PTAGIS
n e w s l e t t e r

New PIT Tag System Transition Plan

Federal, state and Tribal agencies involved in the Columbia River Basin anadromous fish mitigation program are considering replacement of the PIT tag interrogation system currently operating in the Columbia and Snake rivers. The current 400 kHz system is aging. Within the next five years, replacement parts will become increasingly difficult to locate and the current PIT tag interrogation system will become obsolete. The existing system could be re-engineered and the present infrastructure maintained for a few years, but it seems to make more sense to transition to the new international standard for identification of animals, as defined by the International Standards Organization (ISO) in document numbers 11784 and 11785. This means acquiring and deploying new stationary and portable interrogation equipment and new PIT tags throughout the Basin. The new ISO based system would operate at a frequency of 134.2 kHz.

A draft project management plan is being prepared in order to guide implementation of, or "transition" to, the ISO standard PIT tag and a compatible transceiver system within the Columbia River Basin in time for the 1999 juvenile salmonid outmigration. The draft project management plan will describe the steps needed to accomplish deployment of a new system. It is intended to establish processes for a "transition planning team" to meet, develop plan options, and provide status reports on the progress of each element.

Five main elements of the project have been identified:

1.   Selection of a stationary transceiver;
2.   Selection of a suitable ISO tag;
3.   Selection of a portable transceiver;
4.   Infrastructure modifications; and
5.   Deployment.

Efforts are underway to develop a management process to successfully carry out this effort. Additional details of this project and process will be in the next issue of the *PTAGIS Newsletter*.

In this issue...

Interrogation Data Anomalies: Orphans

What is an orphan?

In the PTAGIS system, the term "orphan" refers to an interrogation record that has no matching tagging record.

The ability to track "orphans" was implemented in 1995 with the introduction of the new, high speed, bulk data loader process. As each interrogation record is processed, the tag_data data table is searched to determine whether or not the tag_code associated with the interrogation has been reported. If a tag_record is found, the loader process continues, otherwise a tag_data record is created with the file_id of "ORPHAN" and values of "DUMMY" in other columns (see Figure 2).

There are two instances when an orphan can be created:

1. When the interrogation of a code generates a mis-read (See *PTAGIS Newsletter* Volume 7, November 1996 for additional details), or
2. When a Tag Coordinator does not send the Tagging File with the PIT code of the fish that carried the tag that generated the interrogation record. In this instance, the orphan tag_data record will be removed when the PIT code is submitted in a Tagging File.

Orphan Case Study Example

Under Tables, select Tagged Fish List. Type in "ORPHAN" under Tag File, and run the report. This will generate a listing of all orphan tag codes in the PTAGIS database. Figure 1 shows a partial listing of these records.

In this example, Tag ID "017041110C" was selected, and an "Old One Fish History" query was run.

The resulting information (shown in Figure 2) seems to indicate a mis-read tag code, due to the fact that there is only one coil reading at GOJ. Please refer to the last issue of the *PTAGIS Newsletter* for additional information on how to check for mis-read tag codes.

What Has Been Done?

Beginning in 1997, we will define an automated process to notify Tag Coordinators when a certain number of orphan records are generated. This process will track the PIT code to the tag distribution event.

Summary

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Figure 1

Figure 2

New Tag Data Summary Report Available On-line

A new Tag Data Summary Report has been created and is now available on PSMFC's web site. Once you are on PSMFC's Home Page, select the following options: PROJECTS > PTAGIS > PTAGIS O&M > TAGGING LOAD SUMMARY. If you would like to go directly to the report (shown in Figure 3), it can be found at the following address: http://www.psmfc.org/pittag/field_load/tag_load_sum.html.

The report data is split into the following groupings:

1. Total number of files and records processed on the previous day;
2. Load summary;
3. Tagging species load summary;
4. Recapture species load summary; and
5. Mortality species load summary.

At the bottom of the page is a button which allows the user to view a table of record level details about each tag file. From this table (shown in Figure 4), the user can view data by file name. A history of tag data load summaries is also available for viewing.

Please feel free to provide any feedback or comments you may have on this report to Jennifer Mead at PSMFC. Her telephone number is (503) 650-5400, or she can be reached via e-mail at "jen@psmfc.org".

