



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

600 S. Walnut/P.O. Box 25
Boise, Idaho 83707

C.L. "Butch" Otter/Governor
Cal Groen/Director

October 12, 2010

Jack Tuomikoski
Fish Passage Center
1827 NE 44th Ave., Suite 240
Portland, Oregon 97213

Re: Comments on 2010 draft annual Comparative Survival Study (CSS) report

Mr. Tuomikoski;

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) staff reviewed the 2010 draft of the annual Comparative Survival Study (CSS) report. The report addresses very complex issues and is well organized and quite thorough in its treatment of those issues. There are some specific, minor comments that we will provide and they will be coordinated through the IDFG's Oversight Committee member. Although we regard the analyses in the report as thorough, I would like to request, as a high priority, one additional summary be included in the final report.

IDFG requests that annual estimates of adult upstream passage success rates, by return year, for the CSS PIT tag groups be included in the 2010 annual report and in future reports. This additional analysis should represent the best annual estimate of upstream passage success for the run at large from Bonneville Dam to Lower Granite Dam, based on the appropriately weighted detections of PIT-tagged transported and in-river fish. We would like upstream passage success rates at the finest possible scale for the CSS wild and hatchery groups of spring/summer Chinook and steelhead adults.

The CSS time series of upstream passage success rates by run year will be critical information for a number of management forums, including: 1) Snake Basin and Columbia River harvest management; 2) Federal Columbia River Power System management relative to survival thresholds and performance standards; and 3) Endangered Species Act status assessments and recovery planning relative to run reconstruction and population viability assessments.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this report.

Sincerely,

Pete Hassemer
Anadromous Fish Manager

PH/db

Cc: CSS Oversight Committee

USFWS: Howard Schaller, Paul Wilson, Steve Haeseker

CRITFC: Jeff Fryer

ODFW: Eric Timus, Tim Dalton

WDFW: Robin Ehlke

IDFG: Charlie Petrosky

FPC Staff: Michele DeHart, Tom Berggren, Jerry McCann

Keeping Idaho's Wildlife Heritage



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Pete Hassmer, IDFG

FROM: Michele DeHart

DATE: November 18, 2010

RE: Response to review comments on the DRAFT CSS Annual Status Report for 2010

In response to your review comments on the Draft Status Report, and also similar comments by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, we have included annual estimates of adult upstream passage success rates by return year in Chapter 5 of the report. Subsequent, CSS Annual Status reports for future years will include upstream passage success rate by return year for CSS groups, to maintain a long time series data base as requested for fishery management agencies applications.

The CSS Oversight Committee appreciates your review of the draft Report and your thoughtful comments.