

PTAGIS NEWS



Volume 1 Issue 1

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In this issue..

- [Welcome PTAGIS First Newsletter](#)
- [PIT-Tag Operations Status](#)
- [PTOC Developments](#)
- [Destron/Fearing Tag Code](#)
- [Introducing New Menu Choice "All Uploads"](#)
- [Upload Log](#)
- [Data Collection Results](#)
- [Calendar of Events](#)

Welcome to PTAGIS First Newsletter

Welcome! This is the first issue of PTAGIS Newsletter. It is our objective with this newsletter to keep you apprised of status, information, coming events and other activities related to the Columbia River Basin PIT-Tag Information System.

We will also use this medium to solicit your concerns, ideas and requirements for future changes or enhancements to the system.

If you have any ideas for articles to include in the newsletter, please send us a note.

PIT-Tag Operations Status

After nearly a year of planning, procurement, design, development and testing, the new database server machine was "turned on" March 20, 1995. The machine is a Sun Sparc 1000.

During the week of April 1, Corps operated dams "watered-up" for the juvenile fish outmigration season.

As the 1995 outmigration nears its conclusion, the PIT-Tag Operations Center has collected a record quantity of interrogation data as shown in the 1995 Interrogation Summary chart on page 3. Separation gates were operated at efficiencies not matched in prior years, while data collection proceeded almost flawlessly.

PTOC is currently working on the project plan for the next migration year. We welcome your comments.

PTOC Developments

In addition to frenzied activity in the field, development milestones have also been achieved at our Gladstone office.

Ray Kennedy, a software engineer contracted through Volt Engineering Services completed requested modifications to the PITTAG.EXE program and delivered the software to users in early March. Ray also completed work on the second revision of PIT-VAL. Please forward any comments on these programs to Carter or Jennifer.

Jennifer Mead and Doug Clough worked to implement the new release file and interrogation file loading processes. In addition, Jen made enhancements to the PTAGIS3 application that gives users better visibility of uploaded file status.

Doug Clough a principle engineer for Computer Associates designed, built, tested and implemented a new interrogation data loader that was used during 1995. This loader provides speed and functionality improvements that have helped us provide you with better PIT-Tag information in a more timely manner.

Remember....

When you process a Tag File as a Correction you *must* reload any associated Release Information Files

Destron/Fearing Tag Code

Following two weeks of fine tuning and analyzing the PIT-Tag reading efficiency reports, a problem with the new Destron/Fearing tag codes was identified on April 19th. The issue was identified independently by NMFS and other sources around the same time. The new "2nd generation" tags are those that begin with the number "22".

The problem was traced to the integrated circuit (IC) used in the manufacturing of the tags used in the basin. The tags using the new IC was measured to have a return signal strength approximately 30% lower than the old tags.

The effect of this on the interrogation system was reduced reading efficiency. The most drastic effect of the new tags was evident by analyzing separation slide gate efficiencies. These separation efficiencies plummeted to less than 80%.

