

PTSC Annual Meeting - 2013

The 2013 PIT Tag Steering Committee Annual Meeting was held at Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission office on January 24th 2013.

Attendees

PTSC Members: Steve Pastor (Committee Chair)– USFWS, Charles Morrill (Committee Co-Chair)- WDFW, Pat Keniry - ODFW, Scott Putnam - IDFG, Doug Marsh- NOAA, Jeff Fryer- CRITFC

PSMFC: Randy Fisher, Nicole Tancreto, Craig White, Sebastian Dudek, Tricia Ledgewood, John Tenney, Don Warf, Jennifer Nighbor, Scott Livingston, Alan Brower

BPA: Cecilia Brown (COTR), Sharon Grant

Others: Sandy Downing (NOAA Fisheries), Al Giorgi (BioAnalysts, Inc.) , Dean Park (Biomark Inc.) Steve Anglea (Biomark, Inc.)

Summary of Action Items

Item: Data Use Policy Update - Some PTAGIS data contributors have expressed concern about the misuse of their contributed data and the publication of results using that data without their permission or acknowledgements.

Action:

- Committee will review the existing policy and the proposed changes by Jeff Fryer.
- PTAGIS will put together a newsletter article and possibly a video tutorial on how to contact researchers and add a link to the Data Use Policy into the video.
- PTAGIS will promote the data use policy with a mechanism to make registered users acknowledge the data use policy upon login to the Advanced Reporting system. PTAGIS will leave the policy as is (retaining the language) until any modifications are reviewed by BPA and the PTSC.

Item: Adult Fish Tagging Policy - Charles Morrill talked about creating something similar to SbyC for people who want to do adult tagging to send for FPAC approval and send emails to researchers to ask if it's okay to handle their fish.

Action:

- It is agreed that there does not seem to be an issue for the PTSC committee.

Action Items Continued

Item: New Vendor tag types- Develop a process to attain approval for new tag types to be added to the new PTAGIS4 server validation process. This validation process is used primarily to identify spurious tags but can also be used to identify unapproved types.

Action:

- PTAGIS is implementing new tag code validation on the PTAGIS4 server that will be fully deployed later this year. John requests the Steering Committee consider how to maintain the tag masks used for this validation, such as approving the addition of a new vendor tag type and updating any related records marked as invalid prior to the approval. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled later this year by PTAGIS or at the next annual meeting.
- PTAGIS will create newsletter article explaining the new tag code validation process on PTAGIS4 server.

Item: Tag Recommendations and Tag Testing – Should PTSC and/or PTAGIS recommend PIT tags? What are the specifications to base these recommendations upon, how, and by what process?

Action:

- Don Warf, Alan Brower, Sandy Downing, and Charles Morrill, will work on a streamline process to test vendor tags, the costs of doing so, and will provide that information to the steering committee. In addition they will
 - Publish a specification in the online document library for tags currently available and/or in use
 - Update guidance (table) for FY13 tag distribution requests
 - Once updated, this information will be announced in an upcoming PTAGIS newsletter article
- BPA will coordinate with PTSC to announce when the next PIT Tag RFO process will be scheduled. PTSC will recommend any vendors requesting new tags to be evaluated by PTAGIS to do so in the next RFO process.

PTSC Business

- Doug Marsh volunteered to be the committee chairman.
- Charles Morrill asked for volunteers for co-chair none were forthcoming so Charles Morrill agreed to serve another year as co-chair.
- Ed Buettner's position has been announced and Scott Putnam's name is in the hat.

Meeting Notes

Randy Fisher - gave an update on the NPCC's Fish Tagging Forum

- Looking at how tags are being used, and what information would be lost should a tagging method be discontinued.
- Recommendations are forthcoming in June as to viability of tagging programs.
- They are finding no tag is perfect. The process itself has been educational. Concerns have been expressed as to how many wild fish are being tagged with PIT tags (mortality) and the redundancy of detection equipment.

John Tenney – Gave an update of events in 2012 and a roadmap of what PTAGIS is doing in the next year.

[Follow link to see John Tenney's PowerPoint Presentation.](#)

Field Software –

- Provided a data collection and processing summary for 2012
- 2012 field data systems update: relaxed tag code validation in P3 and MiniMon; software will currently read any tag code with a 3.10 hexadecimal convention.
- M4 is deployed and collecting data. Separation by code functionality was completed in May and emulation software was created to do regression testing and analysis. A live fish test was successfully conducted at GOJ, during which the 2020 transceiver was also tested.
- M4 deployment consists of two separate platforms for evaluation in 2013 field season. Field staff will maintain both platforms and compare two sets of O&M reports for evaluation
- M4 supports all types of Allen-Bradley PLCs
- PLC now computes gate-timing for each tag. Possible in future version to compute gate-timing by species (if needed). This would require M4 to submit a species-defined action code with divert-request.

