Tracy Research Technical Bulletin Abstract

Tracy Technical Bulletin 2021-1

Wu, Brandon J. and Zachary A. Sutphin. 2021. *Estimation of Tracy Fish Collection Facility Fish-Haul Truck Biomass Capacity*. Tracy Fish Collection Facility Studies,
Tracy Technical Bulletin 2021-1. Bureau of Reclamation, California-Great Basin Region, 50 pp.

Fish-haul trucks used during salvage operations at the Tracy Fish Collection Facility (TFCF; operated by the Bureau of Reclamation) were evaluated (with no fish in the truck tanks) to estimate fish biomass capacity based on tank volume, oxygen (O2) and compressed air system capabilities, and published fish O2 consumption, total ammonia nitrogen (TAN) production, and carbon dioxide production rates. Results suggest O2 and compressed air systems on the fish-haul trucks are adequate for short-duration transport (approximately 1 h) of fish from the TFCF to release sites. Biomass capacity of the fish-haul trucks appeared to be limited by TAN production and was estimated to be 310.8 kg (loading density = 31.4 g/L). It was conservatively estimated that the fish-haul trucks can effectively transport between 6,283 and 3,486,100 fish, depending on size. For certain sizes of fish, carrying capacity estimates from this study were lower than estimates from updated fish transport tables currently used at the TFCF. Based on this, it is recommended that fish transport tables used at the TFCF be further updated using TAN-limited carrying capacity estimates from this study. Alternatively, methods to remove excessive TAN from water or reduce ammonia toxicity during fish transport should be considered.