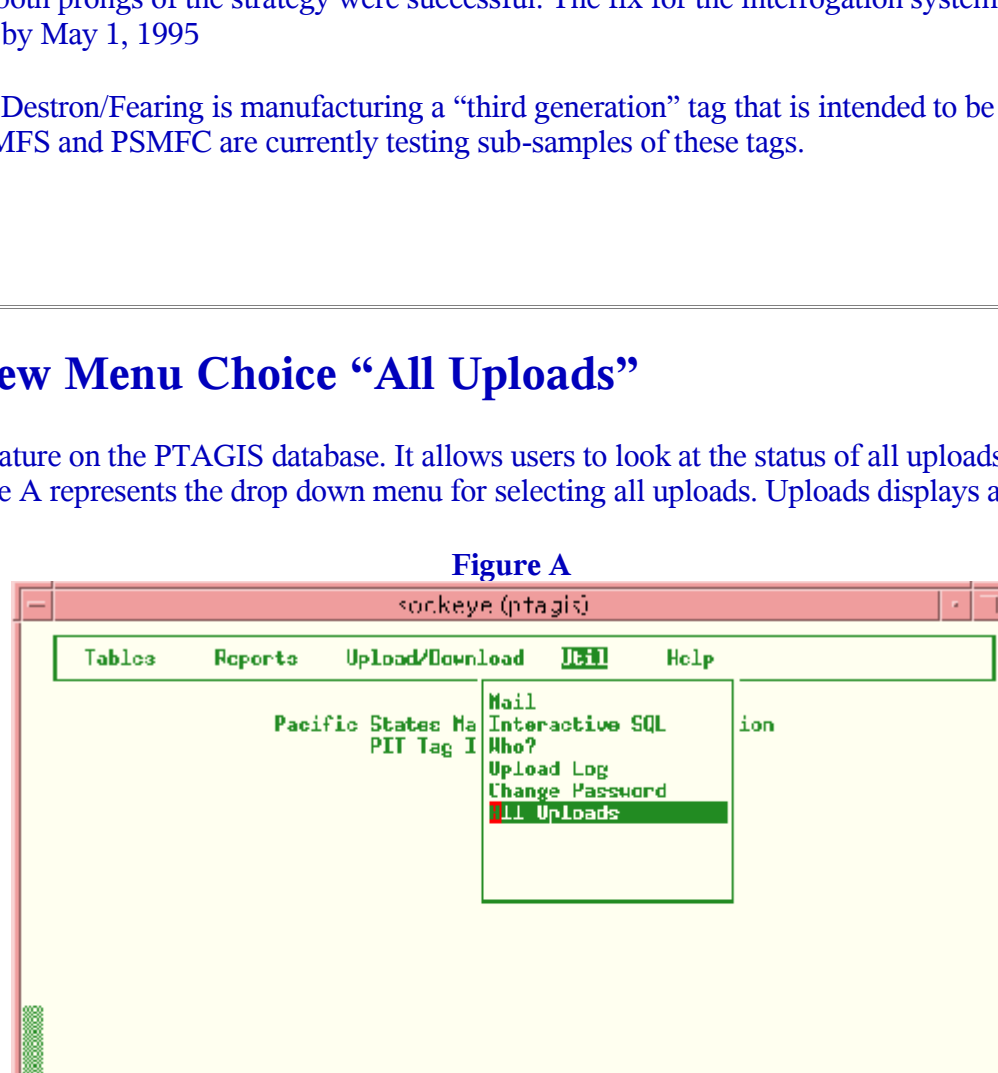
The problem and solutions for it were outlined in an April 26 memorandum to all Tag Coordinators. Working together, PSMFC and NMFS developed a two pronged strategy for dealing with the problem. First, lean on Destron/Fearing to modify interrogation electronics. Second, implement a hardware modification to trigger the separation slide gates on one of four coils, rather than on one of two coils.

The bottom line is that both prongs of the strategy were successful. The fix for the interrogation system at the dams was successfully completed by May 1, 1995

As of September 1995, Destron/Fearing is manufacturing a "third generation" tag that is intended to be an improvement of the 2nd generation tags. NMFS and PSMFC are currently testing sub-samples of these tags.

Introducing New Menu Choice "All Uploads"

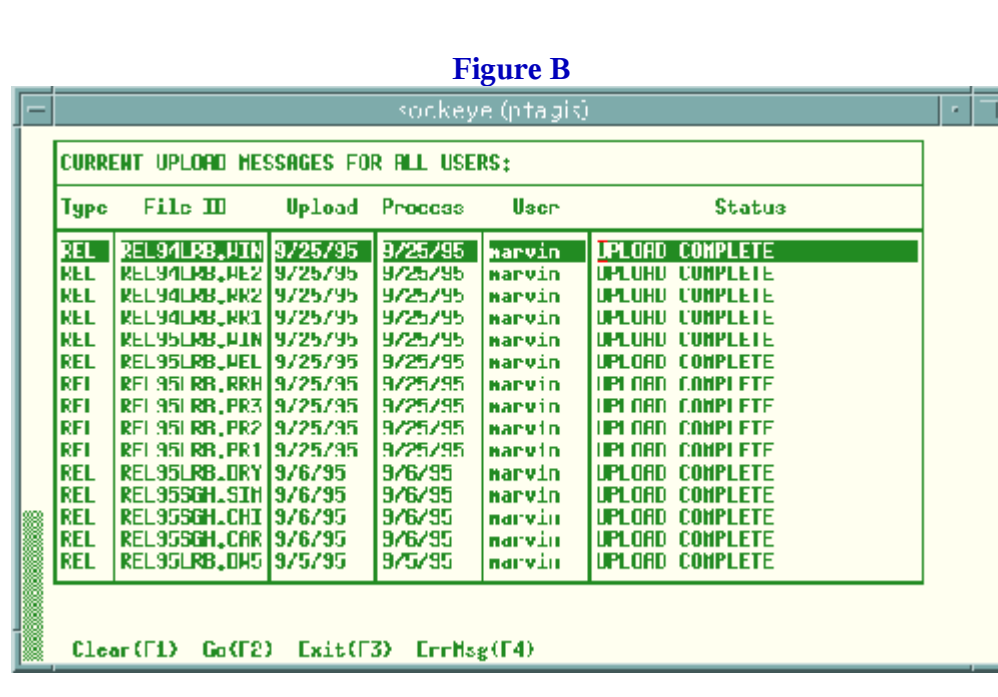
All Uploads is a new feature on the PTAGIS database. It allows users to look at the status of all uploads regardless of who uploaded the file. Figure A represents the drop down menu for selecting all uploads. Uploads displays as a blank query screen.



