

SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST: #2003-9

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

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Raymond R. Boyce

FROM: Raymond R. Boyce, Acting Chairperson, Salmon Managers

DATE: April 29, 2003

SUBJECT: Dworshak Operations

SPECIFICATIONS:

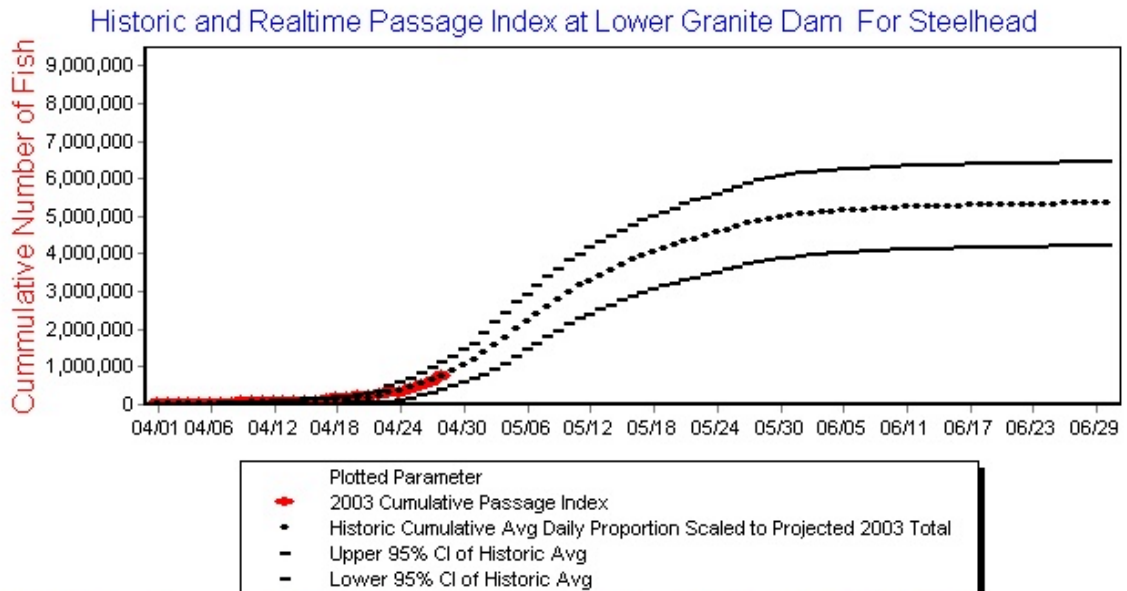
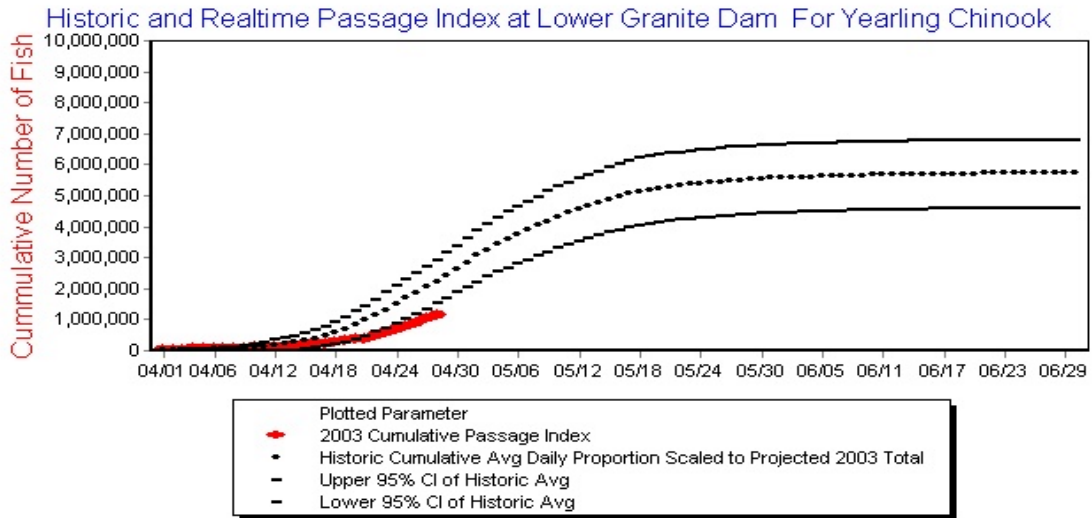
Maintain the current operation at Dworshak of 15.5-16.0 kcfs outflows unless flows at Lower Granite Dam are above the 2003 Spring Biological Opinion Flow Target of 89 Kcfs.

JUSTIFICATION:

The STP run dated April 22, 2003 suggests that flows at Lower Granite will decrease coincident with reductions of outflow at Dworshak Dam. Given the progress of the juvenile chinook and steelhead passage at Lower Granite, a reduction of Lower Granite flows is not advisable at this time. This proposal is designed to maintain migration conditions for salmon and steelhead in the Lower Snake River. The attached cumulative passage plot shows the current and historic passage pattern at Lower Granite Dam for both yearling chinook and steelhead. Historically, the next several weeks (late April through mid-May) represent the bulk of both yearling chinook and steelhead passage at Lower Granite Dam. The current years passage indices for both yearling chinook and steelhead have been increasing considerably over the last week, similar to historic trends in the passage indices. Between April 22-28, passage indices for yearling chinook have averaged 108,810 fish; over the same period, passage indices for steelhead have averaged 71,936 fish. The previous weeks (April 15-21, 2003) passage indices for yearling chinook

averaged 33,101 fish and steelhead averaged 23,884 fish. Furthermore, detections of Pit tagged wild spring/summer chinook have doubled since April 21st, 2003, averaging 452 fish per day during April 22-27.

During this important period of migration, flows in the river should be maintained in the range of the Biological Opinion's flow objective scale (85 – 100 kcfs).



Historic daily proportions average of 1985-02. Curve scaled to projected 2003 index, using NMFS estimated collection 30% spill