



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WALLA WALLA DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
201 NORTH THIRD AVENUE
WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON 99362-1876

March 15, 2012

Planning, Programs, and Project
Management Division

Ms. Nicole Tancreto
Separation-by-Code Coordinator
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
205 SE Spokane Street, Suite 100
Portland, Oregon 97202

Dear Ms. Tancreto:

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has funded a research project under the Anadromous Fish Evaluation Program entitled: A Pilot Study to Develop a Snake River Sockeye Transportation Plan. The USACE technical point of contact for this study is Dean Holecek. The USACE request the Separation by Code System is configured as follows to facilitate the pilot study design. The duration of the separation by code "treatment" period is April 2, 2012 through the juvenile fish outmigration of about August 10, 2012. The following groups of study fish will be tagged via contract between the USACE and Biomark, Inc. Following this letter, Biomark will be submitting the PIT tag SbyC dispositions.

Fiscal Year 2012-Sockeye Pilot Study Design and SbyC request. Approximately 62,000 sockeye smolts being reared at Sawtooth (Idaho) and Oxbow (Oregon) hatcheries will be PIT tagged.

Study Design: Tagged fish are randomly pre-assigned to Barge if collected (70 percent of the tagged population), or return to river (30 percent of the tagged population) if collected at transport Dams on the Snake and Columbia Rivers.

Separation by Code Request: 70 percent to be transported if collected and 30 percent to be returned to river if collected. Biomark will be submitting the PIT tag files with pre-determined dispositions in a few days.

We have coordinated project activities with all affected parties, including, Fish Passage Advisory Committee, Fish Facility Design Review Work Group, and Study Review Work Group as well as smolt monitoring and USACE Biologists at the barging facilities.

Please feel free to contact Mr. Dean Holecek at 509-527-7240 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marvin K. Shutters". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Marvin K. Shutters
Chief, Environmental Analysis Section