

## Fish Passage Plan (FPP) Change Request Form

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**Change Form # & Title:** 15IHR004 – STS Operation  
**Date Submitted:** October 30, 2014  
**Project:** Ice Harbor Dam  
**Requester Name, Agency:** Ken Fone, Ice Harbor Dam  
**Final Action:** APPROVED as revised – [January 22, 2015](#)

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**FPP Section:** IHR 2.3.1.2.b Juvenile Passage Facilities – Fish Passage Period.

**Justification for Change:** Provide clarification of some of the wording. Clarified that “project” refers to Ice Harbor.

Standard practice is to remain in continuous running mode while average fork length of sub-yearling Chinook or sockeye is less than 120 mm. There is no reason to switch back to cycling mode after 1 week and re-evaluate, if we know that average fork length is still less than 120 mm. However, if fish sampling is not occurring at both projects, but evidence that smaller fish were present at Ice Harbor lead to putting the STS in continuous running mode, then returning to cycling mode after 1 week and re-evaluating is good guidance to follow.

**Proposed Change:**

**2.3.1.2.b. STSs and VBSs.**

**b.1.** Operate STSs in cycling mode when average fork length of sub-yearling Chinook or sockeye is greater than 120 mm at Lower Monumental ~~collection~~[Juvenile Fish Facility](#).

**b.2.** Operate STSs in continuous-~~operational-run~~ mode when average fork length of sub-yearling Chinook or sockeye is less than 120 mm at Lower Monumental ~~collection~~[Juvenile Fish Facility](#), or if there is evidence that smaller juvenile fish are present at ~~the~~[Ice Harbor p](#)Project. ~~If fish sampling is not occurring at Lower Monumental and Ice Harbor Juvenile Fish Facilities, Rreturn to cycling mode after one week has passed and re-evaluate.~~

**Comments:** 1/16/15 NOAA memo: “This change is an improvement; however, the LMN language on this topic (15LMN003) is preferred because it avoids returning to cycling mode after one week if sampling is not occurring, which puts us in a potentially harmful operation. Operating in continuous mode would be better for fish over the entire season such as the current BON and JDA STS’s operation. Condition sampling data indicates most migrants are 120mm by August; however, the biological basis for 120mm cutoff point is unclear as is the significance of maintenance costs of running in cycle vs. continuous modes. Because it is a benefit, we could support the LMN language with slight rewording to fit IHR for now, but we suggest we work over the details this year to determine if continuous mode operation can be used at LMN and IHR at least through a larger portion of the passage season.”

**Record of Final Action:** 1/22/15 FPOM: APPROVED as revised.