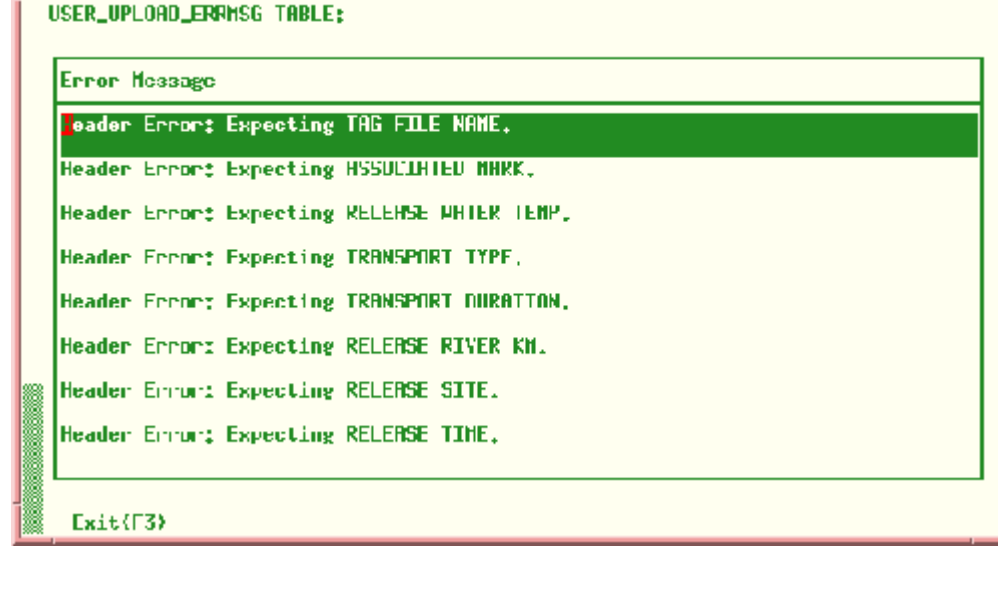
To search for all files the user can :

- Use the F2 key to display all files available in the collective upload logs.
- Query a particular field by using the tab or arrow key to navigate within the screen.

Figure B is the result of using the filename as the query field. By keying "REL*" in the File ID field, the database returns all files starting with REL.



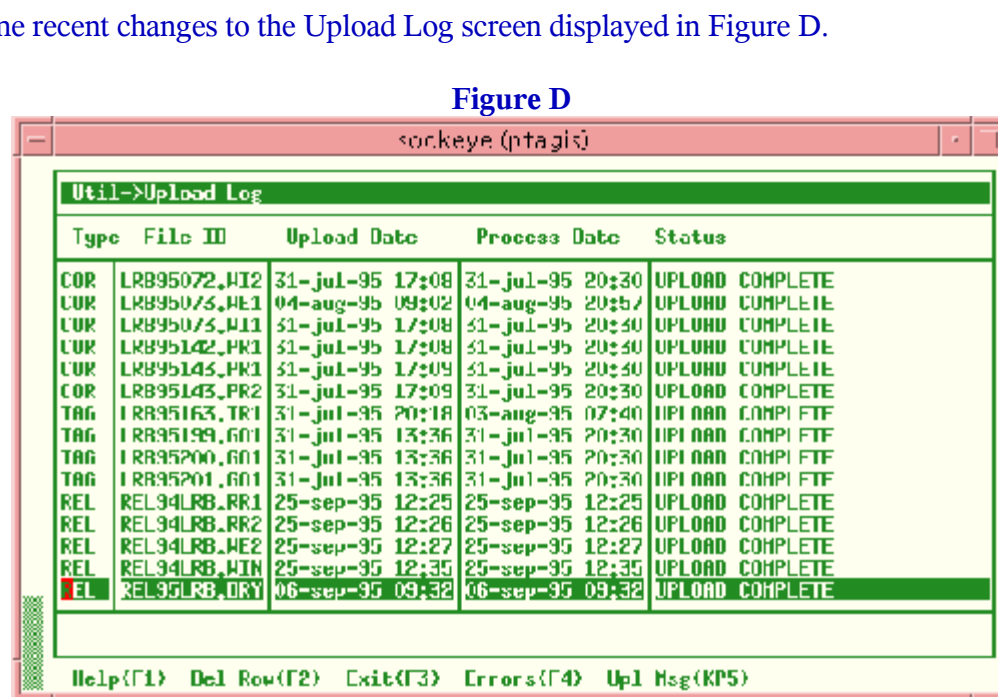
If the status field indicates the file has an error, check the error message screen as shown in Figure C.



To query on the date field a > or < is required depending on what date is being searched for. Because the database stores dates with minutes and seconds attached, there's no easy way to ask for files uploaded on a particular day. If the user types in < : 6/2/95 files uploaded before 6/2/95 00:00 will return. Results are displayed by upload date in descending order, meaning files loaded on 6/1/95 would be at the top of the display window.

