

FINAL Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting
August 14, 2014
Conference Call

ACC Participants Present (11)

Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp Energy
 Erik Lesko, PacifiCorp Energy
 Kim McCune, PacifiCorp Energy
 Chris Karchesky, PacifiCorp Energy
 Adam Haspiel, USFS
 Baker Holden, USFS
 Peggy Miller, WDFW
 Michelle Day, NMFS
 Aaron Roberts, WDFW
 Diana Gritten-MacDonald, Cowlitz PUD
 LouEllyn Jones, USFWS

Calendar:

September 11, 2014	ACC Meeting	Conference Call
October 9, 2014	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro

Assignments from August 14, 2014 meeting	
Haspiel: Provide contact information and formal ACC designate request for Baker Holden to McCune.	Complete – 9/10/14
Kahut: Provide a status update of Speelyai Intake Mod to the ACC.	Complete – 8/22/14
Haspiel: Repair needed on FR 90 (between mile posts 13 & 14); serious safety concern and dip in the road that requires attention. Notify USFS engineers of needed repair.	Complete – 10/9/14
Haspiel: Inquire about the status of the safety sign install at the turnoff to Swift Dam.	Complete – 8/18/14
Shrier: Notify Pete Barber (LCFEG) of the LWD availability.	Complete – 8/15/14
Karchesky/Shrier: Provide the latest water temp profiles before the next ACC meeting on September 11, 2014. Add the total number of fish collected in the month (to include bull trout) to the Monthly Fish Collection Mortality Rate graph.	Complete – 9/10/14

Assignments from July 10, 2014 meeting	
McCune: Email PacifiCorp fish salvage memo from June 13, 2014 to the ACC.	Complete – 7/10/14
Miller: Confirm with WDFW that they will provide the needed HPA approval for the Speelyai Hatchery Intake Mod extension request for in-water work.	Complete – 10/9/14

McCune/Lesko: Email WDFW Officer Brandon Chamberlain contact information to Michelle Day (NMFS).	Complete – 7/11/14
Day: Ask Keith Kirkendall what the plan is and send email to Shrier regarding the draft letter from Nordlund to Kirkendall on 6/17/14.	Complete – 7/11/14
Roberts: Provide opening day catch records to Shrier to see what fish are being caught.	Complete – 8/14/14

Assignments from June 12, 2014 meeting	
Shrier: Schedule a fish rescue in the lower river with agencies for Friday 6/13/2014.	Complete – 6/13/14
Barber: submit change in scope and budget for Haapa Enhancement 2014 Aquatic Fund project.	Pending – 10/9/14
Day: Advise Shrier of a date and time to review the Development of New Information to Inform Fish Passage Annual Report.	Pending – 10/9/14

Assignments from February 13, 2014 meeting	
Eric Kinne: Work on securing the 2012/2013 lower river coho abundance survey data and provide this information to Erik Lesko (PacifiCorp) for the 2013 H&S Annual Report. Lesko requires this data by February 28, 2014.	Pending – as of 10/9/14 data has not been received and will not be provided in the 2014 report. Awaiting BPA comments before passing on to PacifiCorp

Opening, Review of Agenda and Meeting Notes

Frank Shrier (PacifiCorp) called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. and reviewed the agenda. No additional topics have been added to the agenda.

Shrier introduced Baker Holden (USFS) to the attendees. Kimberly McCune (PacifiCorp) requested Adam Haspiel (USFS) provide her with Holden’s contact information and a formal ACC designate request for the historical record.

The July 10, 2014 meeting notes were reviewed and approved at 9:10 am without change. McCune will finalize the July 10, 2014 meeting notes for posting to the Lewis River website.

Review all Fish Stranding Data

Michelle Day (NMFS) expressed that she has no additional comment since the July 2014 efforts will be attached to the July 10, 2014 meeting notes.

Study/Work Product Updates

Eulachon Consultation

Day communicated that she is continuing to work on the Eulachon and is trying hard to complete the consultation. She is committed to finishing by the end of the Federal Fiscal year (Sept. 30) so work can begin in 2015.

Woodland Release Ponds

On hold for Eulachon consultation; the construction schedule is currently August 2015. McCune will formally request an extension from the FERC within the next 30-60 days. **The ACC agreed that the extension request to 12/26/2015 is acceptable.**

Hatchery Upgrades:

Three projects remain as part of Schedule 8.7 of the Settlement Agreement.

Speelyai Hatchery Intake Modifications: Delayed to 2015 due to permitting. McCune will request Michael Kahut (PacifiCorp) provide a status update of this project and provide the details to the ACC. **The ACC agreed that the extension request to 12/26/2015 is acceptable.**

Merwin Hatchery PLC Ozone Upgrades: This project is ongoing and scheduled for completion by the end of November 2014.

Lewis River Downstream Intake: Scheduled for completion by end of 2015 pending Eulachon BiOp by December 2014. **Due to the pending Eulachon consultation the ACC agreed that the extension request to 12/26/2015 is acceptable.**

Hatchery and Supplementation Plan (H&S) –

The 60 day review draft was distributed to the ACC on August 8, 2014. PacifiCorp is asking for comments to this draft to be submitted by October 10, 2014. After this date PacifiCorp may schedule a review meeting to discuss comments. A response matrix will be added to the final document. Additional changes to the H&S Plan may be subject to revisions or approval of the Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs) for the Lewis River submitted for public comment about a month ago. These two plans must be consistent with each other.

Significant Changes to the first revision – For the most part the H&S Plan contains much of the same information from the original version but has been updated to align with current understanding and new methodologies that have been developed. Most notable changes include:

- Ocean Recruit methods have been updated and reviewed by Brian Pyper. There are concerns with this estimator that may need further review by the ACC.
- The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) section was condensed into objectives that the annual operating process (AOP) will decide on how to answer. Also, PacifiCorp tried to reduce the overlap that exists between the M&E and H&S plan
- Redundancy was removed from this version
- Significant formatting changes including renaming of chapters/sections to reinforce the difference between hatchery programs and supplementation programs.

AOP Process:

Erik Lesko (PacifiCorp) will be scheduling an AOP planning meeting in the near future once he drafts an AOP plan.

Acclimation Pond/Crab Creek Status

Permits are very close to completion. Install of the pond is expected in summer 2015. **The ACC agreed that the extension request to 12/26/2015 is acceptable.** McCune will formally request an extension from the FERC.

