



Monthly Report by WS for
The Dalles Dam
May 2023

**Piscivorous Bird Hazing at The Dalles
Dam:
May 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 Dalles Dam (TDA) for the purposes of reducing predation on juvenile salmonids through vigorous hazing of piscivorous birds.

Through that agreement, WS is to provide a monthly work activities statement to USACE detailing date and hours of 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.

May 2023 Summary:

WS continues to be understaffed per contract for the month of May. Hiring new specialists has been a problem for 2023 across all of Wildlife Services' piscivorous bird hazing projects across the Snake and Columbia Rivers.

WS employees at TDA are currently working 8-hour boat-hazing shifts, 7 days a week. All contracted shifts were covered at The Dalles Dam for May except for unsafe weather days. Boat hazing crews of two people combined to work 29 hazing days at 8 hours per day for a total of 232 boat hours (464 labor hours). Employees were able to haze daily except for two high wind event days (May 5th, 21st).

A variety of different hazing techniques are used in order to avoid habituation—exposing animals to the same non-lethal methods (i.e., using the same pyrotechnics) over time will eventually lead to ineffectiveness. Pyrotechnics used at TDA include: 15mm rounds (an assortment of bangers, screamers, silver comets, and comet screamers), cracker shells, and rockets. During the month of May, WS fired 5,531 rounds of pyrotechnics, hazing a total of 15,312 Gulls and 343 Cormorants.

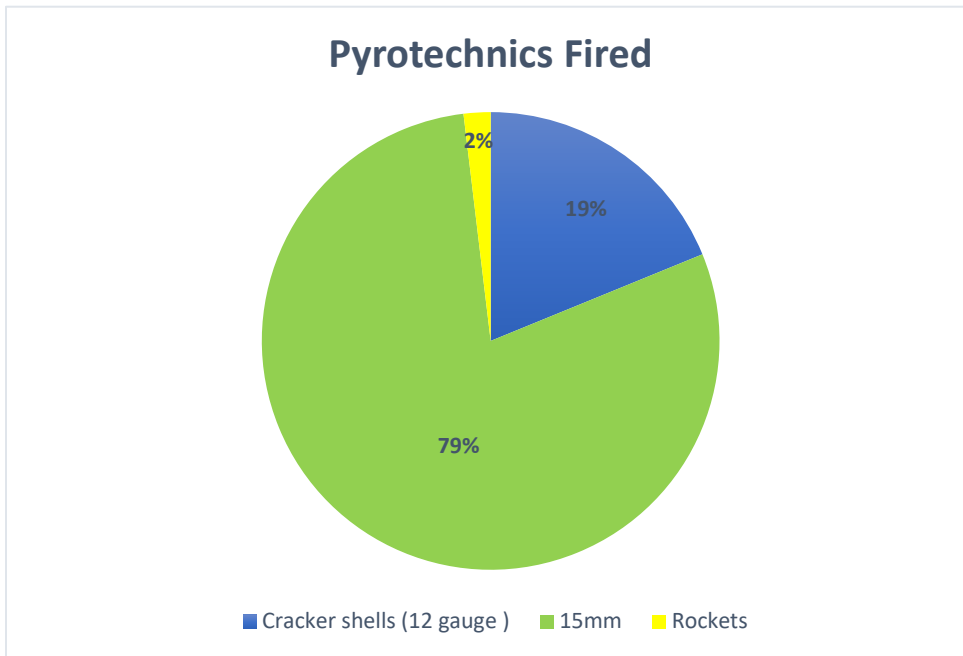


FIGURE 1. PYROTECHNICS USED BY TYPE.

Pyrotechnics	Quantity
15mm	4385
Cracker shells (12 gauge)	1041
Rockets	105
Total	5531

FIGURE 2. QUANTITY OF PYROTECHNICS.

