

Fish Passage Plan (FPP) Change Request Form

Change Form # & Title: 15AppB002 – Columnaris Operations
Date Submitted: December 18, 2014
Project: Transport at Lower Monumental Dam
Requester Name, Agency: Trevor Conder, NOAA Fisheries
Final Action: APPROVED – [January 22, 2015](#)

FPP Section: Appendix B - section 4.6. Summer Transport Operations.

Justification for Change: Reduce the handling of diseased fish and potentially reduce stress and the opportunity of transmission of disease from infected fish to healthy fish.

Fish pathologists from multiple agencies have suggested that the symptoms of columnaris disease generally increase with handling and temperature stressors. Returning bypassed fish at the Lower Monumental to the river reduces handling and is likely less stressful than transporting them via truck to the Bonneville tailrace. Based on reported USACE scroll case data, the temperature of the receiving water body in the Lower Monumental tailrace is typically cooler than the Bonneville tailrace. Therefore the primary bypass option should not increase the stress level of the bypassed fish, making this the preferred operation.

Proposed Change:

4.6. Summer Transport Operations.

4.6.1. During the summer, all fish collected will be routed to raceways with the most effective shading for holding. Sampling efforts should be minimized, if possible, to limit handling stress on fish. Facility samples may be processed every-other-day if necessary.

4.6.2. All collected fish may be routed to sample tanks when fish numbers drop to an acceptable handling level. At that time, all collected fish will be handled as part of the daily sample per SMP guidelines (see **Appendix J**). To minimize handling stress, facility samples may be processed every other day. When large trucks are used, fish may be loaded from either raceways or labs. When mini or midi-tankers are used, Corps and agency project biologists will select the best method of transferring fish from the lab to the tankers.

4.6.3. During summer truck transport, if fish collection numbers begin increasing to where it appears the project will have difficulty transporting fish with available equipment, the project shall immediately notify the CENWW Transportation Coordinator, who will then arrange for an additional transport vehicle if possible, joint fish transportation between two or more projects, or prioritize transport/bypass operations between the projects.

4.6.4. When water temperatures are above 68°F, all personnel handling fish shall take extra care to minimize stress and other impacts on fish.

4.6.5. When mortality from columnaris disease (*Flavobacterium columnare*) in the condition sample exceeds 10% for three consecutive days after August 17, collection for transport will end and the system will be placed in primary bypass with a condition sample taken every third day.

The collection of fish for condition sampling will end after one 24-hour sample period, or when 100 juvenile salmonids are collected for examination. The FPC will be notified and FPAC will review available data for future recommendations.

Comments:

16-Jan-2015 NOAA memo: “No objections to this change form.”

Record of Final Action:

22-Jan-2015 FPOM: APPROVED with edits to clarify collection will end “...*after one 24-hour sample period...*”