

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: 14 LGS 06 MFR 2817 Barge Taken Out of Service

On Sunday, May 11, Little Goose Juvenile Fish Facility personnel began to pump water into the 2817 barge holds in preparation for direct fish loading operations. Facility staff noticed that the front and middle holds filled twice as fast as the rear hold. Pumping operations were terminated and water was released from the rear hold to allow inspection of the plunger. Upon closer inspection, facility staff discovered that the rear hold plunger had deteriorated and pieces had flaked or chipped off the edges of the plunger (see attached pictures). Facility staff lowered the plunger and utilized the 3 onboard water pumps to fill the rear hold. As soon as two of the pumps were turned off, the water level in the rear hold dropped ~6" below the previous water level at the top of the plunger/discharge screen.

Because of these developments, facility staff loaded fish into the raceways instead. Collected fish were loaded into the 8108 barge the following day and taken downriver to the release point. The 2817 barge was returned to Lower Granite and taken out of service for repairs. This barge is expected to remain out of service for at least 30 days as barge plungers are custom made and no replacement plungers are in stock.

The Little Goose facility will not be able to directly load fish into a barge every fourth day during daily barge operations. Fish will be loaded into raceways instead, and loaded into an 8000 barge departing from Lower Granite Dam the following day. Fish releases will continue below Bonneville Dam as usual. As of May 12, fish collection numbers at Lower Granite, Little Goose and Lower Monumental have dropped from last week. Presently, there is far more than enough barge capacity to handle this change in barge operations.

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