

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: 24DEX01 Middle Fork Chinook Release

Description of the problem:

On three occasions in February, March and April 2024, brood year 2022 yearling Spring Chinook from the Middle Fork Willamette stock were inadvertently released at an incorrect location in the Middle Fork Willamette River. A total of 166,582 (11.1% of Middle Fork brood year 2022 releases) smolts were released directly above Dexter Dam instead of the correct location 2 miles downstream.

Type of event:

Spring Chinook mitigation production release.

Expected impacts to fish:

Some of the 116k smolts may have difficulty exiting Dexter reservoir through Dexter Dam. Some increase mortality due to passing through a turbine or down the spillway is expected. Due to brood year 2022 Middle Fork Spring Chinook meeting full production and additional fish released for research monitoring and evaluation purposes, long term impacts such as lower adult return numbers are expected to be minimal.

Corrective Actions:

ODFW has ensured that all drivers know the correct release location. Repeated incidents in future releases in 2025 and 2026 are not expected.

Comments from agencies:

No comments were received.

Please email with questions or concerns, thank you.

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