

FPP Change Form

Change Request Number: 10BON012

Date: 1/13/2010

Proposed by: NOAA Fisheries- Fredricks

Location of Change: BON 2.4.2.3.a

Proposed Change: Include the following language

a. Beginning on 1 March, JMF personnel will enumerate steelhead/kelt passage at the JMF adult/debris separator. When two steelhead/kelts per day are seen at the JMF separators for two consecutive days, the B2CC will be opened within 14 hours.

Reason for Change: Allows for safer kelt passage while reducing B2CC operation. The following points form the basis for this recommendation, please see Fredricks' January 12, 2010, memo (attached to draft January 13, 2010, FPP meeting minutes) for more detailed justification.

- The kelt outmigration at Bonneville Dam is likely made up of listed lower Columbia River steelhead stocks including the severely depressed winter steelhead stock.
- Protecting kelts in March is important since early outmigrating kelts are more likely to return.
- Kelts use the corner collector preferentially when it is open.
- Kelt passage survival through the corner collector is likely much higher than through the powerhouse turbines.
- A two fish/two day trigger reasonably predicts the start of the bulk of the early kelt outmigration.
- The two fish trigger reflects a higher passage rate since separator counts are not a population estimate, actual passage would be higher based on expansions for FGE and separator sampling effort.
- A trigger based on higher numbers would do little to protect kelts passing in a low passage year, a time when they need the most protection.
- A two fish/two day trigger would reduce the concerns about unnecessary use of the corner collector. The passage data would suggest a mid to late March opening on most years, rather than the March 1 opening originally under consideration.

Comments from others: CRITFC approves. USFWS agrees. ODFW agrees. BPA agrees with the triggers. This issue has been mentioned at RIOG. FPOM had questions as to whether or not this is actively discussed at RIOG. Hevlin suggested asking for an Executive decision.

Record of Final Action: FPOM approved of the triggers and the time to open at Feb FPOM. Bettin clarified that BPA did not agree to the specific triggers but to the idea that triggers (not necessarily the ones proposed) could be agreed to.