Merwin Upstream and Swift Downstream Collector Status

PacifiCorp provided the following Lewis River Fish Passage Report to the ACC via email on August 5, 2014 (for further details see [Attachment A](#)).

During the month of July, a total 4,443 fish were captured at the Merwin Fish Sorting Facility; the majority (97%) of these fish were hatchery summer steelhead (n = 4,327). Of these 4,327 collected, 1,347 (31%) were fish that were previously captured at the Merwin Sorting Facility, marked, and release back downstream as part of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's summer steelhead recycling program. Three wild summer steelhead were captured and returned to the lower river. Spring Chinook (n=25) continued to be collected in July, although their numbers continued to decline throughout the month. To date, 915 spring Chinook were captured at the Merwin Facility this year.

Other species collected in July included sockeye salmon (n=43), salmonid smolt (n=23), resident rainbow trout (n=9), mountain whitefish (n=6), and northern pikeminnow (n=7). The Merwin Sorting Facility resumed operation July 1, 2014 following repairs to the elevator shaft supporting the fish hopper, which was damaged during a contracted third party inspection of the Merwin Powerhouse gantry crane on June 25, 2014. Two additional outages occurred during July due to minor mechanical failures associated with the lower fish crowder system and service water supply.

Following both outages, a peak in daily catch was observed immediately after the trap was returned to service. The Auxiliary Water Supply (AWS) system, which can boost attraction flow up to 400 cfs, was operated intermittently as testing continues. The 30 cfs Ladder Water Supply (LWS) system continued to operate throughout the month.

River flow below Merwin Dam decreased throughout July ranging from about 2,800 cfs at the beginning of the month to 1,290 cfs by August 1, 2014. No spill events occurred.

An outage of the Merwin Fish Collection Facility is scheduled for September 10 – 11, 2014 for modifications to be completed at the fish crowder/hopper interface and presort pond to improve fish passage conditions. These areas were identified earlier this spring to be causing injury particularly from impingement. These modifications will be made to insure fish cannot access the upper part of the hopper during high flow events. Aaron Roberts added that this year a 15% mortality rate was realized for spring Chinook at the Speelyai adult holding pond but expecting better results as time goes on.

Upstream Transport - ([Attachment A](#))

No fish were transported upstream in July. All fish collected at the Merwin Sorting Facility were either returned to the river downstream of Merwin Dam, transported to Merwin Hatchery as brood stock, or surplused. A total of 1,033 (452 m: 581 f) blank wire tag (BWT) winter steelhead, along with 12 cutthroat trout exceeding 13 inches in length, were transported and released into the headwaters of Swift Reservoir in 2014.

Swift Floating Surface Collector - ([Attachment A](#))

A total of 711 fish were collected at the Swift Floating Surface Collector during the month of July. Coho smolts (n=380) accounted for the slight majority (53 percent) of these fish followed by cutthroat fry (n=118), spring Chinook smolts (n=95), hatchery rainbow trout (n=85),

steelhead smolts (n=20), cutthroat trout (n=10) and coho fry (n=3). Nearly 90 percent of all smolts collected were captured during the first seven days in July whereas all but one fry was collected later in the month. No adult steelhead kelt or bull trout were captured in the month of July. All smolts were transported downstream whereas all fry and hatchery rainbow trout were returned back to Swift Reservoir.

Average water temperature recorded in July at the Swift Floating Surface Collector increased from 15°C (59°F) to slightly over 20°C (68.5°F) by mid-month. Water temperature reached 18°C (64°F) by the first week of July which corresponded with the observed sharp decline in smolt numbers being collected.

Discussion about Water Temperature Issues

Karchesky provided a review of the current Swift Floating Surface Collector (FSC) - Water Temperature vs Fish Numbers (see [Attachment B](#) for greater detail). After a cursory review of Daily Fish Catch and Average Water Temperature, Fish Collection Mortality Rate and Swift No. 1 Forebay Depth/Temperature Profiles – 2011 Karchesky asked the ACC to consider if, due to the July water temperature increases, it make sense to run the Swift FSC in the months of July, August and early September when fish capture is nearly zero and mortality rates are high? An ACC decision is not necessary today but Karchesky requested review and consideration and be prepared to render a decision in September 2014.

The collected data suggests a strong recommendation of a July through early September shutdown and use this period of time for maintenance. The temperature increase can be used as a trigger for shutdown or perhaps anything more than a 0.5% mortality can be the trigger. Temperatures drop below 18 °C typically by mid-September or early October of each year.

PacifiCorp will provide the latest water temp profiles before the next ACC meeting on September 11, 2014. PacifiCorp will also add the total number of fish collected in the month to the Month Fish Collection Mortality Rate graph.

LouEllyn Jones (USFWS) would like to see bull trout numbers included in the graph to date. Karchesky indicated that bull trout collected to date in 2014 is five (5) with the latest fish collected on June 15, 2014.

Shrier noted that the reason why the floating surface collector is operated year round is because of discussions during the Settlement talks where the bull trout and the fall Spring Chinook out migration components were anticipated but there was no supporting information either way.

Low Flow Conditions - Status

Shrier informed the ACC attendees that the flow conditions are slightly better than predicted. There is currently 19 ¼' hole in three reservoirs combined. The prediction was 20'. The two most recent rain storms have been substantial and have helped but the reservoirs will continue to draft as we move through the late summer/early fall.

Swift is down 1.8'

Merwin 6'

Yale is 11' down

Inflow to Merwin is 1,393 cfs; minimum below Merwin is 1,200 cfs. PacifiCorp is supplying 1,250 cfs now.

Low flow conditions will continue; PacifiCorp is not expecting much better until October 2014 when the rain arrives.

Other

Shrier also noted that PacifiCorp has completed its large woody debris (LWD) collection this year. There are 18 logs that fit the criteria for habitat enhancement use. Any ACC members that can use the logs should make their needs known soon. Shrier will also notify Pete Barber (LCFEG) of the LWD availability. McCune added that there is \$2,000 available in the LWD fund to help offset the transporting expense.

Haspiel will take a look at the available LWD in the next week and advise if the FS can use the material.

