



Monthly Report by WS for
Bonneville Dam
April 2023

**Pinniped and Piscivorous Bird Hazing at
Bonneville Dam:
April 2023 Monthly Report to
USACE**



**United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Wildlife Services**

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Introduction:

An interagency agreement U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services (WS) was established at the Bonneville Dam (BON) for the purposes of reducing predation on sturgeon and migrating adult salmonids and lamprey through vigorous hazing of pinniped species, primarily California sea lions and Steller sea lions, and piscivorous birds.

Through that agreement, WS is to provide a monthly work activities statement to USACE detailing date and hours of pinniped and piscivorous bird hazing, non-lethal dispersal numbers, and a summary of activities.

Wildlife Services Decision Model:

When identifying wildlife damage and evaluating management methods, each damage issue is afforded a systematic approach to decision making referred to as the WS Decision Model (WS Directive 2.105). The WS Decision Model contains the following steps:

- I. Assess the Problem
- II. Evaluate management methods.
- III. Formulate a management strategy.
- IV. Provide assistance.
- V. Monitor and evaluate results.

April 2023 Summary:

WS seasonal employees at BON worked 360 hours for 30 days during the month of April. Employees were able to adapt to adverse weather conditions and perform their duties daily without delay or cancellations.

A variety of different hazing techniques are used to avoid habituation—exposing animals to the same non-lethal methods (i.e., using the same pyrotechnics) over time will eventually lead to ineffectiveness. Some distinct types of pyrotechnics used at BON include: 15mm rounds (an assortment of bangers, screamers, silver comets, and comet bangers), M-80's, cracker shells, and rockets. During the month of April, WS fired 3,172 rounds of pyrotechnics, hazing a total of 1,168 Steller sea lions and 2,296 California sea lions, and 96 mixed gull species, predominately California gulls.

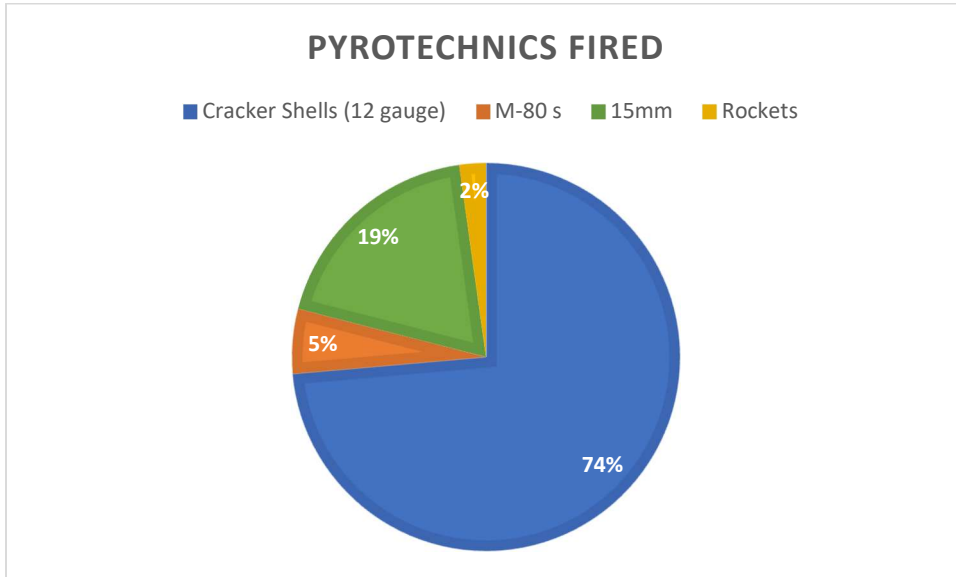


FIGURE 1. PYROTECHNICS USED BY TYPE.

