



FISH PASSAGE CENTER

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Mr. Ralph Steiner
HC 69, Box 85
Riggins, ID 83549

Dear Ralph-

The Fish Passage Center has been marking fish from the Rapid River Hatchery facility over the last several years as part of the Smolt Monitoring Program (SMP) and the Comparative Survival Study (CSS). For purposes of these studies, data are collected on either the juvenile life stage, or both the juvenile and adult life stages. The SMP provides information for in-season management of the hydrosystem and post-season analyses to the federal, state, and tribal fishery agencies. The CSS is a multi-year program that estimates survival rates over different life stages for spring and summer Chinook produced in major hatcheries. We would like to share with you an update of some of the information we developed under these studies for the fish used from the Rapid River Hatchery facility in 2011.

Under the Smolt Monitoring Program, information is collected on the timing and migration speed from the hatchery to Lower Granite Dam. In addition, as part of the CSS study, juvenile survival estimates are developed for the hydrosystem between Lower Granite and Bonneville Dams, as well as survival from juvenile to adulthood of different passage histories.

Table 1 (below) provides estimates of minimum, median, and maximum travel times from each year's release to Lower Granite Dam. Also provided are estimates of the 95% confidence limits around the estimated median travel time. The 2011 estimate of travel time to LGR follows the convention where travel time to LGR is estimated as the date of arrival at LGR minus the date of detection at the Rapid River Hatchery detection site (RPJ).

Table 1. Rapid River Hatchery Spring Chinook Travel Times to Lower Granite Dam

Release Date	Migration Year	Travel Time (Days) [†]			95% Confidence Limits	
		Min	Med	Max	Lower	Upper
4/1	1997	1.5	34.9	115.8	34.4	35.4
4/13	1998	n/a	19.5	60	19.5	19.6
4/2, 4/20	1999	1.4	37.1	134.8	36.9	37.2
17-Mar	2000	5.5	30.2	63.1	30.1	30.3
15-Mar	2001	7.6	30.1	79.9	30.1	30.2
18-Mar	2002	4.2	30.7	70.2	30.6	30.9
17-Mar	2003	5.7	32.3	66.0	32.2	32.4
15-Mar	2004	8.3	33.6	68.3	33.5	33.6
15-Mar	2005	8.7	33.6	59.4	33.4	33.8
17-Mar	2006	3.7	26.2	131.7	26.1	26.3
15-Mar	2007	4.5	20.3	66.9	20.2	20.5
3/17,3/19	2008	5.0	25.6	65.0	25.5	25.6
16-Mar	2009	4.0	35.0	72.4	34.6	35.2
15-Mar	2010	4.9	28.1	63.2	27.9	28.3
15-Mar	2011	4.6	34.3	71.2	34.1	34.5

[†] Prior to MY 2000, travel times are based on the date of release and date of arrival at LGR. For MY 2000 and beyond, travel times are based on date of detection at the Rapid River Hatchery PIT-tag detection site (RPJ) and arrival at LGR.

We are also providing a table that presents the estimated 10%, 50%, and 90% passage dates of Rapid River yearling Chinook juveniles at Lower Granite Dam for each of the years of tagging (Table 2). Figure 1 is provided as an illustration of how the arrival timing of the 2011 smolt release compares to last year's release, as well as the average of the most recent 10-years (2001-2010).

Table 2. Estimated 10%, 50%, and 90% passage dates of Rapid River Hatchery yearling Chinook at Lower Granite.

Migration Year	Release Date(s)	10% Passage Date	50% Passage Date	90% Passage Date
1997	1-Apr	24-Apr	7-May	20-May
1998	13-Apr	24-Apr	3-May	10-May
1999	4/2,4/20	26-Apr	9-May	22-May
2000	17-Mar	26-May	4-May	12-May
2001	15-Mar	27-Apr	30-Apr	14-May
2002	18-Mar	18-Apr	4-May	13-May
2003	17-Mar	22-Apr	3-May	16-May
2004	15-Mar	18-Apr	30-Apr	5-May
2005	15-Mar	27-Apr	5-May	9-May
2006	17-Mar	27-Apr	6-May	15-May
2007	15-Mar	28-Apr	4-May	12-May
2008	3/17,3/19	4-May	10-May	18-May
2009	16-Mar	25-Apr	13-May	20-May
2010	15-Mar	28-Apr	11-May	19-May
2011	15-Mar	2-May	11-May	16-May