Shrier expressed that FR 90 (between mile posts 13 & 14) there is a serious safety concern and dip in the road that requires attention. Haspiel said he will mention the needed repair to the FS engineers. Haspiel said that the FS intent is to upgrade FR90 then transfer ownership to the county.

Shrier also noted that PacifiCorp purchased safety signs intended for placement at the turnoff to Swift Dam. These signs were given to the FS engineers for installation but as of today the signs are not up yet. Haspiel indicated he will inquire about the status of the safety sign install.

<10:20 a.m. meeting adjourned >

Agenda items for August 14, 2014

- Review August 14, 2014 Meeting Notes
- Discussion about water temperature issues
- Review/Discuss Final Plans for 2014 Haapa Habitat Enhancement Project
- Study/Work Product Updates

Public Comment

None

Next Scheduled Meetings

September 11, 2014	October 9, 2014
Conference Call	Merwin Hydro Control Center
	Ariel, WA
9:00 a.m. –11:00am	9:00 a.m. – 3:00pm

Meeting Handouts & Attachments

- Notes from 7/10/14
- Agenda from 8/14/14
- **Attachment A** – Lewis River Fish Passage Report – July 2014
- **Attachment B** – Swift FSC Water Temperature vs Fish Numbers, August 14, 2014

Lewis River Fish Passage Report

July 2014

Merwin Sorting Facility Fish Collection and General Operations

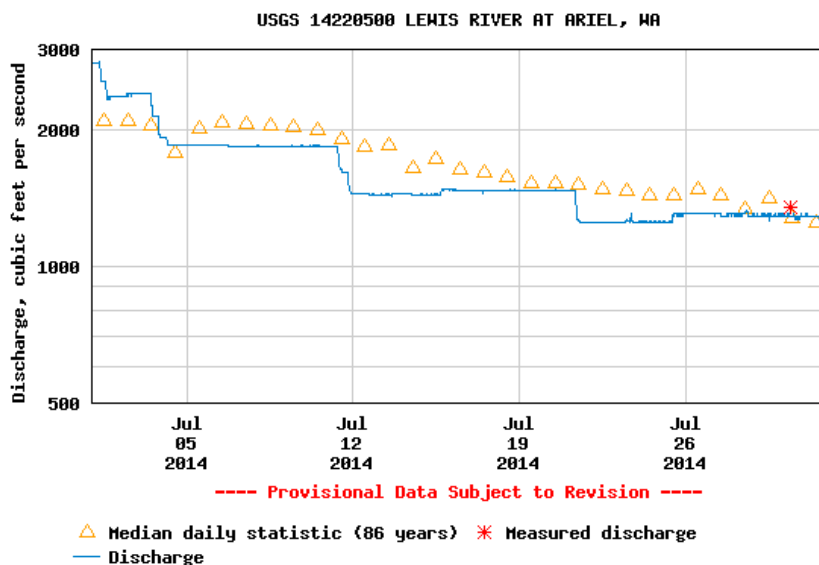
During the month of July, a total 4,443 fish were captured at the Merwin Fish Sorting Facility; the majority (97%) of these fish were hatchery summer steelhead (n = 4,327). Of these 4,327 collected, 1,347 (31%) were fish that were previously captured at the Merwin Sorting Facility, marked, and release back downstream as part of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's fish recycling program. Three wild summer steelhead were captured and returned to the lower river. Spring Chinook (n=25) continued to be collected in July, although their numbers continued to decline throughout the month. To date, 915 spring Chinook were captured at the Merwin Facility this year. Other species collected in July included sockeye salmon (n=43), salmonid smolt (n=23), resident rainbow trout (n = 9), mountain whitefish (n=6), and northern pikeminnow (n=7).

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Discharge, cubic feet per second



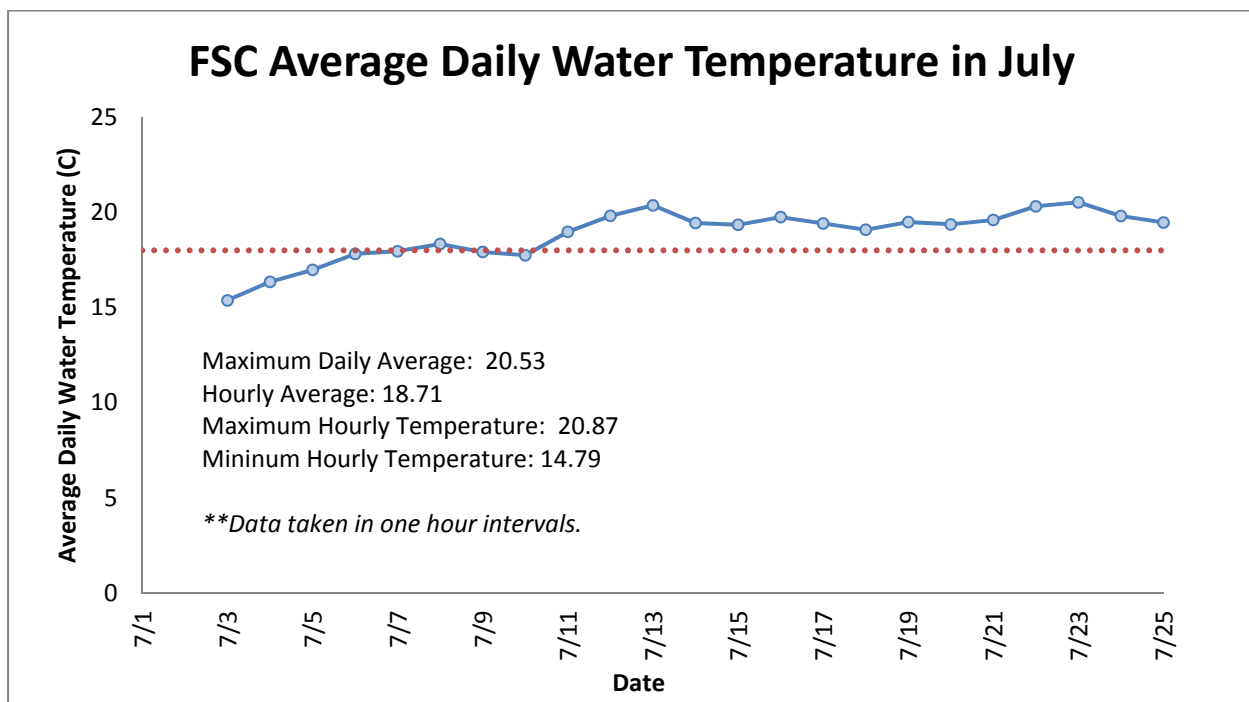
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Fish Facility Report
Swift Floating Surface Collector
July 2014

