CENWP-OD-V Minto Fish Facility **2-4-2016**

Updated 2-29-2016

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD Minto Ladder Outage 16DET01

SUBJECT: Ladder Shutdown and Possible Delay to Winter Steelhead.

On 02 February, the USACE was notified by ODFW personnel at the Minto Fish Facility that the fish ladder had been shut down on 25 January, due to concerns about safety violations. Multiple safety issues have been identified at the Foster Fish Facility after several visits by OR OSHA inspectors. ODFW received a violation notice and penalty fee due to the nature of the issues found at Foster. The USACE, ODFW, OR OSHA, and Federal OSHA have been actively addressing these issues at Foster and employing temporary measures to keep the facility operational while the modifications are being made.

Because similar safety concerns exist at the Minto Fish Facility, ODFW decided that it was in their best interest to cease conducting operations at the facility that entailed the use of crowders, including the fish ladder and pre-sort pool, and passage of resident fish and natural-origin salmonids above the barrier dam. ODFW will continue to acclimate and release 420,000 spring Chinook smolts that are currently onsite. Safety issues at Minto were previously identified and will be addressed after maintenance crews have completed the remaining work at the Foster Fish Facility.

This outage may affect the passage of winter Steelhead arriving at Minto in mid to late February. The USACE will operate the facility in the interim, to ensure adequate passage is provided for resident fish and ESA-listed species.

Comments can be addressed to:

Andy Traylor - USACE
(503) 201-5810

Ryan Couture - ODFW
(541) 757-5228

Final Action: The Minto fish ladder was watered up the week of 15 February and is currently being operated as described below.

Follow up emails from the week of 15 February.

Thu 2/18/2016 9:05 AM

Hi Andy,

NMFS discussed this issue with ODFW late last week, and just received this proposal late Tuesday from ODFW. We agree to the special Minto operation as described in Cameron Sharpe's email below for the next month or so, until safety repairs have been completed. However, we will need ODFW or the USACE to monitor fish condition and report to us weekly with fish counts, condition, disposition. If fish numbers in the pre-sort pool spike up, we may request more frequent monitoring and use of the crowder by USACE.

We request additional discussion by the RME Team (or a subset of that team) regarding disposition of the PIT-tagged winter steelhead from the paired release study. We see the value in using these fish for creating future "surrogate winter steelhead" for future studies, but we are not clear how long the paired release studies will continue in the Santiam subbasins, and if additional surrogates are needed. We would prefer using these fish to natural-origin winter steelhead for research, but we also see value in releasing these returning adults above Detroit, if there are sufficient returns.

In summary, our recommendations are: 1) yes, to Minto operation as described by Cam; and 2) more discussion with RME Team on what to do with PIT-tagged steelhead.

Thanks for working with us to find a reasonable solution to this special situation.

Stephanie Burchfield
Fisheries Biologist
NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region
U.S. Department of Commerce
1201 NE Lloyd Blvd, Suite 1100
Portland OR 97232

503-736-4720

On Wed, Feb 17, 2016 at 2:10 PM, Traylor, Andrew NWP <Andrew.W.Traylor@usace.army.mil <mailto:Andrew.W.Traylor@usace.army.mil> > wrote:

Stephanie,

Did you send an email to ODFW folks about recommendations on operating Minto? If so, please forward so we can document this going forward.

Thanks,

-Andy

-----Original Message-----
From: Ryan Couture [mailto:ryan.b.couture@state.or.us <mailto:ryan.b.couture@state.or.us>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 1:15 PM
To: Traylor, Andrew NWP <Andrew.W.Traylor@usace.army.mil
<mailto:Andrew.W.Traylor@usace.army.mil> >
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Minto Ops during safety upgrades

FYI

Ryan Couture

Acting Hatchery Coordinator

West Region-South Hatcheries

541-757-5228 <tel:541-757-5228>

From: Cameron Sharpe - OSU
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 3:17 PM
To: Stephanie Burchfield - NOAA Federal (stephanie.burchfield@noaa.gov
<mailto:stephanie.burchfield@noaa.gov> <mailto:stephanie.burchfield@noaa.gov
<mailto:stephanie.burchfield@noaa.gov> >); ed.meyer@noaa.gov <mailto:ed.meyer@noaa.gov>
<mailto:ed.meyer@noaa.gov <mailto:ed.meyer@noaa.gov> >
Cc: Tom Friesen; ryan.b.couture@state.or.us <mailto:ryan.b.couture@state.or.us>
<mailto:ryan.b.couture@state.or.us <mailto:ryan.b.couture@state.or.us> > ; Greg Grenbemer; Elise X Kelley
Subject: Minto Ops during safety upgrades

Stephanie and Ed,

ODFW folks (cc's) met and discussed steelhead passage at Minto.

Safety issues with the motorized crowders at the Minto FCF have forced a change in fish handling at the facility until the safety issues can be resolved. ODFW personnel are not permitted to operate the crowders but wild winter-run steelhead are expected to start entering the facility in small numbers soon (within the month). We need to ensure that we get a count of and samples from wild fish. We propose to water up the ladder and presort pool. Then each day, at least twice per day, the pumps for the false weir will be started and any (uncrowded) steelhead that leave the presort pool will be routed to the anesthetic tank, enumerated, checked for PIT or Floy tags, sampled for DNA and scales, and returned to the river above Minto. Alternatively, release sites in the Little North Santiam River are being explored by ODFW.

If five or more steelhead enter the presort pool and do not volitionally move on their own via the false weir, the USACE will be called to operate the crowder and empty the presort pool with sampling as described above.

If a PIT tagged fish is detected and identified as an adult return from the paired release study (unclipped F1 hatchery fish) it will be sequestered in one of the holding ponds and, ultimately, used as brood for the ongoing paired release study.

Cam

Cameron Sharpe

Fish Biologist/Project Leader

Willamette BiOp Hatchery RME