

Separation-by-Code Request for Bonneville Dam

Task Leader: Lyle Gilbreath

Study: A study to evaluate delayed (extra) mortality associated with passage of yearling chinook salmon smolts through Snake River Dams (BPA Project Number 2003-041-00).

This study is designed to determine if life-cycle survival downstream from McNary Dam is significantly higher for yearling chinook salmon released into the Ice Harbor Dam tailrace than for counterparts which must pass three additional dams and reservoirs after release into the Lower Granite tailrace. The primary evaluation of this study will be through comparison of SARs between different PIT-tagged study groups. In addition, we are currently seeking funding to investigate short-term mortality of study fish during a 6-8 month period of seawater holding. Should this task be funded, we will obtain fish for seawater holding through separation-by-code at the Bonneville Dam Second Powerhouse Juvenile Fish Monitoring Facility.

In order to program separation of target fish at Bonneville Dam, NMFS will provide PSMFC with three lists of PIT-tag codes, corresponding to the three different study groups of yearling chinook salmon tagged for BPA Project Number 2003-041-00. The lists will be updated periodically as tagging proceeds through the season at Lower Granite Dam. We will request separation-by-code of about 600 fish from each study group, for a total separation of 1,800 fish from mid April to mid June. In order to maintain representative sampling throughout the migration season, our separation-by-code request will include daily caps on the number of fish to be separated by group.

A detailed schedule and further definition of separation needs will be provided if the seawater holding task is funded. Questions regarding this potential work may be directed to Lyle Gilbreath at (509) 427-8611 or via email to Lyle.Gilbreath@noaa.gov.



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

Northwest Fisheries Science Center  
Fish Ecology Division  
2725 Montlake Boulevard East  
Seattle, Washington 98112-2097

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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