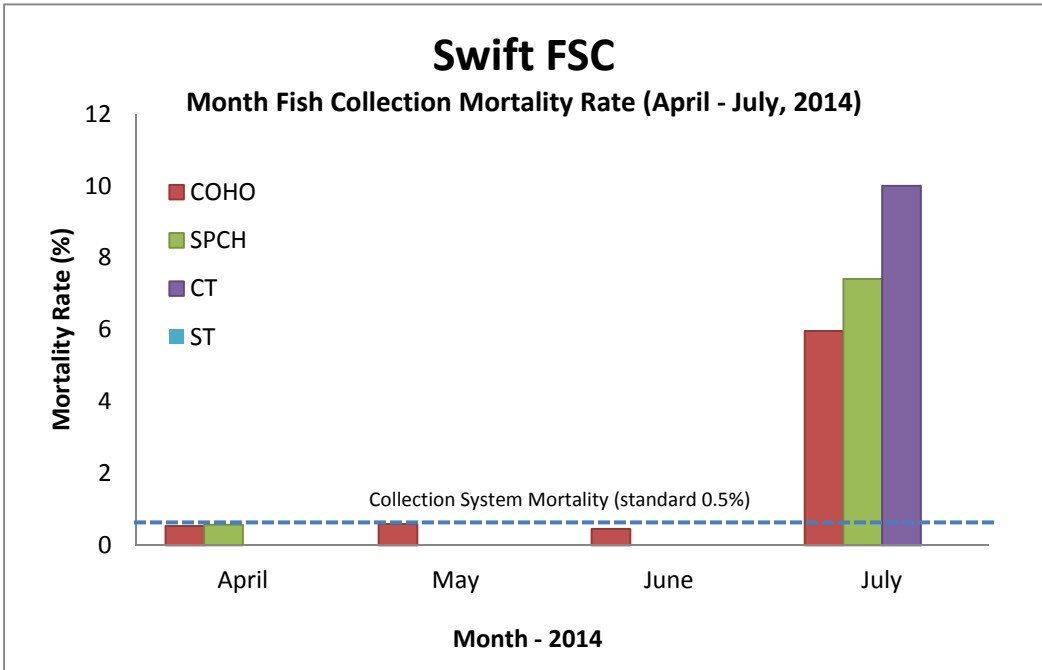
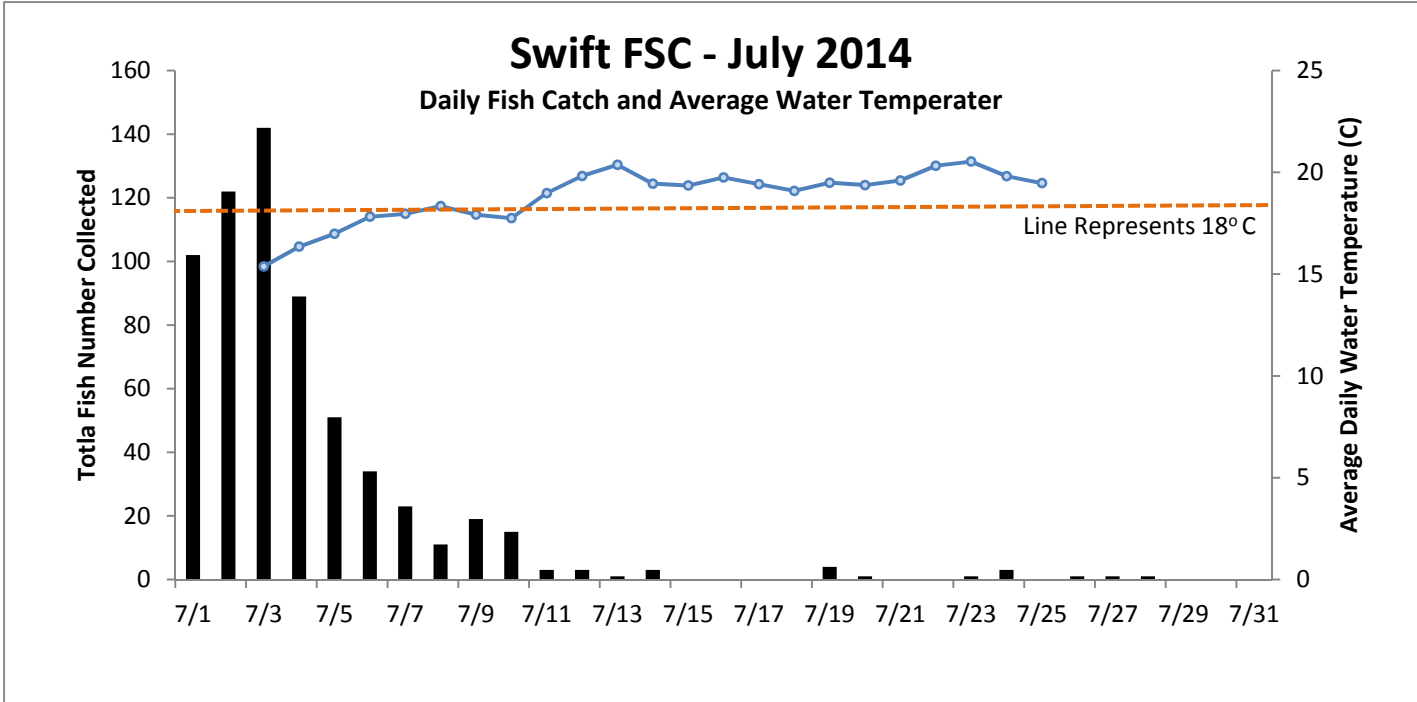
Day	Coho		Chinook		Steelhead			Cutthroat			Bull Trout			Planted Rainbow
	fry	smolt	fry	smolt	fry	smolt	kelt	fry	< 13 in	> 13 in	fry	< 13 in	> 13 in	
01	1	87	0	10	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
02														
03	0	115	0	21	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
04	0	75	0	9	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	15
05	0	37	0	7	0	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	6
06	0	27	0	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	8
07	0	9	0	10	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6
08	0	6	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
09	1	7	0	10	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
10	0	8	0	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
11	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
12	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
13	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
14	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
15														
16														
17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1
26	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
29														
30														
31														