Website-

Refer to [Johns Tenney's PowerPoint presentation](#) for details.

- Charles Morrill wanted to know if it was possible to post images or videos to the Forums, Sebastian Dudek indicated that it was possible.
- SbyC Page -Doug Marsh requested a column be added to SbyC to see what had been requested. Nicole answered that we have answered that with a new feature that is a Summary table that provides that information with filters that allow the user to filter by any field.
- Great feedback on the video tutorials saying that they were very effective. PTAGIS conducted three webinars to demonstrate the new reporting system, with about 75 people logging into to the sessions. Scott Putnam indicated that at the IDFG offices, multiple people were viewing the webinars, so they probably reached more than 75 users.
- Doug Marsh asked if users have to view the report before you can export or save it. Nicole Tancreto affirmed that you do have to run the report before you save it. You can use the History List feature to run it in the background and export it without looking at it. Nicole will put together another tutorial that goes over the process.

- Doug Marsh had questions about 1 million row limit on reports. Nicole Tancreto responded that the 1 million row limit was to keep users from inadvertently downloading the entire database. By contacting PTAGIS any user can increase the row limit of their reports to more than 1 million.
- Nicole Tancreto addressed Ice Harbor concerns saying that in the future we hope to create a virtual site where we can separate out the adult and the juvenile detections to help clean up adult detections in the juveniles.
- John Tenney proposed that once DGE reporting feature are complete, new separation-by-code metadata will be available for reporting that should not require Doug Marsh to have to pull this information out of raw data files.

What PTAGIS is doing to get ready for server switch to PTAGIS4-

Refer to [Johns Tenney's PowerPoint presentation](#) for details.

- Al Giorgi asked about Bull trout data and Nicole Tancreto offered to show him how to access information as to where the Bull trout data is coming from and what it is. We have the PIFF utility specifically to transform non-standard field data from other systems that typically submit detection data for bull trout and other non-salmonids; we also provide technical coordination for people to submit and extract these data.
- Need to create an approval process for new vendors and tag types. John request that the committee think about how to proceed (see related action item).
- Deadline for moving off the new system was discussed by John Tenney
- Doug Marsh asked about FTP sites and will they be available? He stated that "On the old system you could look at them but not save them. Will that be made better?" John Tenney responded that "beta site is currently pointing to the raw data files on the existing (legacy) FTP server. We will transition to a new file server and more user friendly features such as the one Doug requested. The transition is planned for the summer and will coordinate it with the users."
- Meta data needs to be reviewed, especially for mark data. PTAGIS can send out surveys to the individuals that mark to determine what metadata they want to see. The schedule for this TBD.
- Scott Putnam asked about the urgency to go from P3 to P4. John Tenney responded that from a maintenance standpoint we need to update. He sees the P4 conversion going pretty quickly using components from M4. From a basin standpoint people are starting to build their own tagging software for various reasons. Doug Marsh commented concerning P3 equipment; that "it is hard to find equipment that P3 supports, it needs "dumb" equipment. You can't have a smart tech USB hub with power-saving features. Digitizer boards are also hard to come by." John suggested that once we have PTAGIS4 server transition completed the P4 tagging software will be a priority. Perhaps a way to start is to send out surveys to find out equipment needs as well as metadata. We hope to make use of new tech for more efficient marking.

Data Use Policy

- Steve Pastor began a discussion regarding PTAGIS website's data use policy. He stated that, "the problem is that people are taking data off our database and publishing without crediting or knowledge of the data coordinator/researcher."
- It was discussed that most researchers are funded by public agencies, some of which require that the data be housed in a central repository. All data in PTAGIS is available to download

and use by anyone. This can lead to presentations and papers being published by one researcher using another researcher's data from PTAGIS, without contacting them for permission or to ask if that data is suitable to the analysis being conducted. BPA's Cecilia Brown questioned who actually "owns" the data? Is the data the property of the people in the field or does it belong to the funding agency? Cecilia Brown suggested a check box and terms of use. She also talked about the proprietary ownership of the data. She is of the opinion that the data being funded by public entities belongs to the public; however from a scientific rigor standpoint, original researchers should be contacted to determine if the data are suitable for a particular analysis.

