

Change Request Number: 11AppB002

Date: January 19th, 2011

Proposed by: FPAC

Location of Change- Appendix B

Proposed Change: 3. Program Duration:

a. Starting Operations: Consistent with the ~~2010~~-Fish Operations Plan and guidance provided by TMT, the juvenile fish transportation program allows for a variable start date, based on expected river flow. During years when the spring seasonal average river flows in the Snake River are expected to equal or exceed 65 kcfs, transport operations will begin ~~a staggered start date~~ between April 21 and May 1 at Lower Granite, ~~Little Goose, and Lower Monumental dams,~~ as ~~coordinated with~~ ~~determined by~~ TMT. ~~In these years, transportation will likely begin at Little Goose and Lower Monumental dams in a staggered fashion, with the start dates being coordinated~~ ~~determined at~~ with TMT. Prior to ~~that date the start of transportation at a given collector project,~~ all collected fish will be bypassed directly to the river unless needed for a regionally approved study. In years when the spring seasonal average river flows are expected to be below 65 kcfs, transport operations will start on April 3 at Lower Granite, ~~April 1 at~~ Little Goose, and Lower Monumental dams. McNary Dam will begin sampling for PIT tags, monitoring facility operations, and the Smolt Monitoring Program (SMP) on April 17. Transport operations at McNary Dam will not begin until conditions specified under paragraph 4.b. (2) in coordination and discussions with TMT are met.

d. Emergency Notification Criteria: Project Biologists will report to the CENWW Transportation Coordinator when high water temperatures or other factors increase collection mortality to 6 percent of daily collection for 3 consecutive days; ~~or~~ if daily collection mortality exceeds 10,000 fish; and provide early notice if mortality rates are increasing at such a rate that these numbers are likely to be met. The Transportation Coordinator will evaluate the situation and shall notify NOAA Fisheries and may arrange a conference call, if needed, with TMT or FPOM to discuss ~~the options of continuing collection and transportation or to bypass fish to provide adequate fish protection measures~~. In the event of a fish loss exceeding conditions set forth in the ESA Section 10 Permit for the transportation program, the Corps shall notify NOAA Fisheries and reopen consultation as needed. If icing conditions threaten facility integrity or present unsafe conditions on the transport route, transport operations may be terminated early by the project's Operations Manager. Emergency termination or modification of the transportation program will be coordinated by the CENWW Transportation Coordinator with NOAA Fisheries and TMT.

4. Operating Criteria:

b. Collection and Transportation: Juvenile fish shall be transported in accordance with the ESA Section 10 permit, the Updated Proposed Action prepared under ESA Section 7 consultation with NOAA Fisheries, and transportation program criteria. During transport operations, collected juvenile fish will be bypassed back to the river if the number of collected fish exceeds ~~or is expected to exceed~~ the facility and/or barge holding capacities. If the number of collected fish is expected to exceed the facility and/or barge holding capacities, spill amounts may be increased, to avoid collecting more fish than

holding capacity. In such instances the CENWW Transportation Coordinator shall promptly coordinate this information with RCC and NOAA Fisheries. If it is determined that the best course of action is to increase spill, spill operations shall begin prior to the facility reaching its holding capacity (around when the eighth of ten raceways is filled). Spill may continue until holding capacity becomes available or fish condition improves.

Holding for ~~transportation~~transportation and planned spill amounts will resume when adequate capacities are available to hold and transport fish according to transportation program criteria. Maximum holding time and loading criteria will not be exceeded without CENWW review and approval. Marked or PIT tagged fish will be released to the river if they are part of an approved research study or smolt monitoring program travel time evaluation. Specifics of the transportation program may be altered during the transportation season based on recommendations from the TMT.

(1) At Lower Granite, Little Goose, and Lower Monumental dams, all juvenile fish collected, with the exception of those marked for in-river studies, shall be transported once transport operations begin (paragraph 3.a.). The default dates for fish collection and barging operations to begin are April 6 during low flow years (first barge departs April 8) and on April 21 in higher flow years (first barge departs April 22 or 23), continuing through approximately August 15 of each year.

g. Summer Transport Operations:

(6) If a temperature gradient between the forebay and the gatewells or the gatewells and the collection channel is observed in real time or predicted from temperature modeling at McNary exceeds 6 degree Fahrenheit;~~;~~ ~~or~~ collection mortality increases to 6 percent of daily collection for any 3 days in a rolling 5 day period;~~;~~ or the mortality is increasing at such a rate that these mortality numbers are likely to be met, the project will immediately alter turbine operations to reduce mortality and temperature where possible.

Reason for Change: To improve protection measures for fish and to provide consistency with other sections of Appendix B.

Comments from others: NOAA hopes this issue will go away when a model can more accurately predict conditions.

Record of Final Action: Section 3 approved 21 January 2011, as changed. 4.b.1 approved 21 January 2011. 4.g.6 approved 21 January 2011. Section 4.b not approved.