Monthly	3	380	0	95	0	20	0	118	10	0	0	0	0	85
Annual	1519	6126	0	905	1	512	6	118	732	3	0	3	2	638

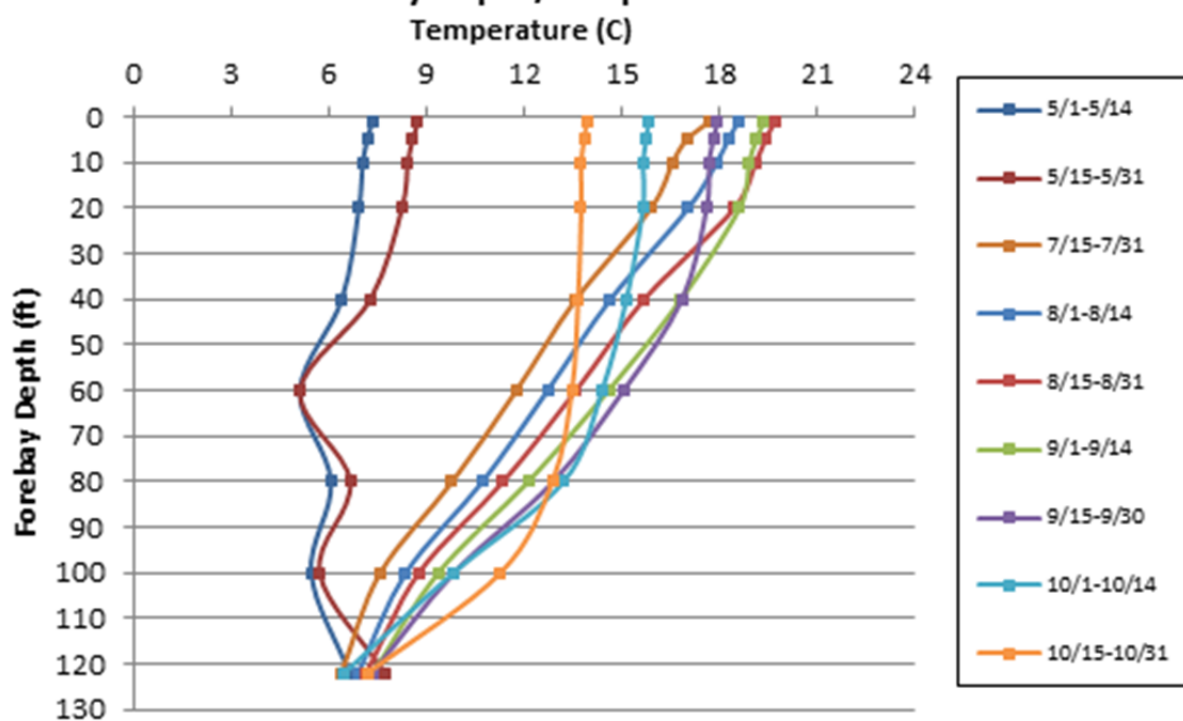
The FSC continued to operate on a daily basis in exception to scheduled maintenance and mechanical failure.

All coho, Chinook and steelhead smolts and cutthroat were transported downstream.

All fry and planted rainbow were returned to Swift Reservoir.



Swift No. 1 Forebay Depth/Temperature Profiles - 2011



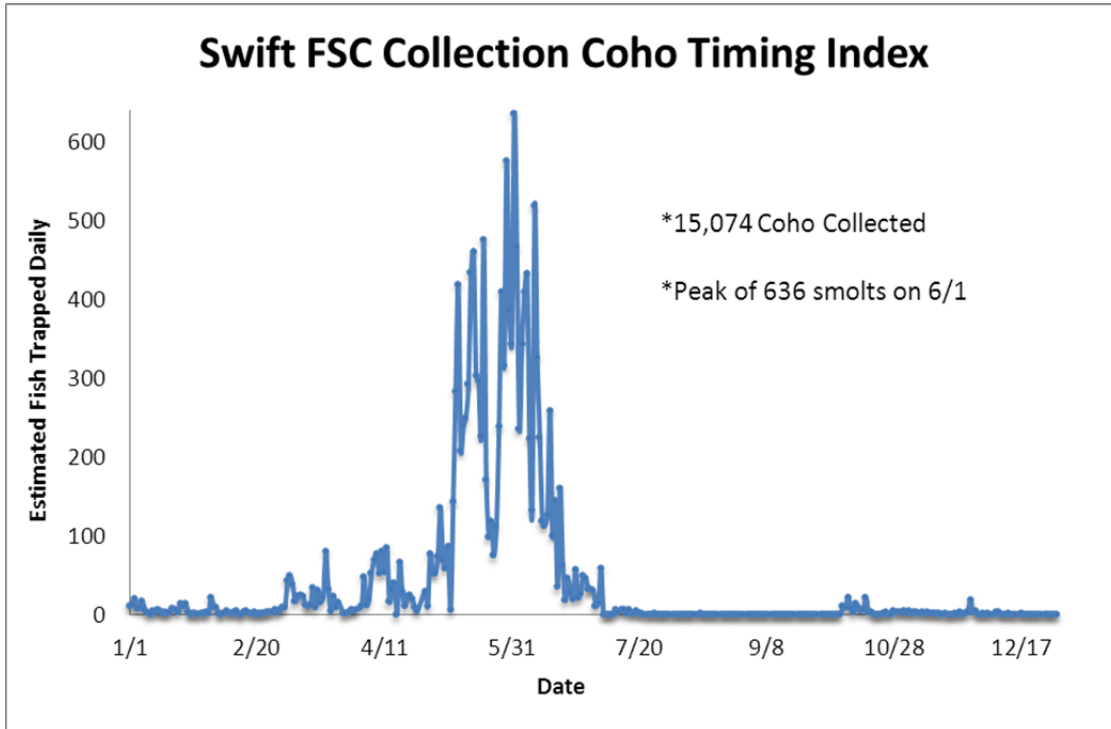


Figure 3.1-5: Estimated daily counts of coho smolts captured at the FSC.

