

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

February 2, 2006

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

FEB 6 2006

Subject: SbyC Request

Dear Mr. Marvin:

The purpose of this letter is to request Separation-by-Code (SbyC) implementation at various hydroelectric projects on the Snake and Columbia Rivers during spring/summer 2006 to support various studies being conducted by our researchers. Each researcher will provide tag codes and actions to you for their study(ies). Brief study descriptions are enclosed.

These research studies have been reviewed through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers AFEP process or through the Bonneville Power Administration's review process and have been funded by the respective agency. Project leaders and contact information 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,

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John W. Ferguson Director

Enclosures

cc: F/NWC3 - Achord

F/NWC3 - Gilbreath

F/NWC3 - Gores F/NWC3 - Marsh F/NWC3 - McIntyre Separation-by-Code Request for Little Goose Dam in 2006

Project Leader: Steve Achord

Study: Migration timing and parr-to-smolt

estimated survival for 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 2006 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 sixth 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 or defined sites where we have PITtagged wild fish that will migrate in 2006 (with coordinator "SA"). In addition, we plan to obtain measurements on any age-2 wild smolts with migration year 2005. To accomplish this, we require separation of all wild fish with coordinator "SA" and migration year "2005." Operation of the separation-by-code system is needed from about 1 April 2006 through approximately 30 June 2006, 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. In addition, no more than 20 diversions from any stream or defined site may occur in a day.

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