



FISH PASSAGE CENTER

1827 NE 44th Ave., Suite 240, Portland, OR 97213

Phone: (503) 230-4099 Fax: (503) 230-7559

<http://www.fpc.org/>

e-mail us at fpcestaff@fpc.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Paul Wagner, NOAA, and Chairperson
Fish Passage Advisory Committee (FPAC)

Michele DeHart

FROM: Michele DeHart

DATE: October 17, 2012

RE: FPAC request to establish sockeye and fall Chinook monitoring mark groups

In the Joint Technical Staff memorandum dated September 25, 2012, FPAC identified the need for sockeye and fall Chinook life cycle monitoring groups and requested that the potential for addition of sockeye and fall Chinook mark groups to the Comparative Survival Study be investigated.

To begin the consideration of establishing fall Chinook and sockeye life cycle monitoring mark groups, the FPC staff reviewed the number of PIT tags that would be required to produce life cycle monitoring data. The FPC concluded that a minimum group size would require 50,000 PIT tags. The Comparative Survival Study is managed as a Tribal Accord project and, therefore, has an agreed upon annual budget for the length of the Accords, which cannot be modified without agreement of all of the Accord parties.

The FPAC request was considered by the CSS Oversight Committee in development of the 2013 CSS budget. Although some funding was available in the CSS project from a decrease in tag costs and fees, it was not enough to providing funding for a minimum mark group of fall Chinook or sockeye. Idaho Department of Fish and Game was agreeable to collaboration with the CSS study, and provided the remainder of the costs for one group of 50,000 PIT tagged sockeye from Sawtooth Hatchery. One group of sockeye has been added to the CSS.

In discussions with Jay Hesse, Nez Perce Tribe, he indicated an interest and agreement that life cycle monitoring of fall Chinook is important. There was general agreement that the minimum

mark group size should be 50,000. However, the fall Chinook management program is complicated with releases of sub-yearling fall Chinook above Lower Granite Dam from several locations, and releases of yearling and sub-yearling Chinook on station at Lyons Ferry hatchery. At the present time limited small groups of PIT tags, approximately 3,000 are released with specific production groups to access survival to Lower Granite Dam. For CSS life cycle monitoring, the FPC identified a minimum requirement of one group of 50,000 from the Captain John release and one group of 50,000 from the Big Canyon release. The NPT does not agree with increasing just one component of the production program by adding marks to the Captain John and Big Canyon groups, and would prefer to include representative mark groups from all major components of the production program. Because this requires approximately 250,000 PIT tags, it is beyond the scope of the CSS without modifying the CSS budget. Consequently, we have not been successful at adding fall Chinook marking to the CSS.