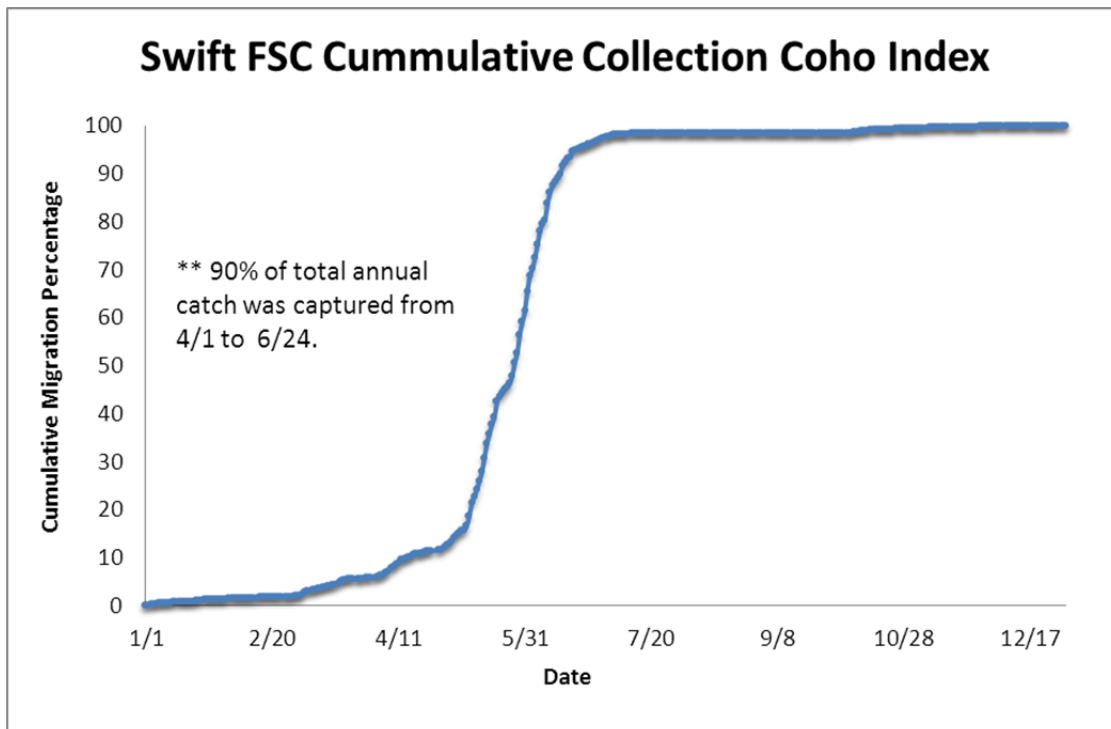


Figure 3.1-6: Cumulative coho migration timing.

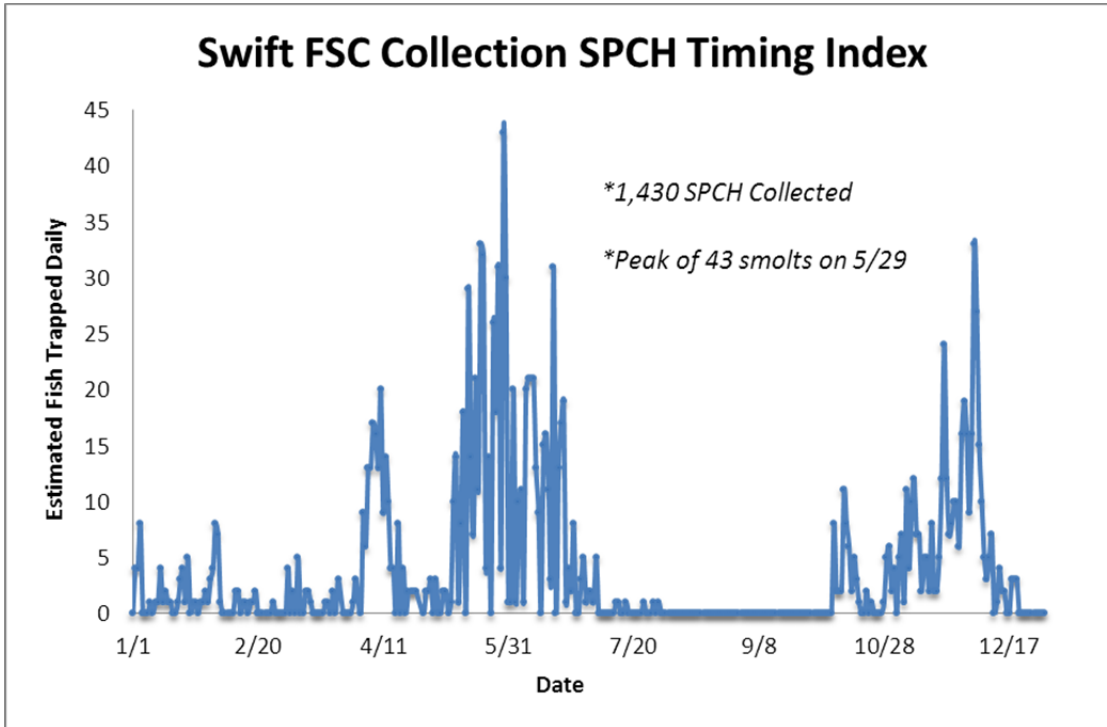


Figure 3.1-7: Estimated daily counts of spring Chinook smolts captured at the FSC.

