



FISH PASSAGE CENTER

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March 9, 2006

Mr. Carter Stein
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
205 SE Spokane Street
Portland, OR 97202

Dear Carter:

Program and Project Coordination has been completed for the Comparative Survival Study (Project #196602000). This will be the tenth year in which the CSS routes a portion of PIT-tagged study fish to raceways for transportation and the remaining portion back to the river for the purpose of comparing smolt-to-adult survival rates (SARs) between these two routes of passage through the Snake River and lower Columbia River hydrosystem.

Program Coordination:

1. Request for Separation-by-code for CSS fish was sent to Russ Kiefer, Chairman of FPAC, on February 3, 2006. Mr. Kiefer sent an email February 28, 2006 stating FPAC members have reviewed the SbyC request and there were no objections from any of the members." We were told to proceed with the remaining coordination outlined in the SbyC request process on the PTAGIS website.
2. Request for Separation-by-code for CSS fish was sent to Dave Hurson, Walla Walla District Operations, on February 3, 2006. Later that same day, Mr. Hurson sent an email stating "you [FPC] can go ahead and submit your requirements to PSMFC for programming the computers."
3. Because SbyC operations at the dams will not result in any handling of listed fish, no additional ESA permit requirements are needed. However, all PIT tagging activities for CSS are covered by ESA permits.

Project Coordination:

1. On February 3, 2006, a copy of the coordination letter sent to Dave Hurson, Walla Walla District Operations Office, was also sent to the Project Biologists Mike Halter

(LGR), George Melanson (LGS), and Bill Spurgeon (LMN) to inform them of the requested SbyC operations for 2006.

2. On February 3, 2006, a copy of the coordination letter sent to Dave Hurson, Walla Walla District Operations Office, was also sent to the Smolt Monitoring Program's principle investigators Charlie Morrill, WDFW, and Pat Kinery, ODFW, to inform them of the requested SbyC operations for 2006.

Study Coordination:

1. On March 8, 2006, FPC staff sent Derek Fryer, COE Fishery Biologist, a list of PIT tag codes from Rapid River and Dworshak hatcheries that he may pool with other COE tags from those two hatcheries in separate SbyC operations at Lower Granite and Bonneville dams that he will be requesting for 2006. This joint usage of PIT tags was previously coordinated with CSS Oversight Committee members.
2. On March 8, 2006, FPC staff sent Dave Marvin, PSMFC, five text files containing PIT tags (Group T fish) to add to the SbyC databases at Lower Granite, Little Goose, Lower Granite, and McNary dams for 2006. Group T smolts will be assigned an action code of 100% routing to raceways. The CSS has pre-assigned two-thirds of its PIT tags to Group T fish. The remaining tags (Group IR) will simply follow the default back-to-river routing. This approach follows the recommendation of the NOAA Fisheries Liaison to the ISAB (Bill Muir) at the CSS review meeting of the ISAB on January 27, 2006.
3. By March 16, FPC staff will forward to Dave Marvin, PSMFC, and a final text file covering additional Dworshak Hatchery Chinook PIT tags to be loaded to the SbyC databases at the collector dams. This last tag list submission will complete all requested loading of CSS PIT tags to the SbyC databases for migration year 2006.

If you have questions or concerns, contact Tom Berggren prior to March 17 or Charlie Petrosky (208-334-3791) who will be coordinating CSS tagging activities afterwards.

Sincerely,



Michele DeHart
Principle Investigator