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# MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** September 11, 1996  
**TO:** Files  
**FROM:** Emily Roth *ER*  
**RE:** Conversation with Steve Morris, NMFS, Sept. 9, 1996  
**CC:** Jim Morgan-Metro, Rollie Montagne-Port of Portland

I asked Steve about the effects of removing the present dam on Smith Lake and the construction of a new water control structure in North Slough on anadromous fish (salmon and fall chinook), and whether the new structure would need to be screened. He could not give me a definite position from NMFS, but did give me the information they would need to make a decision.

The proposed changes may actually enhance the fisheries. Returning the lakes to tidal freshwater marsh may provide needed slough and marsh habitat for fall chinook. NMFS would like to know if there are benefits to fish finding their way into the marsh area.

NMFS needs to know the risk/probability of juvenile anadromous fish being flushed into the system and becoming stranded, thus not being able to migrate. Steve broke it down into the probability of fish entering the system; if in, what is the probability of them returning to the slough; and what is the risk of being stranded? Depending on the risk, they will make a determination if screens are needed or not.

Steve also mentioned that presently they have not listed any of the Willamette River stocks. That could change in a year, depending on steelhead populations.

Note: I have tried to contact Don Bennett and Dave Ward at ODFW for information (9/11/96)



## METRO

**DATE:** September 24, 1996  
**TO:** Files  
**FROM:** Emily Roth *EmR*  
**RE:** Conversation with Steve Morris, NMFS, Sept. 9, 1996  
**CC:** Jim Morgan-Metro, Rollie Montagne-Port of Portland

I asked Steve about the effects of removing the present dam on Smith Lake and the construction of a new water control structure in North Slough on anadromous fish (salmon and fall chinook), and whether the new structure would need to be screened. He could not give me a definite position from NMFS, but did give me the information they would need to make a decision.

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Note: I have tried to contact Don Bennett and Dave Ward at ODFW for information (9/11/96)

Date: Sept. 27, 1996

To: Files-Smith and Bybee Lakes Dam Removal

From: Emily

RE: Telephone notes from Don Bennett, ODFW, on Salmon in Lakes

On his message to me, Don stated that ODFW considers the Columbia Slough a closed system. The chance of salmonids entering the lakes is quite low. He does not have definite numbers or a probability. NMFS will have to decide how many is too many for screening. He was also going to check with Dave Ward.

I asked him to put the information in writing to me.

c:\rothe\word\dam\DBNOTES.doc

**METRO**

Don Bennett  
OR Department of Fish and Wildlife  
17330 SE Evelyn  
Clackamas, OR 97015

Dear Don:

Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces is examining the possibility of removing the present water control structure at Smith and Bybee Lakes and placing an open structure in N. Slough. The new structure would allow the water levels in the lakes to fluctuate with the water level in the Columbia River. It also gives us the ability to insert plates to control lake levels for specific management objectives. Under the new water regime, the lakes habitat would return to a tidal freshwater marsh system. We have been working with Joe Pesek on this project.

I recently spoke with Steve Morris, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), about whether we would need to screen the new structure. At this time he is unable to make a decision until he knows the risk of juvenile anadromous fish, especially fall chinook, being stranded in the lakes (see enclosed memo to file). He suggested I contact ODFW to see if you have the information we need.

If you do have this information, would you please send it. If the information is not available, would you let me know what needs to be done to gather it. Also, if you have any question about the new control structure and how it would work or any other aspect of the project, please call me at 797-1515.

Sincerely,

Emily Roth  
Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area Manager

Enclosure

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October 14, 1996

Emily Roth  
Regional Parks and Greenspaces  
600 NE Grand Avenue  
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Dear Emily,

This letter is in response to your request on information on juvenile anadromous salmonids, especially fall chinook, being stranded in Smith and Bybee Lakes.

I am unaware of any data, recent or otherwise, collected by ODFW that I could make available to you that would shed some light on the subject. However, I am enclosing the fish section from a Smith and Bybee Lakes Environmental Study that was done by Fishman Environmental Services for the City and Port of Portland.

I hope the information found in this study will help Steve Morris, NMFS, make a decision as to the need for screening the new structure.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don Bennett".

Don Bennett  
Lower Willamette District  
District Fish Biologist

dbk  
Enc.

