

## Fish Passage Plan (FPP) Change Form

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**Change Form # & Title:** 24AppF001 – Non-Native Fish Handling  
**Date Submitted:** 29-JAN-2024  
**Project:** All  
**Requester Name, Agency:** Bob Cordie, Corps  
**Final Action:** FINALIZED 1-FEB-2024; UPDATED 14-MAR-2024

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**FPP SECTION:** Appendix F, Dewatering Plans, section 6 “Fish Handling Procedures”

**JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGE:** The language regarding gut content analysis was added in 2022 but isn’t applicable to all NWW projects. Removal is encouraged but not required, recognizing that some projects handle far more non-native fish. This practice should be at the discretion of the on-site biologists.

**PROPOSED CHANGE:** See below for edits to existing FPP text in “Track Changes.”

**6.3.** The Dewatering and Fish Handling/Salvage Plans should reflect the following general fish handling guidelines:

- (a) Adult salmonids and other large adult fish should be salvaged first.
- (b) Netting of fish should be minimized whenever possible.
- (c) Fish should not be crowded in the holding containers.
- (d) Fish will be less stressed in larger containers ( $\geq 300$  gallons preferred), in colder water, and with supplemental oxygen or aeration.
- (e) If fish are transported in warmer water ( $>65^{\circ}$  F), reduce fish loading density and holding times.
- (f) All fish will be returned to the river as soon as possible at predetermined release sites.
- (g) Fish should not be held in holding tanks or containers for more than two hours under any circumstances.
- (h) Fish should be released from the holding tanks into the river as soon as the fish salvage operation stops for any reason.
- (i) Fish should be carefully released into the tailwater or forebay with a short vertical drop to the river. Fish release slides are desirable.
- (j) Water temperature in the transport tank should be monitored and maintained within  $2^{\circ}$ F of the river water at the release site.
- (k) Fish should be removed prior to debris removal if possible.
- (l) Where permitted and feasible, Do not release any non-native fish back to the river when encountered. If feasible, Known predators will be analyzed for diet content. In some cases, they will be left in place due to excessive effort needed for removal.

## **COMMENTS:**

1-FEB-2024 FPOM FPP meeting:

Van Dyke commented that the broader context is how invasive species are treated differently than game fish. This bullet doesn't capture that, and it doesn't specify where in the system it applies. Is this just more general fish handling guidelines?

Wright said yes, the intent was to broaden the scope since not all projects have the same capabilities, permits, or numbers of non-native fish they handle. This change makes it apply as permitted and feasible.

Van Dyke added that the permit is only in the hands of the permittee, so those details aren't readily available. No suggested edits, just comments.

### **UPDATE at March 14 FPOM:**

Art Martin, ODFW, provided an update on OR statute regarding removal of non-indigenous aquatic species. There is now a mechanism to work through to remove non-native game fish during dewatering and other operations of that nature. Martin mentioned that it was in the 2024 FPP to not put non-indigenous fish back in the river but that was operating outside of state law and now there is a path for authorization of removal.

**New ORS 496.860 Authorization to remove nonindigenous aquatic species.** Notwithstanding ORS 498.042 and 509.112 and any other provision of the wildlife laws or commercial fishing laws, the State Department of Fish and Wildlife may authorize any person to remove from a specified area and dispose of a nonindigenous aquatic species if the department determines that the nonindigenous aquatic species is adversely affecting any population of native fish species within that area. [2023 c.48 §2]

**RECORD OF FINAL ACTION:** Finalized at the FPOM FPP meeting 1-FEB-2024.