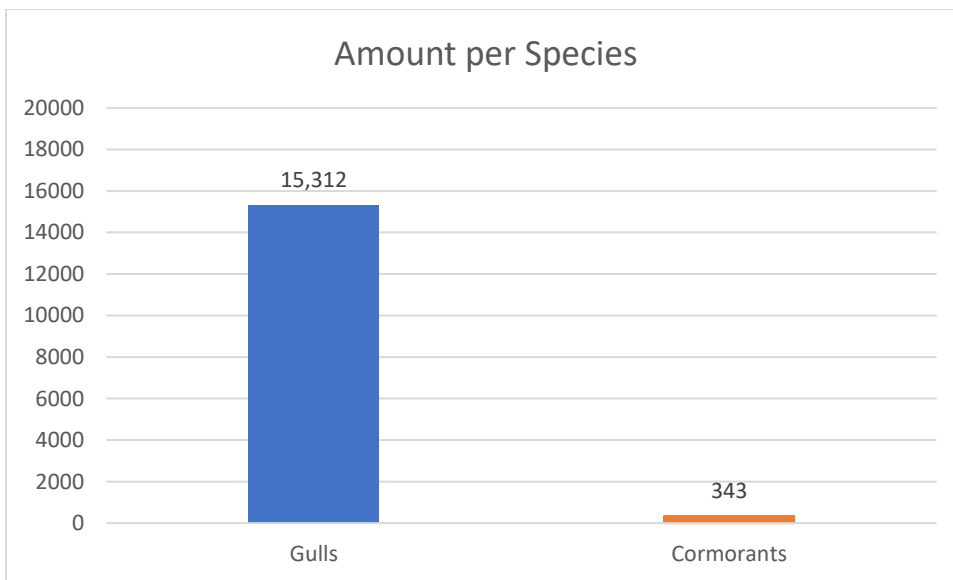




FIGURE 3. AMOUNT OF NON-LETHAL DISPERSALS BY SPECIES.

Observations/Discussion

Gull activity decreased the third week of May and rebounded slightly the following week. WS employees observed a decrease in flow, along with lower water-levels towards the end of May. Most hazing events occurred in SW4, and some in SW3 (during levels of low flow), with most foraging activity along Highway 197 bridge at the edge of the Boat Restricted Zone (BRZ). Increased observations of pelicans also noted.

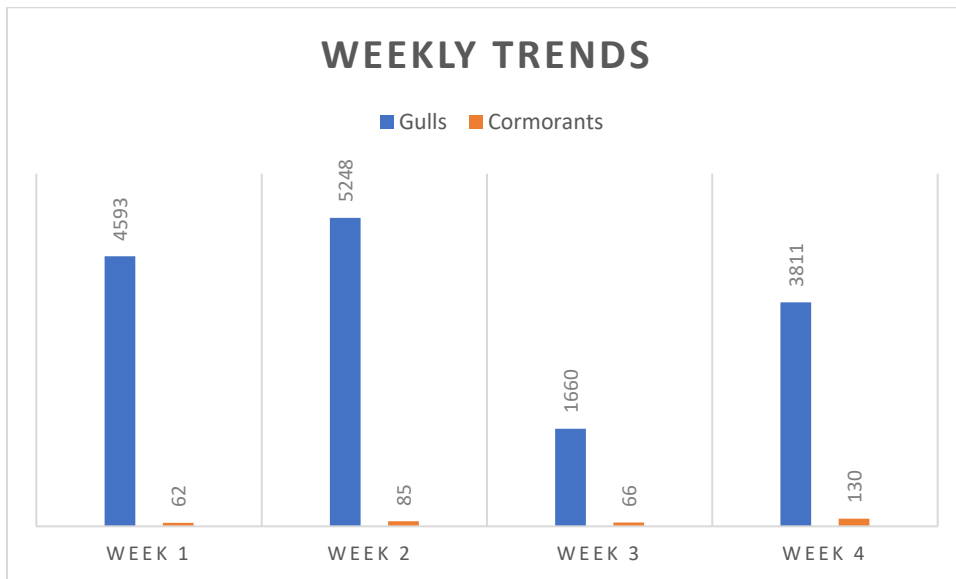


FIGURE 4. SPECIES HAZED PER WEEK.

Incident Reports.

There were no direct incidents involving any WS employees. WS, as well as USACE are communicating with residents along SW4 who are very concerned about noise complaints. This ongoing issue is being addressed by educating the public on WS's utilization of Integrated Wildlife Damage Management approach to better explain our daily activities.