**John Day Dam Smolt Monitoring Facility Operations (March 2021)**

Participants: Scott Fielding, Eric Grosvenor, Laurie Porter, Ralph Lampman, Greg Kovalchuck, and Michael Lotspeich

Conference call to discuss the collection of juvenile lamprey at the John Day Smolt Monitoring Facility during March 2021. The collection season at John Day Dam will start in early March (weather dependent) with STS screens being deployed on 1 March and sampling to start on 2 March (tentative schedule). Screen will be deployed in Main Units 1-4 starting 1 March with the reminder of the units being screened by 1 April. The questions asked by FPOM and lamprey researchers was is it possible to operate the SMF adaptively to collect juvenile lamprey during March?

Question #1: Can the SMF operate and collect fish on a 24-hour (every-other-Day) basis in 2021. Fielding answer, the short answer is no. The current MOC calls for operating the SMF every-other-day for 6 hours. This operating strategy has been proposed because of COVID-19 restrictions which limit the number of staff at the SMF. Lampman asked if we could collect fish for 24 hours which would inform lamprey researchers about the hourly distribution of juvenile lamprey passing through the JBS. Fielding stated that this wouldn’t be possible with limited staff since that would require Corps staff at the SMF for 24 hours. This would also require PSMFC staff to be present to sample fish hourly over the 24-hour period. While this type of operation could provide information about hourly distribution of juvenile lamprey collected at John Day, it’s not an operation that can be supported during the 2021 reduced sampling strategy.

Questions #2: Would it be possible to start collecting fish 3 hours earlier to target juvenile lamprey for genetic sampling? Fielding answer, yes. The idea of having Corps staff arrive at 0400 to start the sampling is something the Corps is willing to do. Basically, Corps personnel would start the sample at 0400 and this would continue until 1000. This sampling effort will occur on regular sample days that fall on Mondays to Thursdays. No early sample time will be conducted Friday through Sunday. PSMFC personnel will sample fish upon arrival at the SMF and conduct condition sampling of salmonid species and genetic sampling of juvenile lamprey. Sample rates will be set to target 100 fish of the predominate species for condition sampling. If fish collection results in 100 fish of the predominate sample happening in a few hours, the sample will be stopped. This sampling strategy will only be conducted during March with approximately 9 days of this strategy being conducted.