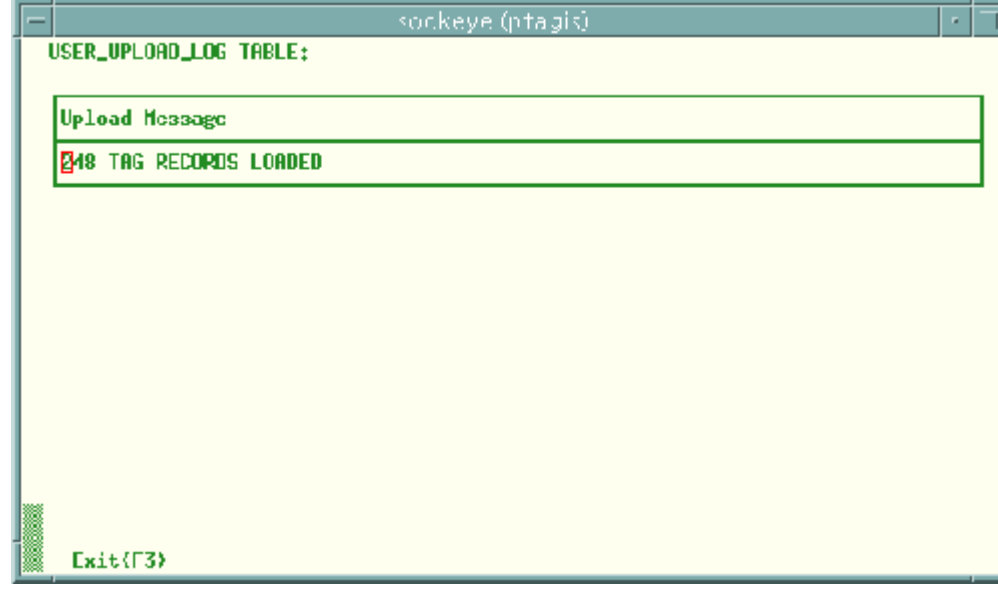
Upload Log

There has also been some recent changes to the Upload Log screen displayed in Figure D.



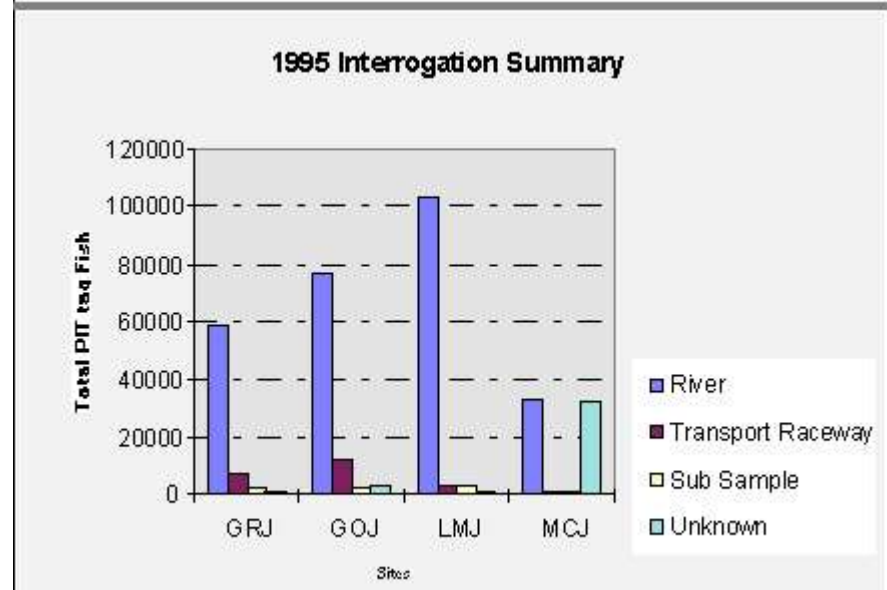
The Upload Log screen allows users to check the status of files they have uploaded. (Contrast with All Uploads, which provides visibility of the status of files that others have uploaded).

Keypad 5 (KP5) may be an option you've haven't seen before. It works if the NumLock is toggled on. Figure E illustrates the results of pressing the KP5 key



Note: F4 displays the same error screen.

Data Collection Results



The graph at left shows the final disposition of PIT tagged fish at the four main-stream juvenile fish facilities during the 1995 outmigration as of September 15, 1995.

Calendar of Events

- October 1: PIT-Tag Forecasts due to PSMFC
- November 1: Final changes required for 1996 PIT- Tag Specification Document
- January 31- February 1, 1996: PIT-Tag Workshop
- February 1: 1996 : PIT-Tag Specification Document distribution

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[To Index](#)

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