



FISH PASSAGE CENTER

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. John Harrison, Northwest Power and Conservation Council

FROM: Fish Passage Center Staff

DATE: June 10, 2009

RE: Data Request

Your recent email inquiry dated May 26, 2009 requested that the FPC staff review and consider the adult passage count discrepancy for sockeye between John Day and McNary dams in 2008. The total 2008 count at McNary Dam is lower than the total count at John Day or at Columbia River projects upstream of McNary Dam. In addition, you asked why the difference between the John Day Dam count and McNary Dam count was 50,000 fish. The total project counts for sockeye are presented in the following table:

Sockeye 2008	
JDA	193,409
MCN	146,924
PRD	196,835
RIS	193,739

As you know, the Fish Passage Center is not responsible for the actual counting of adult fish at the dams or the reporting of the count data from the dams. The US Army Corps of Engineers, WDFW, and the Mid Columbia Public Utility Districts maintain the primary responsibility for the initial adult counting and reporting at their projects.

In order to investigate the count discrepancy, the FPC staff reviewed the counting procedures, and the daily passage counts. Our review of the count data and procedures resulted in the

following list of issues that could potentially contribute to adult count discrepancies among projects.

1. Adult counting procedures differ between the PUD and COE projects

The daily counting timeframe is longer at the PUD projects. They collect data via a video system that allows 24 hours of fish counting, whereas the COE projects make direct visual counts for 16 hours a day (0400-2000). The longer time monitored and the difference in count methods, visual versus video, could explain some of the discrepancy.

2. Adult sockeye passage through navigation locks has been documented

Adult sockeye could pass through the navigation locks at McNary and John Day, whereas there are no navigation locks at mid-Columbia River PUD projects.

There is not a navigation lock at Priest Rapids dam, and therefore, it is possible that a higher proportion of fish are counted at the PUD projects than at the federal projects.

In addition, FPC staff contacted COE and WDFW Adult Fish Count Personnel and asked if they could explain the adult sockeye discrepancies noticed between John Day, McNary, and Priest Rapids Dams. The WDFW and COE personnel also thought that count time/procedures and the use of navigation locks could explain some of the differences seen in adult sockeye numbers, but could not offer any other potential explanation.

The FPC will continue to investigate the discrepancies in counts at the Columbia and Snake River sites in response to your data request, and other data requests that we have received regarding this issue. We will provide you with our detailed analysis when it is available.



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DATA REQUEST FORM

Request Taken By: M. Filardo Date: 5/26

Data Requested By:
Name: John Harrison Phone: _____
Address: NEPC Fax: _____
Email: _____

Data Requested: Explanation of apparent discrepancies
in dam counts for sockeye

Data Format: Hardcopy Text Excel
Delivery: Mail Email Fax Phone

Comments:

Data Compiled By: myf Date: 6/10/09

Request # 25