- There was the suggestion that people aren't submitting data because they are afraid that their data will be used without permission.
- Cecilia Brown stated that from her perspective as contract manager, she does not expect the PTAGIS team to drop any other projects to work on this.
- John Tenney answers, that maybe there is a way to promote the existing data policy, and we need to review the policy.
- John Tenney commented that he felt it is PTAGIS' responsibility is to make it easier to see who the data was collected by
- John Tenney stated that one solution is to float the data use policy up (make it more visible on the website), and Nicole Tancreto can make a video showing a method for getting the contact information for any specific tagging data using the new Advanced Reporting system.
- It is proposed to give a presentation at the AFS conference on the problems of reporting on data that is collected by a different researcher than the analyst. There were no volunteers to present. It is also commented that the presentation slots for the conference are probably full; however it could possibly be discussed at a panel.

Don Warf Kennewick Field Operations 2012

[Follow link to see Don Warf's PowerPoint Presentation.](#)

- Kennewick designed a thin walled antenna for use in adult fish ladders.
- Biomark was granted the contract to build these antennas and install at The Dalles and Little Goose this year.
- Antenna efficiencies were near 100% and SbyC gate efficiencies around 98% for 2012
- Yakama Nation Klickitat project was completed in 2012
- All PIT tags passed QA testing in 2012. Automated sorter to be completed in 2013 will increase testing efficiency.
- Tested and deployed Biomark 2020 transceiver to many sites

Charles Morrill presents Item: Tagging Adult Fish.

- He talked about creating something similar to SbyC for people who want to do adult tagging to send for FPAC approval and send emails to researchers to ask if it's okay to handle their fish.

Action: It is agreed that there does not seem to be an issue for the PTSC committee.

Al Giorgi BiOp RME Requirements – Regional Pit Tag Plan

[Follow link to see Al Giorgi's Visual Document Presentation.](#)

- Al Giorgi discussed the needs of the future and where the action agencies think they need to go in the next few years to fulfill their obligations.
- There were discussions about PTAGIS being the portal for the forecast database.
- Steve Pastor asked about forecasting database. Answer: Action Agencies sent out a questionnaire in 2010 asking researchers what tagging they were planning to do in the future. The information from this effort is housed at UofW (DART). Some interest in making this an ongoing effort.
- John Tenney commented that from a technical point of view the forecasting database is pretty straight forward. However, there are some things to consider:
 - Not everyone gets their tags through PTAGIS
 - How would users be directed to the tool, who would be the organization saying, “You need to fill this out”?
- Doug Marsh commented that because of Core budget constraints it isn’t possible to forecast past one year.

Sharon Grant – Update on PIT tag availability for 2013

- Will SST1s continue to be manufactured as is? In contract that if anything changes with the tag, it needs to be retested.
- Other agencies are coming to BPA asking which tags they should be using; BPA can’t provide sole-source justification for other agencies
- Should PTAGIS provide tag testing services? Does BPA want to fund that? Could PSMFC charge for it?
- BPA willing to release tag standards in RFP, but those standards are not very strict
- Could use current 9mm and 12mm tag tech as the standard.
- Don will work with Sandy to come up with process, hours, cost for testing tags
- PTSC will produce written recommendation based on specs from current BPA tags
- PTAGIS will be validating on tag code to mark spurious tags as invalid. PTAGIS will use the manufacturer’s code and die code mask (3 characters after the period) as the validation standard. This will also mark any tags that are unknown to PTAGIS as invalid. PTAGIS will produce newsletter article explaining tag code validation, reason for doing this, recommendations for tag specs
- Why can’t PTSC just recommend the specific tags that have already been approved?
- Can say these are the tags currently being used in the Basin. These are the specs and tests they passed.
- It would be nice to also have some guidance for TDS web app users

Action: Don, Alan, and Sandy will work on a streamline process to test vendor tags and the costs of doing so and will provide that information to the steering committee so that they can put together a recommendation of specs that will be accepted into the database as valid tags.

The information will be disseminated in the newsletter with an article regarding spurious tags and tag specifications. A statement will be made in the article of which tags we are using in a table form, and the specs of what is acceptable.

Dean Park – BioMark

[Follow link to see Dean Park's PowerPoint Document Presentation.](#)

- HPR and HPR Plus are now available, replacements for cheeseblock
- IS1001-MTS is now available, replacement for MUX
- Yellow brick readers have been put in “end of life” and are not being manufactured. They have a few left.
- Floating antenna designed for customer in SW. IDFG will be installing this in the Potlach
- Spillway Detection at Lower Granite RSW project was discussed including an update from Sandy Downing, NOAA.
- Biomark is developing a replacement reader for the Bonneville Corner Collector to improve performance and lower maintenance requirements.