# Fish Passage Plan (FPP) Change Form

**Change Form # & Title**: 23LMN001 – Early JBS Start

**Date Submitted**: 17-OCT-2022

**Project**: Lower Monumental Dam

**Requester Name, Agency**: Denise Griffith, USACE NWW

**Final Action: APPROVED as Revised at FPOM 12-JAN-2023**

**FPP Section**: Chapter 9 – Lower Monumental Dam - Table LMN-1, 2.3.1. Juvenile Facilities – Winter Maintenance Period, 2.3.2. Juvenile Facilities – Fish Passage Season, 2.3.2.3. Collection Channel (v), 3.2. Maintenance – Juvenile Fish Facilities (3.2.1.2.). Also related sections in Appendix J (SMP Protocols), per Change Form [23AppJ001](https://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/fpp/2023/changes/).

**Justification for Change**: In accordance with court orders to provide PIT tag monitoring, USACE began implementing early operation of the juvenile bypass systems (JBS) to better understand juvenile emigration patterns in 2018. Early operation of the JBS has been conducted for the month of March at most NWW Projects at least one season, with Lower Granite and McNary dams two seasons. As shown in the “*March Early Start NWW Projects Summary 2018-2022*”, data suggests that juvenile fish emigration begins during the latter part of March.

This proposal would implement operation for the JBS at Lower Monumental Dam approximately 1-week earlier, enabling more efficient planning and coordination for other maintenance and the annual navigation lock outage.

**Proposed Change**: *Edits to existing FPP text in “track changes”*

**2.3.1. Juvenile Facilities - Winter Maintenance Period (3rd week of December – March 24).**

**2.3.2. Juvenile Facilities – Fish Passage Season (March 25\* – 3rd week of December).**

*\*In 2023, the bypass system will begin operation March 1, as described below.*

Operate in accordance with criteria defined below for juvenile fish bypass, collection, and transport March 25**\***–September 30 *(except in 2023 when bypass operations begin March 1)*, and for adult fallbacks October 1 until Monday of the third week of December. Also operate according to criteria in the Corps of Engineers Juvenile Fish Transportation Plan (**Appendix B**). The transportation program may be revised in accordance with the ESA Section 10 permit and the NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion.

**2.3.2.3. Collection Channel.**

**v.** Backflush orifices at least once per day and more frequently if required. During periods of high debris volumes and fish numbers, from March 25**\*** through July 31*(except in 2023 when bypass operations begin March 1)*, inspect and backflush orifices once per 8-hour shift or more frequently as determined by the Project biologist, to keep orifices clean.

**3.2. Maintenance - Juvenile Fish Facilities.**

**3.2.1.2.** Long-term maintenance or modifications that require facilities out of service for extended periods of time are conducted during the winter maintenance period, beginning as early as the Monday of the 3rd week of December through March 24 *(except in 2023 when bypass operations begin March 1)*.

**Comments**:

10-NOV-2022 FPOM Meeting:

Hesse - early starts were during cold years. The proposed date is right on the edge of when salmonids show up. Lamprey have been observed earlier. Need to collect data for successful translocation. Likes the standardization of a date but prefers mid-March and discussion about lamprey.

Peery - lamprey were not part of this decision. Can deviate for research if want to get data on lamprey.

Swank - concerned about not observing changes in timing, esp with climate change.

Bettin - screens will start going in earlier to meet the date (by March 25).

Conder - this is a good operation for fish and can still talk about earlier start and data collection.

Peery - a consistent schedule allows time for project to do winter maintenance and plan more efficiently.

Hesse - is this standardization ending the effort to look at early start on a rotating basis?

Peery - yes, that is the intent. Having it rotate to a different project/start date each year is very difficult to schedule/budget for. What are other dates folks are willing to consider?

St. John - nav maintenance is typically already scheduled and contracted. Screen install also requires the cranes so can’t do both at the same time. Also, RSW pit-detection will happen in March during overshoot spill, so there will be some data collected.

Morrill - only have one year at LGS. Thought the plan was to get two years.

Van Dyke - there was a set schedule when this first came up that has been changed every year.

Hesse - overshoot spill isn’t enough to get sufficient data to monitor early movement of juveniles.

Peery - requested folks to send in their comments and will keep this on the agenda for more discussion.

8-DEC-2022 FPOM Meeting:

Conder - co-managers are not willing to give up the early start operations for value of data gathering. Willing to start a week earlier as proposed by the change forms but still want to rotate an earlier start as done previously.

Peery - what are you looking for? What is the value? What is the co-managers’ plan? Need to look at the data and make a decision rather than a perpetual data gathering exercise.

Conder - would like to get a range of flow years to compare. Understands it shouldn’t be done in perpetuity. No plan yet as to which projects and when.

Ebel - will draft a written response with what they want to see and why. Still haven’t had a flow year similar to what was the impetus for this operation. Also difficult to interpret when it’s rotated around. Will get the response/plan to Peery ASAP.

Peery - early start has a big impact on nav lock outage so need as much forewarning as possible.

Van Dyke - there is an FPC memo from OCT 2017 that provides justification. Other documents too with lots of information.

Morrill - there is quite a bit of information and data already out there that will be helpful for them to consider in making a recommendation.

12-JAN-2023 FPOM Meeting:

FPAC requested to start March 1 at LMN this year and will submit a recommendation for future years. After extensive coordination with project staff, LMN will target a start date as close to March 1, 2023, as possible (dependent on winter maintenance, weather, and staff availability) with screens in the first 3 priority units (1-3) and implementing sampling protocols in Appendix J for April 1-15.

**Record of Final Action**: APPROVED as revised at FPOM 12-JAN-2023.