project reporting is important.

Currently, the projects are variously reporting daily average, daily maximum, tailrace only, morning only, daily by zone, weekly by zone using simple tables, complex tables, picture overlays and graphics to show weekly monitoring results. **All of these are great for the individual project,** but they make it difficult and perhaps misleading to compare avian activity among projects.

**My simple suggestion** is that each can project stay with what they are doing but include a table that simply lists the maximum observed daily tailrace gull, tern and cormorant counts. This might be the only daily count you make or it might be just one of several for the day. Adding the time of the count would be useful, too. This is a simple table seven or eight cells deep and four or five across. A good example of what I am looking for is the table done by the Lower Monumental project.

Thanks to all the project biologists for working with me on this!