

# State, Federal and Tribal Fishery Agencies Joint Technical Staff

*Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission*  
*Idaho Department of Fish and Game*  
*Nez Perce Tribe*  
*Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife*  
*Shoshone-Bannock Tribes*  
*US Fish and Wildlife Service*  
*Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

September 8, 2004

Mr. Witt Anderson  
Chief District Support Team  
Department of the Army  
Corps of Engineers, Northwestern Division  
PO Box 2870  
Portland, Oregon 97208-2870

Dear Mr. Anderson:

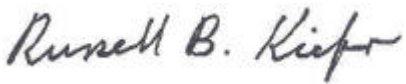
Thank you for your August 4, 2004 response to the state, federal and tribal salmon managers regarding our June 29, 2004 request to implement a spread-the-risk policy for fall chinook.

We appreciate your stated commitment to a strong collaborative approach to the management questions surrounding fall chinook passage management options. The agencies and tribes have developed and submitted a joint collaborative proposal for a fall chinook transportation and in-river migration evaluation study for FY 2005 through the Corps of Engineers Anadromous Fish Evaluation Program (AFEP) research process, with US Fish and Wildlife Service as the project leader. We believe that our collaborative proposal will produce results critical for future management decisions regarding fall chinook passage management.

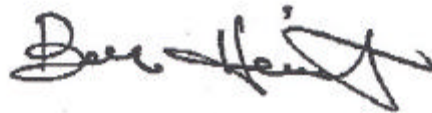
Our joint proposal is an important first step towards determining future fall chinook passage management strategies that maximize smolt-to-adult survival in an effort to achieve recovery of this stock. However, as stated in our June 29, 2004 letter, there is a need to assess the current management paradigm given data collected to date. While research has been conducted on some aspects of fall chinook passage and life history, there are many facets to fall chinook passage that must be considered in fall chinook passage management decisions. All of the various available information should be brought together to begin to provide a common base of understanding and a framework for development of future research that will lead to appropriate management decisions.

We concur with you that a meeting to vet the existing data on fall chinook between all regional managers would be beneficial. To best accomplish this task, the agencies and tribes are requesting that the Corps of Engineers work with the Fish Passage Center to fund, organize, and implement a fall chinook workshop facilitated by ESSA this winter. The Fish Passage Center and the US Fish and Wildlife Service implemented a similar workshop addressing the comparative survival of juvenile spring chinook migrants during February 2004. The workshop was very successful and provided a synthesis of available spring chinook passage and survival information. Through this synthesis, the participants formed a common basis of understanding that was useful for both interpreting historical data as well as outlining critical research needs for the future. We are convinced that a similar workshop organized and implemented in the same way will be extremely helpful in providing a basis for research and management of fall chinook passage. Please contact Michele DeHart at the Fish Passage Center, 503-230-4288 or Howard Schaller at the USFWS, 360-604-2500 to discuss the comparative survival workshop. We look forward to working with the Corps of Engineers on this critical resource management issue.

Sincerely,



Russ Kiefer, IDFG



Bob Heinith, CRITFC



Dave Statler, NPT



Cindy LeFleur, WDFW



Ron Boyce, ODFW



Dave Wills, USFWS



Keith Kutchins, SBT