



March 11, 2012

Nicole Tancreto
Columbia Basin PIT Tag Information System
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
205 SE Spokane Street, Suite 100
Portland, OR 97202

Dear Ms. Tancreto,

In 2011, PNNL (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory) accessed the Bonneville Juvenile Monitoring Facility sort by code system to monitor the “Acoustic Telemetry Evaluation of Dam Passage Survival and Associated Metrics at John Day, The Dalles, and Bonneville Dams, 2011” study fish. From these efforts, we were able to characterize damage from tagging bioeffects, and monitor surgeon performance over the tagging season.

Given the past success, PNNL would like to implement a similar approach for the “Acoustic Telemetry Evaluation of Dam Passage Survival and Associated Metrics at McNary, John Day, The Dalles, and Bonneville Dams, 2012” study. We would monitor captured fish for bioeffects and surgeon performance in JSATS acoustic transmitter and PIT tag implanted Chinook and steelhead. The results of the assessments would augment and test assumptions associated with the 2012 Lower Columbia River study survival model.

The implantation process will be conducted at the John Day Dam Smolt Monitoring Facility, starting April 26, 2012. We will have two discrete implantation sessions: 1) the spring session runs from April 26, 2011 through June 1st, 2012; and 2) the summer session runs from June 10 through July 17, 2012. We would collect implanted fish using the Sort By Code system at the Bonneville Juvenile Monitoring Facility, west trough, over the following time periods: 1) (spring session) April 26, 2012 through June 14, 2012 and 2) (summer session) June 10, 2012 through July 24, 2011.

During the spring session, PNNL will implant 5800 yearling Chinook salmon and 5800 steelhead. Of these implanted fish, we would like to collect 20 implanted yearling Chinook salmon per cohort, and 20 steelhead per cohort. A cohort, depending on the week, will have at least 5 (and up to 9) releases. The spring session has 5 cohorts. During summer session, PNNL will implant 14125 subyearling Chinook salmon of which we would like to collect 20 subyearling Chinook salmon per cohort. The summer session has 5 cohorts. We do not have route passage limitations (e.g., bypass to bypass) like last year’s program.

We have contacted and have approval from the Fish Passage Advisory Committee chaired by Paul Wagner (NOAA), scientists at the Bonneville Juvenile Monitoring Facility (Jon Rerecich (US ACE), Rick Martinson (PSFMC), and Dean Ballinger (PSMFC)), and from our funding agency (Brad Eppard and Mike Langsley (USACE)). We have received the needed approval for Federal and State permits.



I will be in contact with you to further coordinate needed permits and access needs, as well as the flow of PIT tag information needed.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Christa M. Woodley
Research Scientist

Sequim Office:
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
Marine Sciences Laboratory
Marine Biotechnology
1529 W. Sequim Bay Road
Sequim, WA 98382
Office: 360.681.3603

North Bonneville Office:
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
380 Evergreen Drive
North Bonneville, WA 98639
Office: 509.427.8546
Cell: 530.400.5871

cc:

Thomas Carlson
M. Brad Eppard
Gene Ploskey
Mark Weiland

