



Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	7/11/02	# of pages	3
To	Skip/Ken FYL		From	Bob Foster	
Co./Dept.			Co.		
Phone #			Phone #		
Fax #			Fax #		

Date: July 9, 2002

To: Don Anderson, Jim Morrow, Joe Giordano – NMFS, Boise
 Ted Koch – USFWS, Boise
 Cindy Robertson, Jim Lukens, Tom Curet, Patrick Murphy – IDFG
 Clive Strong – AG Office, Boise
 R.J. Smith – WD74 and LID, Salmon

From: Beth Waterbury – IDFG, Salmon

Subj: Chinook Salmon Mortalities at L-3A

This memorandum summarizes the sequence of events, findings, and actions taken pertaining to the discovery of two (2) chinook salmon found dead in the L-3A screen on July 8, 2002.

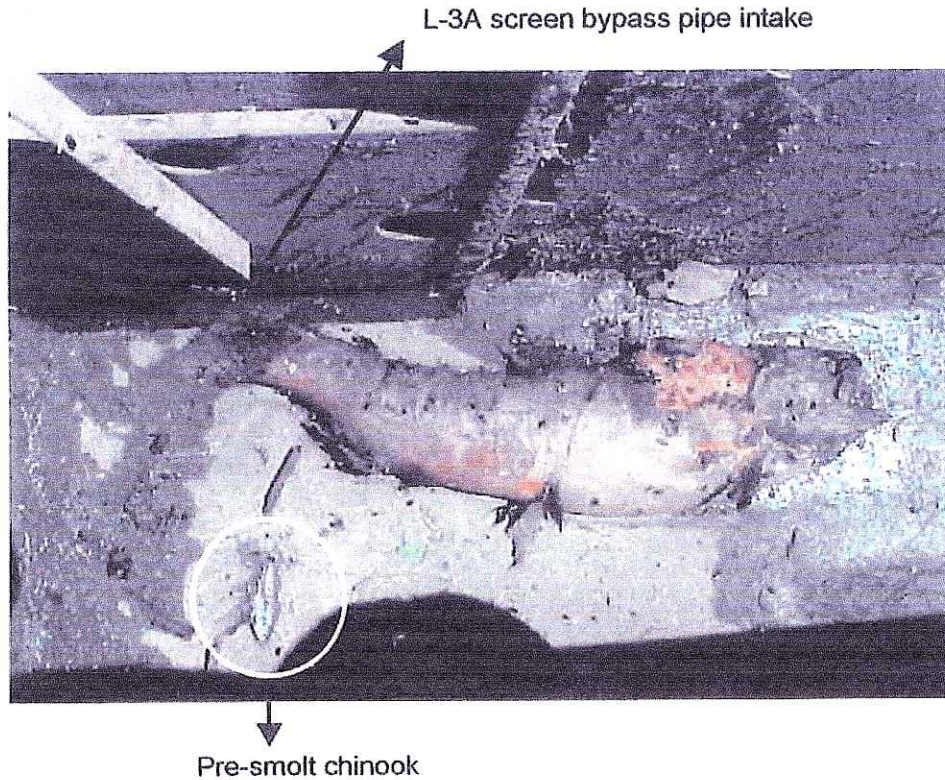
At approximately 10:30 a.m. on Monday, July 8, 2002, IDFG Screen Tender Brenda Miller observed a dead adult chinook salmon (estimated at 76 cm in length) lodged tail-first in the entrance of the L-3A fish screen bypass pipe (immediately above the screen drum). The 60-meter ditch and screen bay had been de-watered due to closure of the headgate. Brenda removed the fish from the bypass pipe to identify it, revealing a dead 70 mm pre-smolt chinook salmon next to the adult fish. Brenda reported the incident at approximately 2:00 p.m. to IDFG Salmon Region Fishery Biologist Patrick (Paddy) Murphy, at which time Paddy and Anadromous Screen Shop Construction Supervisory Lynn Stratton embarked to L-3A to investigate the report. Paddy and Lynn noted that the adult chinook was bloated, in an advanced state of decay, and had likely been dead for at least a few days. The fish had a noticeable scar around the body directly behind the dorsal fin where it was lodged in the bypass pipe, and a few marks along the right side of the body behind the gills where Brenda had removed it with a rake. Both chinook had intact adipose fins. Photos were taken and the fish were left on site.