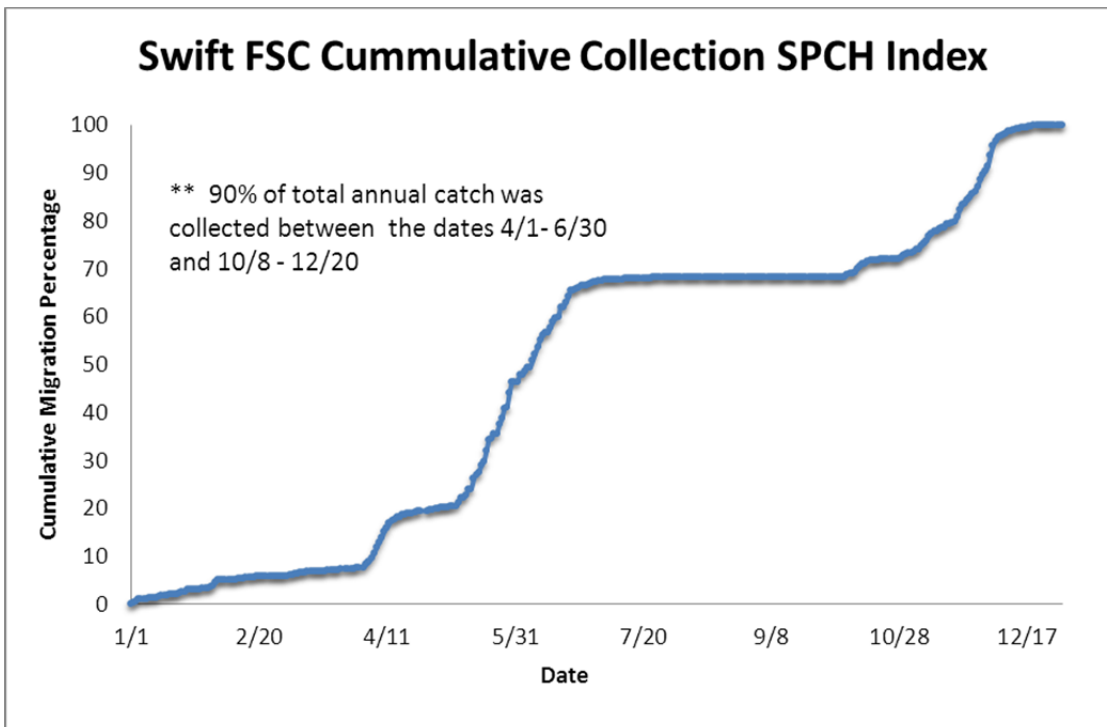


Figure 3.1-8: Cumulative spring Chinook migration timing.

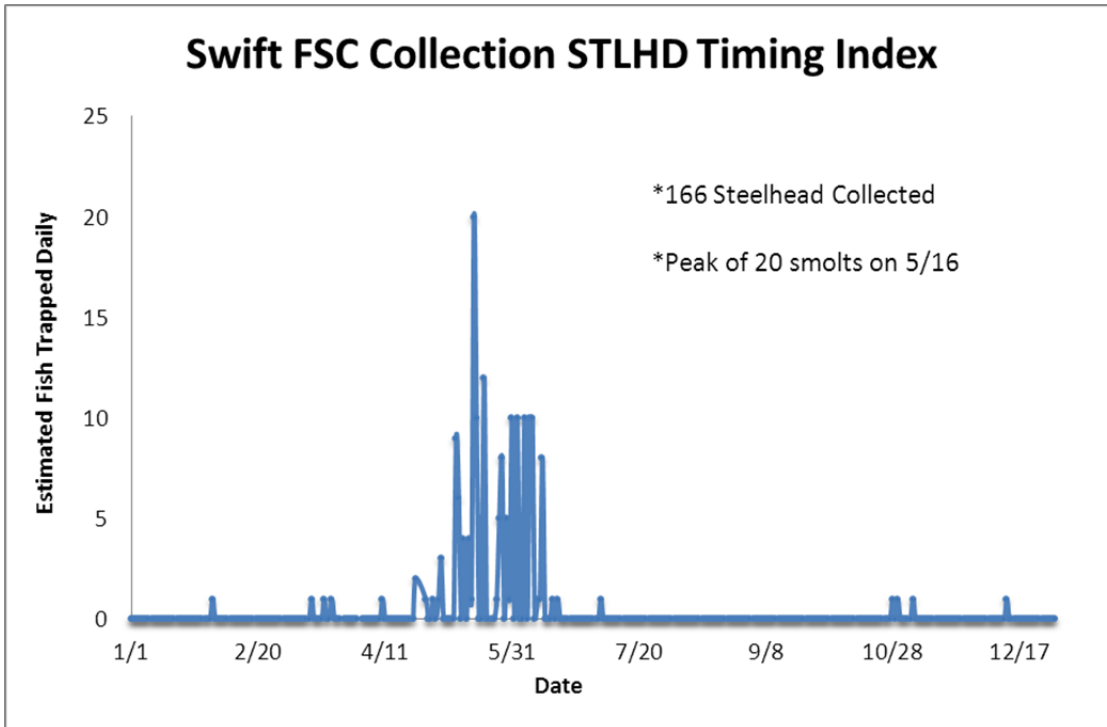


Figure 3.1-9: Estimated daily counts of steelhead smolts captured at the FSC.

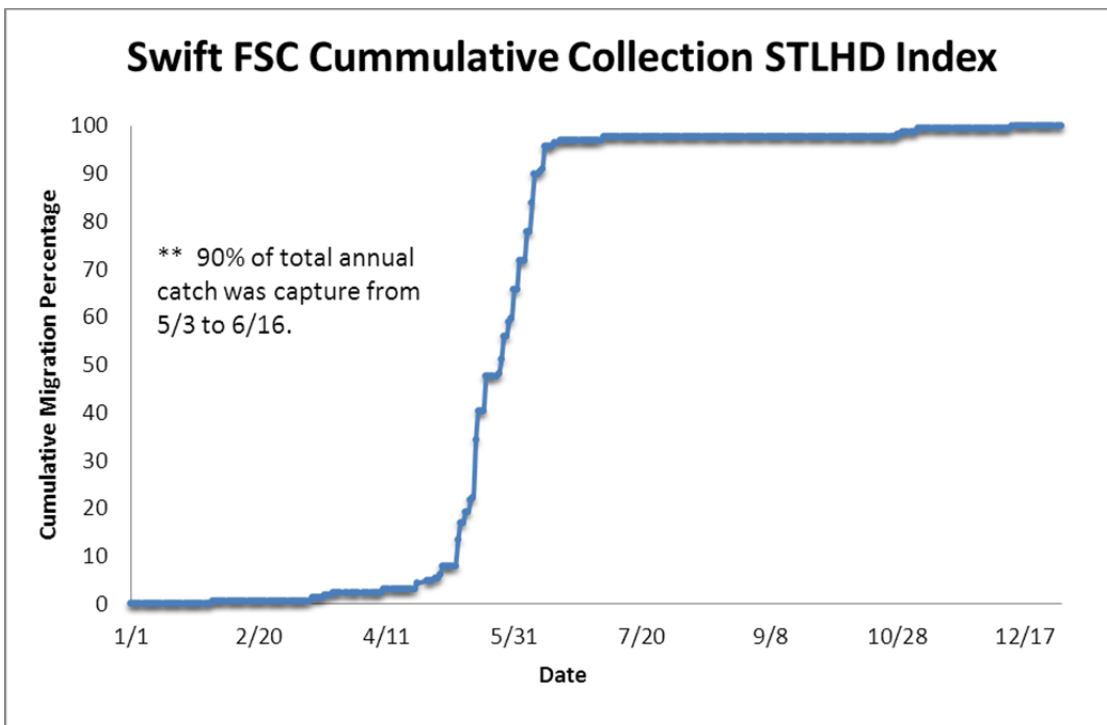


Figure 3.1-10: Cumulative steelhead migration timing.

