



FISH PASSAGE CENTER

847 NE 19th Avenue, #250, Portland, OR 97232

Phone: (503) 833-3900 Fax: (503) 232-1259

www.fpc.org/

e-mail us at fpcstaff@fpc.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Tucker Jones, ODFW

FROM: Michele DeHart

DATE: October 27, 2016

RE: Bonneville Fish Counts

In response to your request, the Fish Passage Center has reviewed the number of times that there was a delay in posting of the adult daily count data on the web site in 2016. In order to provide context for consideration of these instances of delay, a discussion of current counting schedules at Bonneville Dam as well as explanatory documents issued by USACE, which describe the present process for processing raw fish counts and uploading them to the internet have been included. The following is a tabulation of the instances in which public access to count data was delayed in 2016. Delays have occurred in previous years; however specific records of those delays were not available. There are four occurrences of delay in 2016. The duration of each delay occurrence could not be documented. These delay occurrences are:

1. February 23, 2016
2. September 19th, 2016
3. October 10th, 2016
4. October 15th, 2016-October 17th, 2016

The exact reason for each delay occurrence is not documented, the last three dates occurred on a Monday following a weekend.

The following links to USACE documents describe the process and the USACE commitment to providing visual counts to the public. Review of these documents indicates that the COE has committed to providing visual counts to the public within three days or less until long term modification to the count data management are implemented. At the present time a three day delay is within the timeframe of the COE commitment to provide count data to the public. USACE has stated in both October 2016 FPOM notes and a document describing current count issues and posted to the FPOM website (both linked below) that if fish managers have specific counting needs they should coordinate with the Fish Field Unit.

(see USACE links below).

The counting schedules at Bonneville Dam are outlined in the 2016 Fish Passage Plan (<http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/documents/fpp/2016/>). In 2016, fish counts at Bonneville were performed visually April 1-November 30 on a daily basis between the hours of 0500 to 2100. Over the winter months, video is utilized December 1-March 31, between the hours of 0400-2000. Additionally, between May 15-September 30, video is used to count during the nighttime hours of 2100-0500. It is common for delays to occur periods when video is used, a description of delays of posting video counts can be found at http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/fish_counts/willamette%20falls.asp. When fish are counted visually, barring unforeseen circumstances, counts can be uploaded rather quickly, typically the next day.

Recently, USACE has encountered several issues with the posting of visual counts. There are two documents that have recently been linked to the Fish Passage Operations and Maintenance (FPOM) website:

1. http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/2016_FPOM_MEET/2016_OCT/161013%20FPOM%20draft%20meeting%20minutes.docx.
2. http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/2016_FPOM_MEET/2016_OCT/161013%20FPOM%20update%20Fish%20Counts.docx. (Section 5.2.2)

USACE is aware of present difficulties in providing count data to the public through the internet. The COE has discussed these issues at FPOM, indicating that there have been issues with fish counters security permissions to post daily counts where the USACE network can retrieve them. This prevents counts from being automatically uploaded to the web. If counts that fish counters send in are missing information or contain notes from counters, then the counts are delayed until USACE can manually enter data or manually trigger the database to run scheduled tasks. Additionally, the software that schedules counts to be loaded and added to the USACE website has had periods of malfunction.