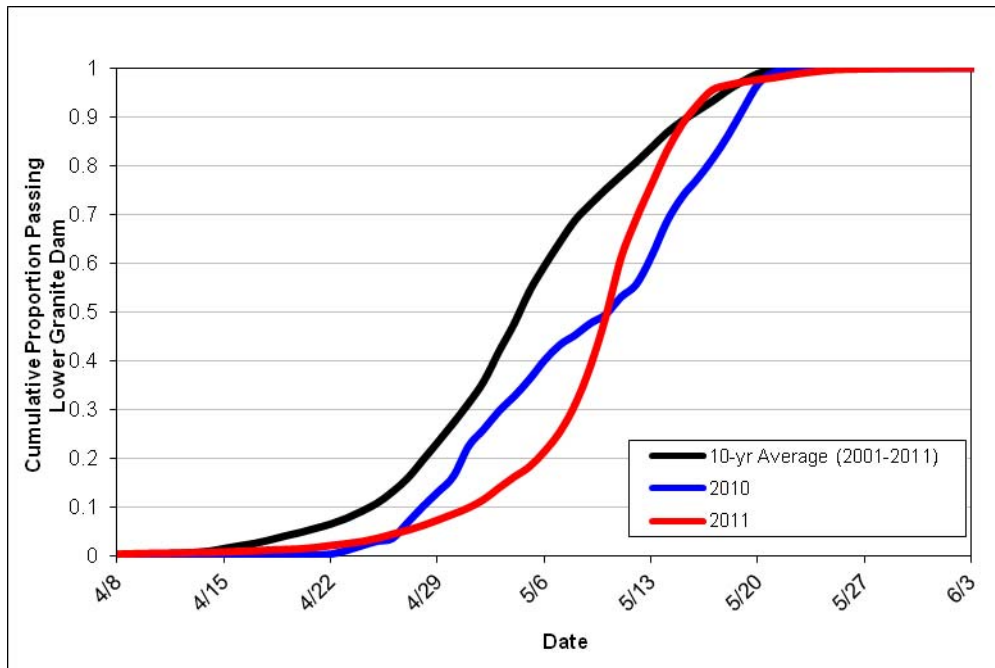


Figure 1. Cumulative passage timing of Rapid River Hatchery yearling Chinook to Lower Granite Dam.

Figures 2 and 3 are provided below to illustrate the out-migration conditions that these spring migrants may have experienced during their out-migration. Figure 2 provides the total spring flow volume (Apr. 3-June 20) for the Snake River (as measured at Ice Harbor), along with the average spring spill proportions at each of Lower Granite, Little Goose, Lower Monumental, and Ice Harbor dams, for each migration year. Figure 3 provides the total spring flow volume (Apr. 10-June 30) for the Lower Columbia (as measured at Bonneville), along with the average spring spill proportions at each of McNary, John Day, The Dalles, and Bonneville dams, for each migration year.

