



PIT Tag Information Systems  
Columbia Basin

# Newsletter

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The PTAGIS Newsletter is published periodically by Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

We welcome input from the PTAGIS community, so email or write us with your story ideas.

If you have questions regarding the contents of this publication, or about the PTAGIS program, please contact Carter Stein, PTAGIS Program Manager.

Unless otherwise noted, contributors include:

CARTER STEIN [carters@psmfc.org](mailto:carters@psmfc.org)  
DAVE MARVIN [dave\\_marvin@psmfc.org](mailto:dave_marvin@psmfc.org)  
JOHN TENNEY [john\\_tenney@psmfc.org](mailto:john_tenney@psmfc.org)

PTAGIS  
205 SE Spokane St.  
Suite 100  
Portland, OR 97202-6413

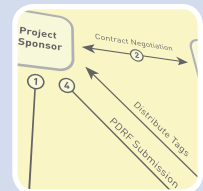
503.595.3100  
503.595.3232 fax



A Fisheries Data Project of the  
Pacific States Marine Fisheries  
Commission

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## CALLING ALL TAGGERS

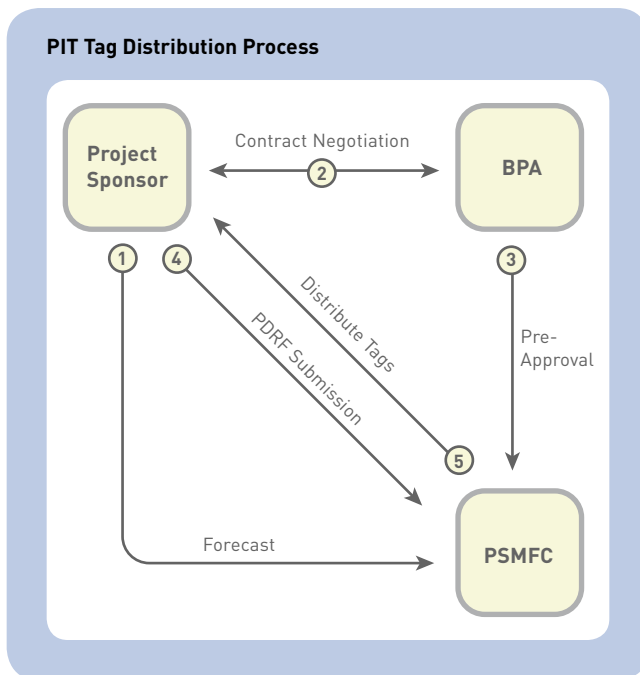
The PTAGIS project is soliciting experienced ptagis users that would like to participate in beta-testing the new ptagis web site. If you are interested, please send an e-mail to [carters@psmfc.org](mailto:carters@psmfc.org) with your contact information.

# NEED PIT TAGS?

## New Tag Distribution Process

BPA and PSMFC have simplified the PIT Tag Distribution Process. The new process features pre-approval for tag distributions, which eliminates the need to email the COTR prior to tag distribution.

There are five key steps to the process:



### 1 FORECAST

Project Sponsor provides PSMFC with forecast of tag needs for BPA fiscal year (*typically this occurs once per year, usually in August*). This forecast is used to identify approved projects and to schedule deliveries from the manufacturer and is available online at [Forecast Spread Sheet](#)

**NOTE:** If you did not participate in the Forecast process, you will still need to fill out forecast form prior to requesting tags.

### 2 CONTRACT NEGOTIATION

Project Sponsor works with BPA COTR to negotiate project budget and work statement.

### 3 PRE-APPROVAL

Upon agreement the Project Sponsor's tag requirement is approved by the COTR (*this typically occurs once per year prior to the beginning project performance period.*)

### 4 PDRF SUBMISSION

Project Sponsor or Tag Coordinator verifies project is approved (see step 1) then submits PIT Tag Distribution Request Form (PDRF) to PSMFC. (*This happens at least 30 days prior to the date tags are shipped.*)

### 5 DISTRIBUTE TAGS

Pre-approved PIT tags are distributed to the Project Sponsor or Tag Coordinator.

