

**OFFICIAL COORDINATION REQUEST FOR
NON-ROUTINE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**

COORDINATION TITLE - 16WVP01 Review Period of Willamette Fish Operations Plan

COORDINATION DATE - 22 January 2016

PROJECT - Willamette Valley Projects

RESPONSE DATE - 05 February 2016

Description of the problem - Timing of the annual Regional review of the Willamette Fish Operations Plan for updates: In order to meet the required Willamette BiOp deadline of March 15 for completion of the annual updates to WFOP and the multiple reviews necessary prior to that date, the annual regional review occurred largely during the month of December 2015, and is proposed to occur in December in future years. Providing the regional review over December when many people are off for vacation/ holiday/use or lose etc. hinders a thorough review by the Region due to time constraints and limits coordination/ clarifying conversations to be had. These hindrances are likely to increase the number of comments that are brought up during the Services' review (subsequent to the Regional Review), and thereby increase the number of items that are not in the hard copy printed for the operators. As described by the USACE staff, the review process relies heavily on getting comments during the regional review (not the Services' subsequent review) to get the best, most-up to date information and address the comments into the Project operators' hard copy, which is most frequently used at the USACE sites.

To better ensure the printed versions reflect the comments from the Regional Review, NMFS and USFWS support moving the required date of March 15 (for final annual update to the WFOP prior to its printing) to April 1 annually, and would consider date as late as April 15 if necessary to facilitate review and improve the overall document.

Type of outage required - None

Impact on facility operation - None

Dates of impacts/repairs - None

Length of time for repairs - None

Expected impacts on fish passage - Moving the deadline would benefit fish passage operations across all projects by allowing all of the Regional Review comments to be addressed in the one-time annual printing of the WFOP hardcopy for the operators.

Comments from agencies - USFWS and NMFS support this proposed change.

Final results – This request will be included in a change form to incorporate new reporting dates for the 2016 WFOP.

See attached letter from USFWS