



FISH PASSAGE CENTER

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March 16, 2012

Ms. Nicole Tancreto
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
205 SE Spokane Street
Portland, OR 97202

Dear Nicole:

This letter is notification of planned 2012 Separation-by-Code (SbyC) operations at COE collector dams for the Comparative Survival Study (BPA Project #196602000). The program and project coordination has been completed. Approval for the 2012 SbyC operation was obtained on February 24, 2012 from Paul Wagner, Chairman of FPAC, and on March 5, 2012 from John Bailey, Fishery Biologist, USACE Walla Walla District. The USACE Project Biologists Mike Halter (LGR), George Melanson (LGS), William Spurgeon (LMN), and Carl Dugger (MCN) and SMP Lead Biologists Charlie Morrill (LGR, LMN, MCN) and Pat Keniry (LGS) were notified of the SbyC operation on February 27, 2012.

This is the 16th year for the CSS to use SbyC to route a portion of our PIT-tagged fish to raceways for transportation. Similar to last year's request, we will submit TEXT files to you prior to the start of transportation that contains the PIT tag id's of the fish that we are requesting be assigned the "**MONITOR MODE**" action code. This assignment will route these fish the same as untagged fish (*i.e.*, to raceways during the transportation season) at Lower Granite, Little Goose, Lower Monumental, and McNary dams. These TEXT files will include Chinook tagged at Rapid River, McCall, Dworshak, Catherine Ck and Imnaha hatcheries, steelhead tagged at Dworshak, Clearwater, Hagerman, Magic Valley, and Niagara Springs hatcheries, and an aggregate of wild Chinook and an aggregate of wild steelhead tagged and released in Idaho and Oregon tributaries above Lower Granite Dam by researchers participating with the CSS (Table 1).

The CSS SbyC operations will not result in fish being handled at the facilities. Because SbyC operations at the dams will not result in any handling of listed fish, no additional ESA permit requirements are needed. All PIT tagging activities for CSS are covered by ESA permits.

Table 1 provides numbers of the PIT-tagged hatchery and wild Chinook and steelhead that the CSS plans to put into **MONITOR MODE** for migration year 2012. Bold groups represent those groups whose text files are attached along with this letter (March 16, 2012). Those groups that are not bold are groups that we will be sending text files for at a later date (these tag numbers are preliminary).

Please note that the attached text file for Snake River wild Chinook/Steelhead group is not complete. We will provide some additional tags for this group after finalize our coordination with other cooperators. However, nearly all wild tags are included in the current list.

In all, approximately 360,000-380,000 tags are expected to be placed into **MONITOR MODE** for the CSS during the 2012 outmigration.

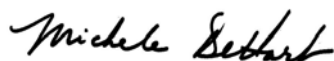
Table 1. Groups of Chinook and steelhead for Separation-by-Code “Monitor Mode” at Lower Granite, Little Goose, Lower Monumental, and McNary dams in 2012.

| Rear type & Species | Group | Assigned to Monitor Mode | Text File Sent to PTAGIS |
|--|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Hatchery Chinook | Rapid River Hatchery Chinook | 36,431 tags | 3/16/2012 |
| | Dworshak NFH Chinook | 35,953 tags | 3/16/2012 |
| | McCall Hatchery Chinook | 36,386 tags | 3/16/2012 |
| | Imnaha AP Hatchery Chinook | ~14,700 tags | |
| | Catherine Creek AP Hatchery Chinook | ~14,700 tags | |
| Hatchery steelhead | Dworshak NFH steelhead | 21,271 tags | 3/16/2012 |
| | Magic Valley Hatchery steelhead | 23,003 tags | 3/16/2012 |
| | Hagerman NFH steelhead | 20,123 tags | 3/16/2012 |
| | Niagara Springs Hatchery steelhead | 19,752 tags | 3/16/2012 |
| | Clearwater Hatchery steelhead | ~23,700 tags | |
| Wild Chinook/steelhead Aggregated across various releases | | ~116,838 tags | 3/16/2012* |

* Text file sent on 3/16/2012 was partial. Updates of additional tags will be provided at later date.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Brandon Chockley (bchockley@fpc.org) or Jack Tuomikoski (jackt@fpc.org).

Sincerely,



Michele DeHart
Manager, Fish Passage Center