



FISH PASSAGE CENTER

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March 27, 2007

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

MAR 29 2007

Dear Carter:

This letter is notification of planned 2007 Separation-by-Code (SbyC) operations at COE collector dams for the Comparative Survival Study (CSS Project #196602000). The program and project coordination has been completed. Approval for this SbyC operation was obtained on March 13, 2007 from Paul Wagner, Chairman of FPAC, and on March 26, 2007 from Dave Hurson, Walla Walla District COE Biologist. The COE biologists at the four collector dams and the lead biologist for the SMP at these sites were notified of the SbyC operation on March 27, 2007. The requested SbyC operations will not result in fish being handled at the facilities.

This will be the 11th year in which the CSS uses SbyC to route a portion of our PIT-tagged study fish to raceways for transportation. The SbyC actions for 2007 are unchanged from last year. The requested SbyC is to route 100% of pre-assigned tag groups the same as untagged fish (mostly transportation) at all collector dams. The remaining CSS tagged fish simply follow the default return-to-river route. The requested SbyC operations will affect Chinook tagged for the CSS at Rapid River, McCall, Dworshak, Catherine Ck, and Imnaha hatchery facilities, plus aggregates of wild Chinook and wild steelhead tagged and released in Idaho and Oregon tributaries above Lower Granite Dam by researchers participating in the CSS.

Program Coordination:

1. The request for Separation-by-code (SbyC) for CSS fish was sent to Paul Wagner, Chairman of FPAC, on February 26, 2007. We received an approval notification from FPAC on March 13, 2007.
2. The request for SbyC for CSS fish was sent to Dave Hurson, Walla Walla District Operations, on March 19, 2007. We received an approval notification from Mr. Hurson for the COE on March 26, 2007.
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 March 27, 2007, notification was sent to the COE Project Biologists Mike Halter (LGR), Gregory Moody (LGS), Bill Spurgeon (LMN), and Brad Eby (MCN) to inform them of the planned SbyC operations for 2007.
2. On March 27, 2007, notification was also sent to the Smolt Monitoring Program's lead biologists Charlie Morrill, WDFW, and Pat Kinery, ODFW, to inform them of the planned SbyC operations for 2007.

Study Coordination:

1. On March 16 and 21, 2007, 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 for use in separate SbyC operations at Lower Granite and Bonneville dams. This is the second year of joint usage of PIT tags tagged at Rapid River and Dworshak hatcheries for CSS and COE programs.
2. On March 22, 2007, 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 2007. Group T smolts will be assigned an action code of 100% routing to raceways. Remaining CSS tags simply follow the default back-to-river routing.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Tom Berggren at tberggren@fpc.org.

Sincerely,



Michele DeHart
Principle Investigator