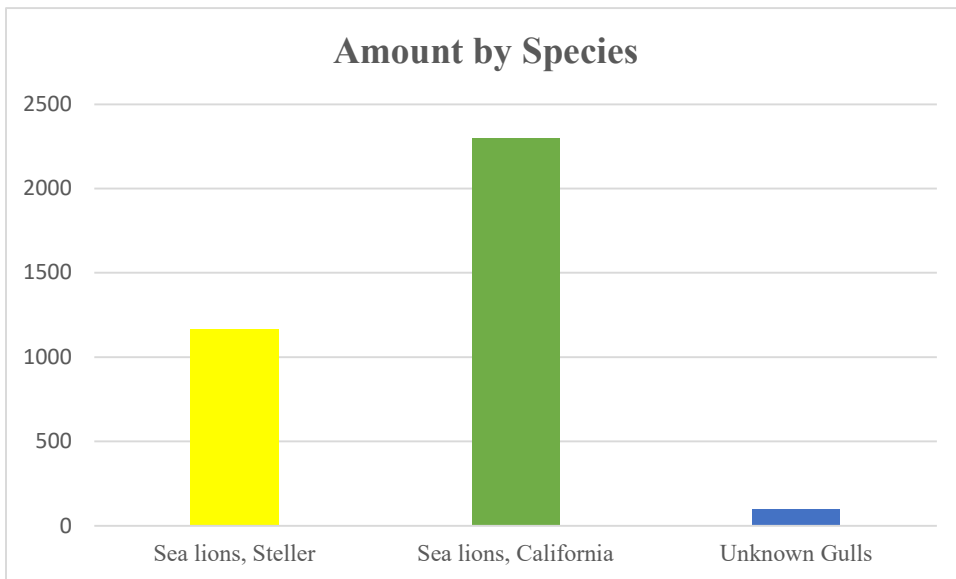


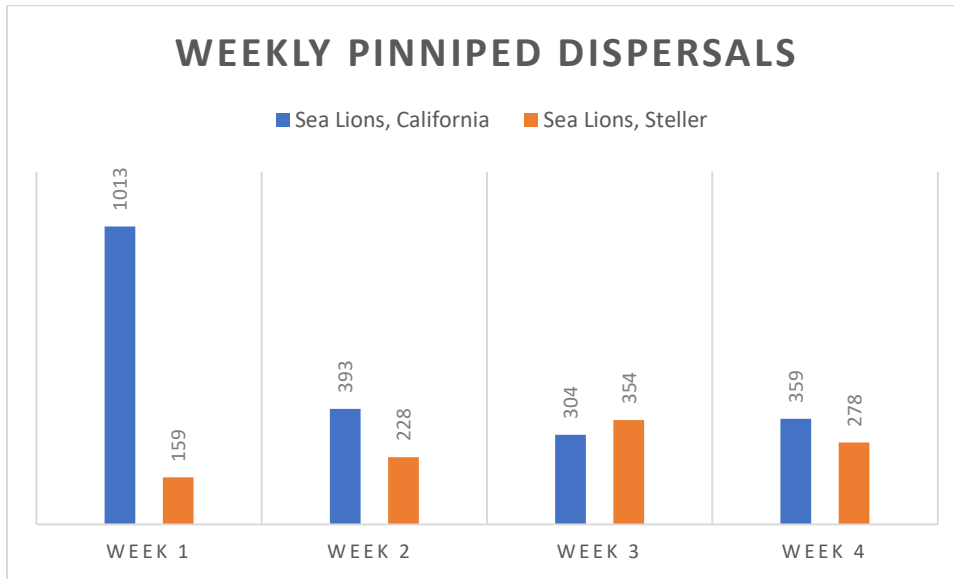
FIGURE 2. AMOUNT OF NON-LETHAL DISPERSALS BY SPECIES.

Observations.

Piscivorous bird hazing is expected to increase this next month. WS employees have noted that they are starting to see an increasing number of gulls as well as a constant number of pinnipeds. They will continue to focus on both pinnipeds and piscivorous birds.



WS Specialists have reported large pods of 20-30 juvenile California sea lions feeding together. These numbers are higher daily totals than in previous years, of the same month. The following weeks see dispersal rates by species even out.



Incident Reports.

No incidents reported for the month of April.