

SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST: #2000-12

- *The following State and Federal Salmon Managers have participated in the preparation and support this SOR: Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service, Idaho Department of Fish & Game and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.*

TO: **Brigadier General Strock** **COE-NPD**
 William Branch **COE-Water Management**
 Cindy Henriksen **COE-RCC**
 Doug Arndt **COE-P**
 Col. Randall J. Butler **COE-Portland District**
 Lieut. Col. W.E. Bulen, Jr. **COE-Walla Walla District**
 J. William McDonald **USBR-Boise Regional Director**
 Judith Johansen **BPA-Administrator**
 Greg Delwiche **BPA-PG-5**

Marv S. Yoshinaka

FROM: **Marv Yoshinaka, Chairperson, Salmon Managers**

DATE: **April 18, 2000**

SUBJECT: **Flows in the Mid Columbia for the week ending May 7, 2000**

GOAL: **To avoid stranding fish on the Hanford Reach**

SPECIFICATIONS: Operate the hydrosystem to avoid the 40 Kcfs decrease in flow at Priest Rapids Dam modeled in the April 18th spreadsheet. The most desirable way to achieve the objective from a fishery perspective is to slow the drafting of Grand Coulee and reach that targeted end of April flood control elevation one week later May 7, 2000. This operation would move water from the last week of April into the first week of May; thereby avoiding the 40 Kcfs decrease in flow.

JUSTIFICATION: The projected end of emergence date for the Hanford Reach fall chinook is April 30th +/- two days. The projected drop in flows at Priest Rapids modeled in the spreadsheet comes when the maximum number of fish would be affected by potential stranding conditions. It is the intent of the fishery managers to best protect these fish while assuring the ability to provide other fishery needs. An alternate operation of drawing Grand Coulee Reservoir was discounted based on concerns voiced by the Spokane Tribe. Their concerns were related to increased entrainment of fish and the reduction of available nutrients that would occur if the reservoir were further drawn down. In addition, the tribe has a goal of reaching an elevation of 1265 the first week of June to provide favorable conditions for the release of their rainbow trout and kokanee from net pens that might be affected by additional reservoir draw down.