UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northwest Fisheries Science Center
2032 S.E. OSU Drive
Newport, OR 97365-5275

Carter Stein
PTAGIS Program Manager
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
205 SE Spokane Street, Suite 100
Portland, OR 97202

April 5, 2007

Dear Mr. Stein:

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has funded a research project under AFEP entitled "Estimate of hydrosystem latent mortality associated with barge and in-river life-history strategies of Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon". The USACE program manager for this study is Derek Fryer. The duration of the project is from 4/1/07 to 3/31/08.

Roughly 45,000 Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon were PIT tagged by Biomark Inc. (Boise, Idaho) at Rapid River and Dworshak Hatcheries (approximately 90,000 total). These fish will be treated collectively with a subset of salmon tagged as part of the Fish Passage Center's Comparative Survival Study (CSS) when removed from the river (approximately 17,000 CSS fish at each hatchery). Roughly 3,600 salmon will be removed over the course of the outmigration period (1,800 from each of the two hatcheries) at Lower Granite Dam with the use of the sort by code (SbyC) facility. These fish will be loaded into two net-pens located in the barge hold. In order to achieve the desired number of fish, about 9 barge trips will be scheduled throughout the migration period. The salmon will be off-loaded at the Bonneville Dam navigation lock and transported to net-pens located near Astoria, OR. In addition, roughly 3,600 salmon will be removed over the course of the outmigration period (1,800 from each of the two hatcheries) at Bonneville using the SbyC, and subsequently transported to the aforementioned net-pens. Finally 80 fish per hatchery will be sorted and sampled 3 times over the migration period at 3 of the Army Corps Facilities (Lower Granite, McNary, and Bonneville) for a total of 1440 fish. These fish will be used to examine pathogen prevalence and contaminant burden along the Columbia River. In total about 8,640 salmon will be removed from the system.

We have coordinated project activities with all affected parties, including, but not limited to, the Fish Passage Advisory Committee, The Army Corps of Engineers, and Smolt Monitoring biologists at Bonneville, McNary, and Lower Granite Dams. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at Mary.Arkoosh@noaa.gov or (541) 867-0327.

Sincerely,

Mary Arkoosh

Mary Arkoosh Ph.D.