



# FISH PASSAGE CENTER

2501 SW First Avenue, Suite 230, Portland, OR 97201-4752

Phone: (503) 230-4099 Fax: (503) 230-7559

<http://www.fpc.org>

e-mail us at [fpcstaff@fpc.org](mailto:fpcstaff@fpc.org)

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Tom Lorz, CRITFC

FROM: FPC Staff

DATE: August 12, 2003

RE: Update status of sub-yearling chinook passage

In response to your request we are providing the following brief points updating sub-yearling chinook downstream passage on the basis of monitoring information.

- Subyearling chinook continue to pass in relatively large daily numbers in the Lower Columbia River. McNary passage indices have averaged 44,000 fish per day over the past two weeks. Over the past four days the indices have increased to an average of 50,000 per day.
- The sub-yearling passage index at Lower Granite Dam is averaging 2,247 fish per day, for the past 15 days. For the past three days the passage index at Lower Granite has maintained near 2,000 fish per day.
- Small numbers of PIT tagged wild and hatchery chinook continue to be detected at Lower Granite Dam, from the Nez Perce hatchery, Pittsburgh Landing, and release groups from Lyons Ferry.
- Most subyearlings passing through the lower river are of mid-Columbia origin. Historical travel time data indicates that at the present flows these fall chinook can be expected to travel quite slowly through the reach from McNary to John Day Dam. At present flows our analysis shows travel times up to 20 days for these fish from McNary to John Day.
- Based upon historical travel time data, at the present flows in the Snake River, wild fall chinook passing Lower Granite Dam are expected to have a 19 day travel time to McNary Dam and an additional 5 day travel time to below Bonneville.
- Wild PIT tag passage timing for the later half of the distributions have varied greatly from the run-at-large passage distribution. Historical data shows that on average the 95% point of passage for the run-at-large is 27 days later than the wild Snake River PIT tagged group. This results from size and temperature conditions on tagging.

- Based on PIT-tags of wild subyearlings in the Clearwater River, a large portion of that population is still rearing above Lower Granite Dam. A total of 663 subyearling chinook were marked in the Clearwater River in 2003. Of those fish only 15 have been detected at Lower Granite or Little Goose dams.
- Wild sub yearling chinook passage at Lower Granite Dam is likely later than either the run-at-large or the wild marked fish from the Lower Snake River (i.e. WPC 15W marks used by DART). The passage index for subyearling chinook at Lower Granite Dam recently increased from 800 fish per day on July 30 to 4,500 fish per day on August 5. While the 95% passage date for run-at-large is likely past, wild subyearling fish, as measured by run timing prior to supplementation, reach that point in mid-September. Very few Clearwater PIT-tagged fish have reached Lower Granite Dam (12 of 750 tags have been detected).