On Tuesday, July 9, 2002, Paddy relayed his findings to IDFG Lemhi River Monitoring Biologist Beth Waterbury. Beth phoned and left messages with R.J. Smith and Rick Sager of WD-74/LID to inform them of the reported mortalities. Beth also left a voice mail message with Clive Strong. R.J. Smith returned Beth's call at about noon and was informed of the incident. Beth visited L-3A and observed the two chinook mortalities. The fish were measured at 81 cm (adult) and 75 mm (pre-smolt). Digital photos and a GPS location were taken (see attached photos). The headgate was closed and the ditch almost completely de-watered with the exception of three pools, which contained numerous dace, redbside shiner, mountain whitefish, and sucker fry. No chinook or rainbow/steelhead parr were observed. Twenty-five 60-70 mm whitefish were salvaged and returned to the Lemhi River. Beth opened the headgate to flush stranded fish through the ditch and out the bypass pipe. An estimated 300 redbside shiners, 2,000 dace fry, and undetermined numbers of sucker fry were successfully flushed from the ditch. The headgate was left open to maintain a survival flow and will be monitored over the next few days for presence of fish. Beth moved the two chinook mortalities to the downstream side of the screen bay so as to remove all obstruction near the bypass pipe intake. The fish were left on site due to their state of decomposition. Beth received a return phone call from Rick Sager at approximately 4:00 p.m. and reported the incident to him.

On Tuesday, July 9, at approximately 2:00 p.m. Salmon Region Fisheries Manager Tom Curet phoned the Snake River Habitat Branch of NMFS and left messages with Don Anderson and Jim Morrow reporting the incident. Tom also phoned the NMFS Salmon Field Office and reported the incident to the Acting Supervisor.

IDFG will request that Rick Sager review ramp-down procedures with L-3A irrigators.

Figure 1. Photo of adult and pre-smolt chinook salmon discovered at the intake to the L-3A screen bypass pipe.



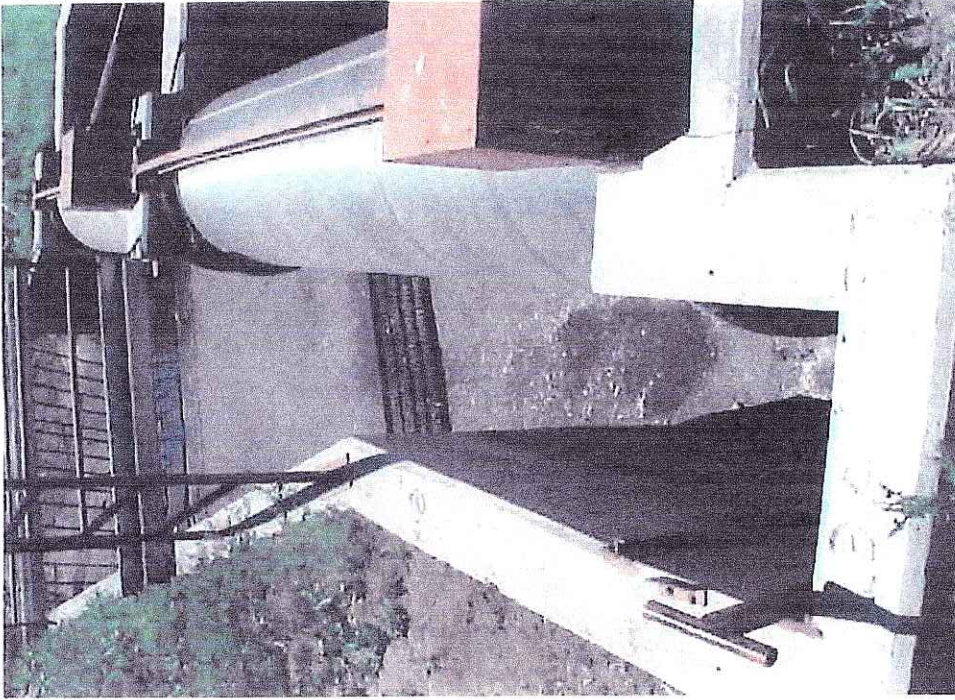


Figure 3. View of the de-watered L-3A screen bay looking up the ditch towards the headgate. The fish were discovered in the bypass pipe intake located at the bottom-left of the concrete bay in the foreground.



Figure 2. View of de-watered ditch between the headgate and the L-3A screen.