

## **OFFICIAL COORDINATION REQUEST FOR NON-ROUTINE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**

**COORDINATION TITLE** - 16DEX02 North Fork Middle Fork Outplanting

**COORDINATION DATE** - 08 June 2016

**PROJECT** - Dexter Fish Facility

**RESPONSE DATE** - 22 June 2016

**Description of the problem** - A study of juvenile Chinook survival in Lookout Point Reservoir is planned to occur in 2017. The study involves releasing and recapturing juvenile Chinook marked with parental-based tags. There are advantages and disadvantages of outplanting adult Chinook salmon to address objectives of the 2017 juvenile survival study. The presence of natural production provides a benefit for comparing the distribution of study fish to naturally produced fish sampled from the reservoir. However, presence of natural production will bring in additional costs for genotyping the naturally-produced catch of juvenile Chinook in 2017 (in addition to the fish released for the study), and the adults outplanted in 2016. There also will be additional ESA take associated with natural production for those juveniles in the catch.

The RM&E Team agreed at the March 30<sup>th</sup> meeting that hatchery adult Chinook should be outplanted at a reduced level to provide natural production to support this study in FY17, while helping to reduce costs of genetic analysis needed for the study. USGS and ODFW researchers conducting the juvenile Chinook survival study recommend reducing the North Fork Middle Fork adult outplanting this year from 1,350 to 675, and leaving the other releases in the MF as planned. Outplanting above Hills Creek is not expected to have impacts on the study since very few juveniles would emigrate into the Lookout Point Reservoir study area during the spring and summer of 2017 when sampling would occur.

**Type of outage/change required** - Reduce the North Fork Middle Fork adult hatchery Chinook outplanting in 2016 from 1,350 to 675.

**Impact on facility operation** - None.

**Dates of impacts/repairs** - Effective now through the 2016 outplanting season.

**Length of time for repairs** - NA

**Expected impacts on fish** - Natural juvenile production will be reduced in the North Fork Middle Fork. However this reduced juvenile production is not expected to have a measurable impact on natural origin adult returns since recruit rates are currently extremely low due in part to very poor downstream passage conditions.

## **Comments from agencies**

### Draft Willamette Fish Operations and Maintenance Team Minutes excerpt:

**5.2.** 16DEX02 North Fork Middle Fork Outplanting – Decreasing outplant numbers and the number is currently at 675 fish but that could change depending on fish availability. HMT on 15 June had this conversation regarding this MOC with comments: This is the proposal to go from 1350 outplants to 675 to assist with the RM&E studies to look at survival in LOP. We have until 22 June for comments. Traylor reminded the group that we'd like concurrence or not by then. Sharpe said he doesn't have a problem. Ziller wasn't certain he understood the statistics behind it but he doesn't have a problem with it and it seems reasonable. Traylor asked if 675 fish was reasonable for WV to take care of with truck and transport. Garletts said yes that's doable although they may be down to one truck driver this year. Approved

## **Final results**

Reduced outplanting numbers of spring Chinook salmon in the North Fork Middle Fork Willamette will be implemented in 2016.

Please email or call with questions or concerns.

Thank you,

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