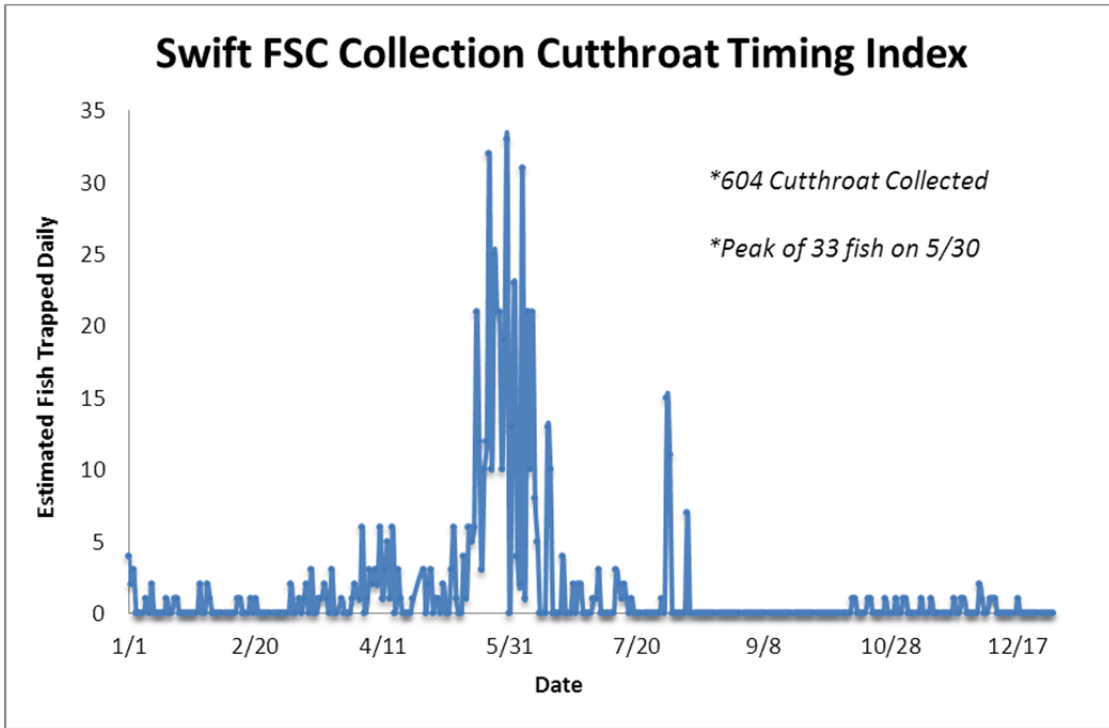


Figure 3.1-11: Daily percentage of the cutthroat migration captured at the FSC.

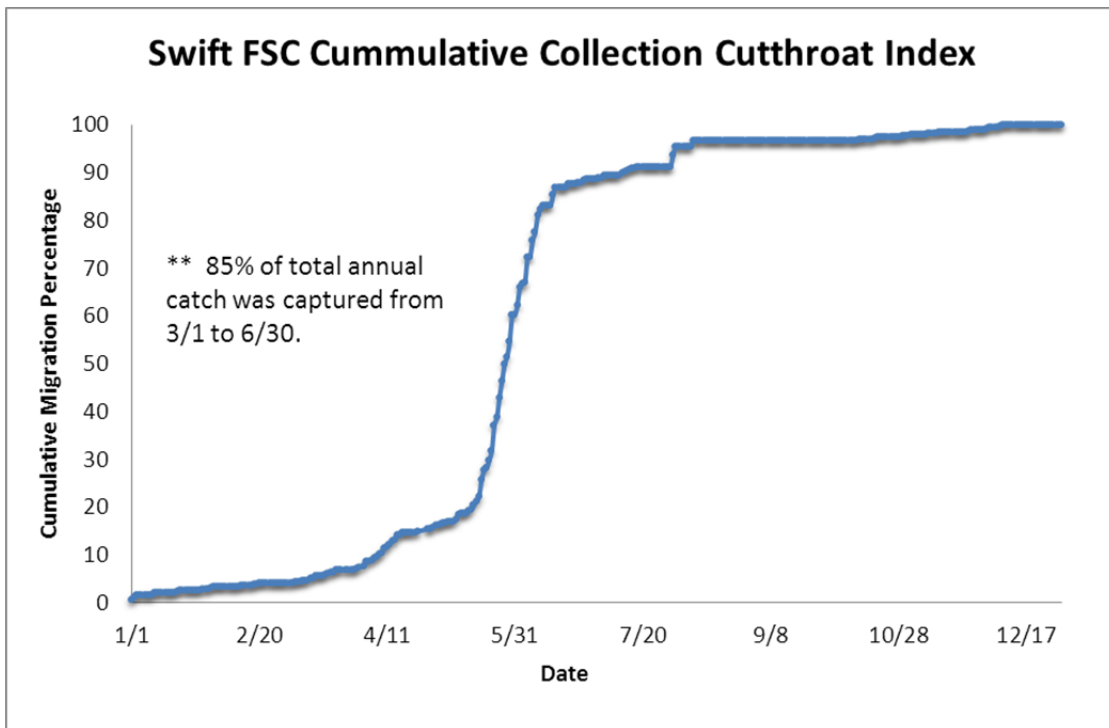


Figure 3.1-12: Cumulative cutthroat migration timing.