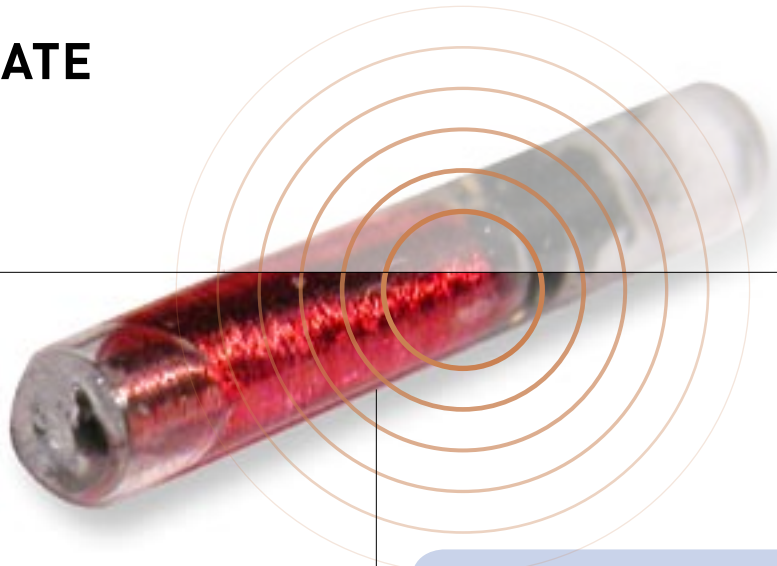
To find out if a project has been pre-approved, check the link ( *Column K in the [Forecast Spread Sheet](#)* ). Call your COTR if your project is not listed or approved for the proper amount.

**For distribution information, call Renee Barrett at PSMFC, 503-595-3100.**

### PSMFC PURCHASE POLICY FOR BPA AND NON-BPA FUNDED PROJECTS

PSMFC purchases tags for the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fish and Wildlife Program through funding by Bonneville Power Administration. PSMFC also purchases tags for other existing contracts and member States. Please contact Biomark, Inc, Digital Angel's North American supplier of PIT Tags for all other tag needs that require compatibility with the detection systems on the Columbia River.

## HIGH-Q UPDATE



### NEW SGL TAGS

In our last newsletter, Digital Angel announced the availability of a new tag (*SGL tag*). The read distance for this tag is approximately 20% better than the currently available *ST tag*.

In anticipation of projects that may wish to use this new tag, please remember:

- 1 The new, SGL tag will require the use of "Thin Wall" needles for marking.
- 2 FS2001, and FS1001 PIT Tag Readers will need to be upgraded to Revision 5 firmware.
- 3 The new SGL tag should be budgeted at \$2.25 per tag.

If you are interested in using these tags for your study, and have already completed your 2005 PIT tag forecast form, please send us an e-mail and indicate your project number and the quantity of SGL tags you would like to receive.

**Contact [pittagdist@psmf.org](mailto:pittagdist@psmf.org) to place your order.**

#### Comparison of the current "ST" tag to the new "SGL" tag

	ST TAG	SGL TAG
Length	11.5 mm+/-1mm	11.5mm plus 1.2mm, minus 1mm
Diameter (OD)	2.07 mm max	2.20 mm max
Weight	1.05 g Average	1.25 g average
Thin Needle Required	No	Yes
Read Range	N	N plus 20% in a shielded room with a 6' by 7' antenna



### BONNEVILLE ANTENNA DEVELOPMENT

**Digital Angel and NOAA Fisheries are preparing for the development of a new antenna for the Bonneville Corner Collector.**

A request has been made to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council for approval of the additional funding required for the antenna. A decision on the funding request is expected in January, 2005. As reported in the last PTAGIS newsletter, the first prototype antenna did not perform as intended. Design deficiencies and potential improvements have been identified. BPA anticipates that a fully functioning PIT-tag detection system can be developed and installed by Spring 2006.

## New Bonneville Washington Shore LADDER DETECTORS

**The Portland District Corps of Engineers has initiated work to install four vertical slot PIT tag detectors at the Washington Shore Fish Ladder at Bonneville Dam.**

The work includes demolition of existing weir structures, and fabrication of new weir structures. The new weir structures are composed of materials that are compatible with the electrical environment necessary for PIT tag detection in a large area. In addition, they include mechanisms to allow the detection antennas to be easily installed and removed for maintenance.

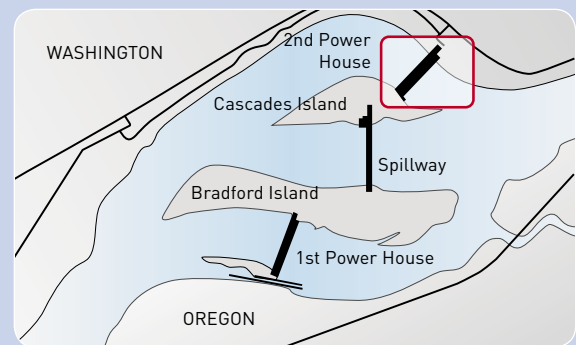
The PTAGIS project will be performing the final installation work, including installation of data collection systems, final wiring, and system tests and integration.

