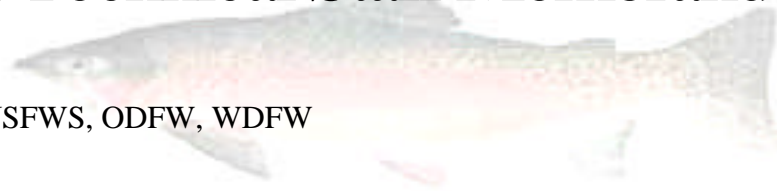


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Joint Technical Staff Memorandum

USFWS, ODFW, WDFW



December 11, 2000

Greg Delwich
Bonneville Power Administration
905 NE 11th Ave.
Portland, OR 97208-3621

Dear Mr. Delwich:

The technical staffs of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) are continuing to conduct extensive research at the Pierce/Ives Islands natural fall Chinook and chum salmon spawning area below Bonneville Dam. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife maintain fishery management and regulatory jurisdictions in the area. In addition we have participated in the NMFS Technical Management Team and other regional processes over the past three years of regional discussions relating to the protection of the extremely important mainstem spawning area for fall Chinook and ESA listed lower Columbia River chum salmon.

The Washington Department of Fish and Game, with jurisdiction in this area and the US Fish and Wildlife Service advised the federal operators of the conditions necessary to provide for the utilization of the Pierce/Ives Island natural spawning area, memorandum dated September 18, 2000. Thus far, the conditions provided for the fall spawning period for fall Chinook and chum salmon have been disappointing. Hydrosystem operations and flow conditions have resulted in only a portion of the potential mainstem habitat for fall Chinook and chum salmon being available and accessible to returning salmon. This regrettable situation has been compounded by the inaccessibility of tributary streams, as the result of less than average precipitation. Under these circumstances, the mainstem spawning area becomes more critically important than under average conditions. The

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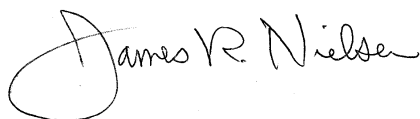
June 27, 2001

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Federal hydrosystem operating agencies have to date precluded chum salmon access to much of the high quality mainstem chum salmon spawning habitat. Variations in flow that have occurred thus far have resulted in documented incidents of stranding and dewatering of redds. The natural spawning conditions provided thus far for these fish have been poor.

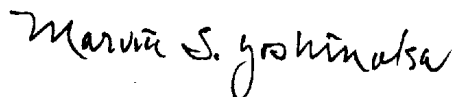
We were advised in the TMT meeting on December 7, 2000 that the Bonneville Power Administration will declare a federal power system emergency no later than Monday, December 11, 2000. We were advised that this would result in increasing flows at the Pierce/Ives spawning area to a day average of 175 kcfs to 180 kcfs. We were also advised that if a regional emergency is declared flows through the area might increase to a level in excess of 200 kcfs. This situation is taking place during the peak spawning period for chum salmon. Recent surveys conducted by ODFW, WDFW, and USFWS have indicated that over 400 chum have spawned approximately 300 redds in the relatively small amount of spawning habitat available at the current flow levels. Approximately 50-100 fish remain in the area, with more fish likely to arrive over the next several weeks. We believe that the increase in flows will result in chum salmon building redds being established at higher elevations on the high quality habitat on the north shore of Ives Island. We must emphasize to the federal parties that this operation is likely to establish a new flow protection level for chum salmon. We will monitor the placement of redds and will advise the federal operating agencies of the protection level required. Surveys are scheduled for Friday December 8 and Tuesday December 12 and Friday, December 18, 2000. In addition we are reiterating our earlier request to the federal parties, that spill and reverse load factoring at Bonneville Dam be avoided, to provide protection to the chum salmon and fall Chinook eggs already incubating in the gravel.

Sincerely,



James Nielsen

WDFW



Marv Yoshinaka

USFWS

June 27, 2001
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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles A. Tracy". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Charles A. Tracy
ODFW