In our next newsletter, we will provide you with more information about this and other pages for mortality and release counts.
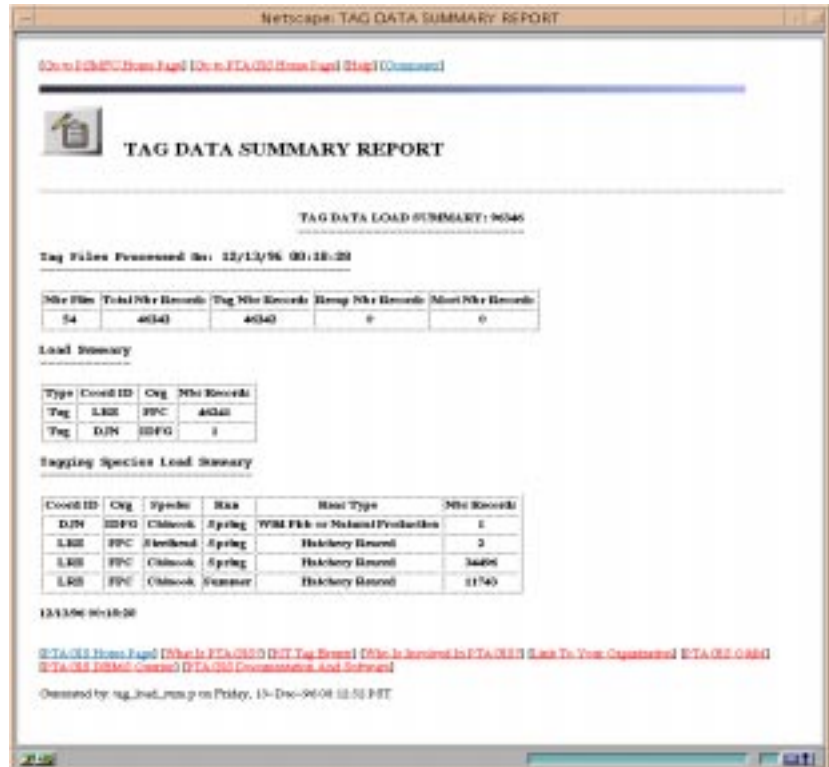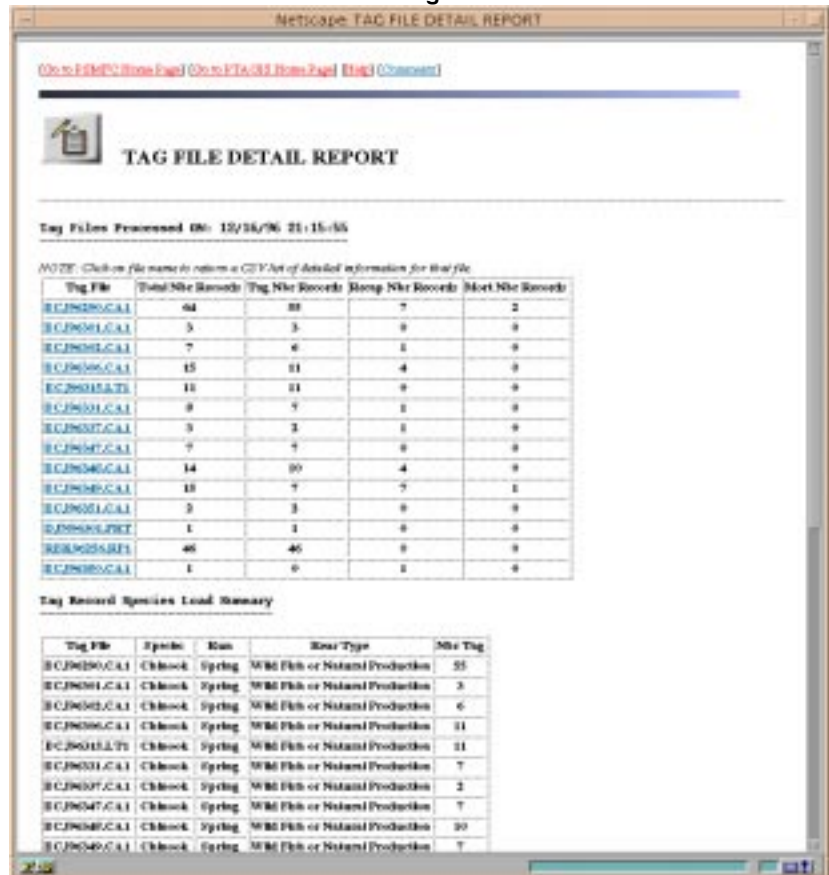
Figure 3

Figure 4

Announcements:

The Staff of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission wishes you and your family a happy, healthy holiday season!

Visit PTAGIS at www.psmfc.org/ptagis

Calendar
1997

Now - Jan. 15	**Call for Changes to the PIT Tag Specification Document**
Feb. 1	**1997 PIT Tag Specification Document Published**
March	**Separation by Code Workshop (Date and Location TBD)**