The four new detectors will be installed as a new detection site called "B04". B04 will be upstream from the existing Washington Shore Fish Ladder detectors (B03) and the Cascades Island detectors (B02). B04 is intended to be able to detect fish that are missed at B02 and B03, which can happen

when fish ascend the ladder by way of the overfall weirs rather than through the underwater orifices.

The new system should be operational by the end of March, 2005.

**Bonneville Dam Overview**

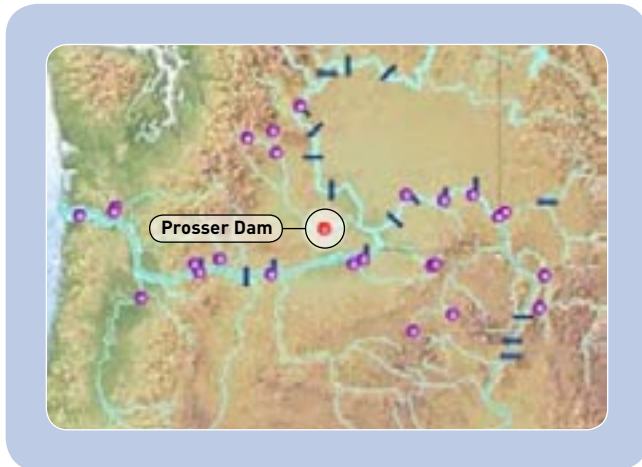


**Bonneville Dam  
Second Powerhouse**

Fish from the Cascades Island fish ladder (B02) and from the Washington Shore fish ladder (B03) may be detected at the new B04 system.

# New ADULT LADDER DETECTOR at Prosser Dam

On November 16, 2004 the PTAGIS project completed the electronics and data communication installation of a new PIT tag detection system on the first of three counting windows at the fish ladders at Prosser Dam on the Yakima River.



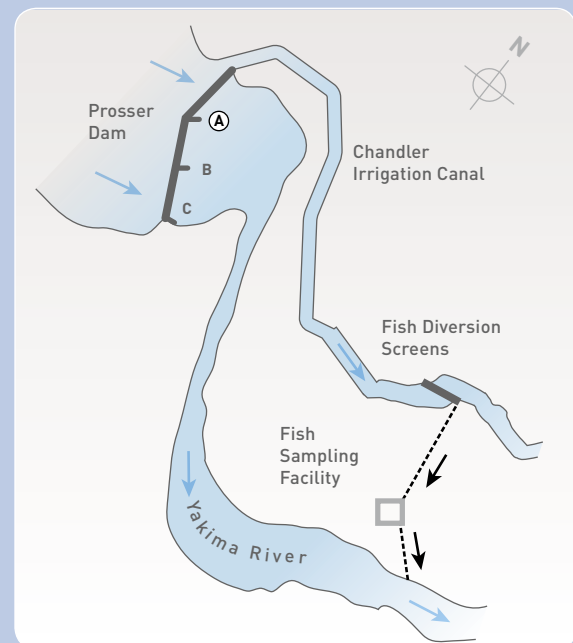
Mark Johnston of the Yakama Nation coordinated the installation, which was funded through the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fish and Wildlife Program (Project Number 1995-063-25).

This installation was a collaborative effort of the Yakama Nation, Bureau of Reclamation, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Biomark, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Knight Construction, and Inca Engineers, Inc. Two antennas were installed at the counting window on the north bank fish ladder at the project. Budget limitations allowed only one of the three fish ladders to be instrumented with PIT tag detection equipment this year. Assuming funding is available, detectors at the other two windows will be installed next summer.

In order to save money on the installation at the Prosser facility, PSMFC is utilizing a wireless radio link (installed by Bureau of Reclamation) between the detection antennas and the existing juvenile data collection facility downstream from

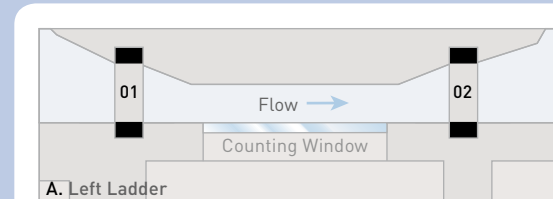
the fish ladders. Juvenile and adult data are now combined into a single file at Prosser. The new site code is "PRO". The former juvenile site code "PRJ" will no longer be used for data collection.

## Prosser Dam Site Overview



The two counting window detectors are located in the north ladder at Prosser Dam. Detection for the two other ladders is planned for summer, 2005.

## Adult Ladder Counting Window Detail



Two antennas have been installed at the counting window in the north ladder at the Prosser dam.