

Separation-by-Code Request for Little Goose Dam

Project Leader: Steven Achord

Study: Migrational timing of wild Snake River
spring/summer Chinook salmon smolts

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has been studying the migrational timing of wild Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon smolts since the late 1980s. During this study, an important question has emerged regarding wild fish growth and how it relates to parr-to-smolt survival, natal stream productivity, and other aspects related to the fry-parr-smolt life stages. To address this question during the 2005 smolt migration, we intend to utilize the separation-by-code system at the Little Goose Dam Fish Facility to separate PIT-tagged wild smolts for length and weight measurements. This will be the fourth year for these separation activities at this dam. This work will continue to provide important baseline information to help protect these listed stocks.

We will provide the PIT Tag Operations Center with the appropriate PIT-tag codes and actions for this study. These actions require 100 maximum diversions for fish from each of 15 streams where we have PIT-tagged wild fish that will migrate in 2005 (with coordinator "SA"). In addition, we plan to obtain measurements on any age-2 wild smolts with migration year 2004. To accomplish this, we require separation of all wild fish with coordinator "SA" and migration year "2004." Operation of the separation-by-code system is needed from about 1 April 2005 through approximately 30 June 2005, depending on the numbers of fish diverted. The "actions" at Little Goose Dam will be in effect regardless of previous detection at Lower Granite Dam.

If you have any questions concerning the project please contact Stephen Achord at (509) 547-7518 or via email Steve.Achord@noaa.gov.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

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March 1, 2005



Mr. David Marvin
PIT Tag Operations Center
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
205 SE Spokane St., Suite 100
Portland, Oregon 97202-6413

Subject: SbyC Request

Dear Mr. Marvin:

The purpose of this letter is to request for Separation-by-Code (SbyC) implementation at various hydroelectric projects on the Snake and Columbia Rivers during spring/summer 2005 to support various studies being conducted by our researchers. Each researcher will provide tag codes and actions to you for their study(ies), see the attached descriptions.

These research studies have been reviewed through the U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers' AFEP process or through the Bonneville Power Administration's process and have been funded by the respective agency. Project leaders are listed for each of the attached studies. The Northwest Fisheries Science Center administrative officer for each study is Mr. Kurt Gores. Appropriate Federal ESA authorization and state scientific collection permits have been requested and we anticipate receipt of the permits prior to the start of research activities.

If you have any questions, please contact the appropriate project leader.

Sincerely,

John W. Ferguson
Acting Division Director

Enclosures

cc: F/NWC3 - Achord
F/NWC3 - Gessel
F/NWC3 - Gilbreath
F/NWC3 - Gores
F/NWC3 - Marsh
F/NWC3 - McIntyre