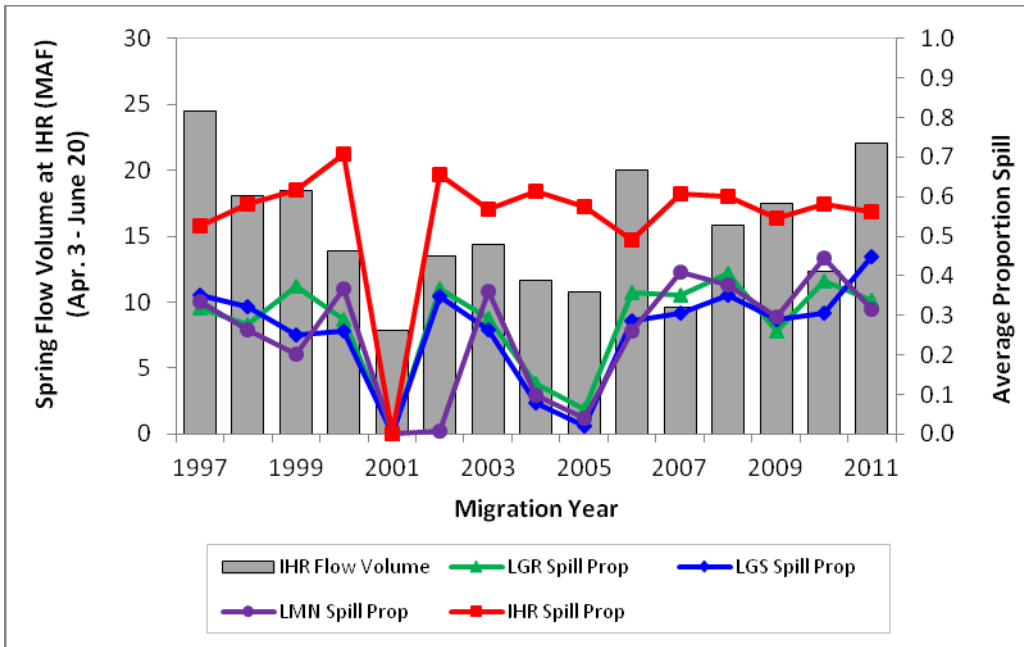


Figure 2. Total spring flow volume in the Snake River (at Ice Harbor Dam) and average spill proportion at Lower Granite, Little Goose, Lower Monumental, and Ice Harbor dams. Spring period in the Snake River is April 3-June 20.

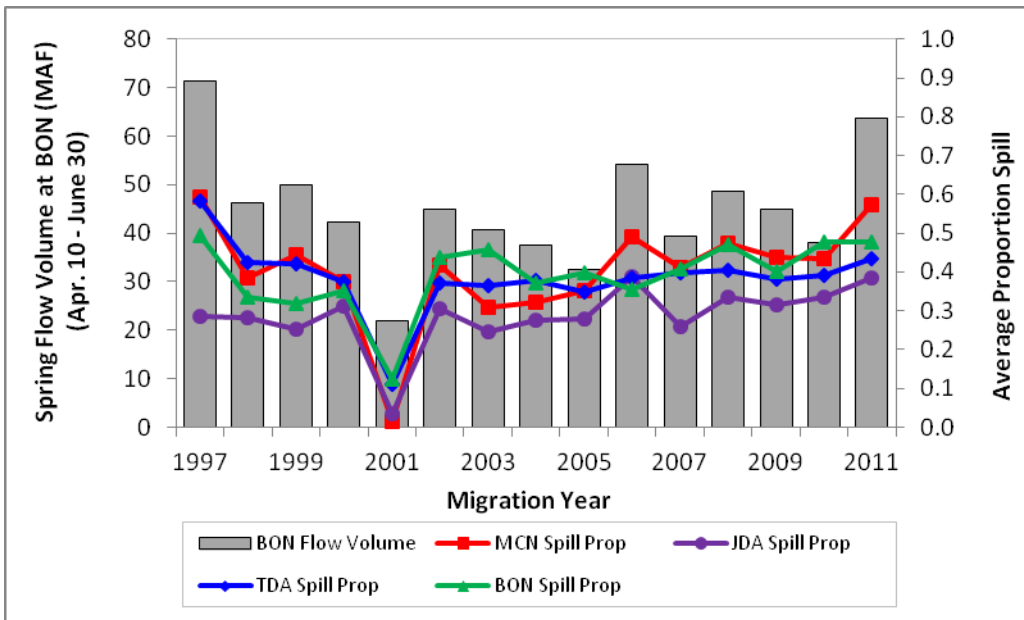


Figure 3. Total spring flow volume in the Lower Columbia River (at Bonneville Dam) and average spill proportion at McNary, John Day, The Dalles, and Bonneville dams. Spring period in the Lower Columbia River is April 10-June 30.

Finally, Table 3 below contains estimates calculated in the CSS study of juvenile survival in the hydrosystem between Lower Granite and Bonneville Dams and the survival to adulthood of juvenile salmonids in several categories. Those categories are SAR(T), SAR(C₀), and

Weighted $SAR_{LGR-10-LGR}$, where $SAR(T)$ represents smolts transported from Lower Granite, Little Goose, or Lower Monumental Dam, $SAR(C_0)$ represents smolts migrating in river (undetected at Snake River transportation collector projects), and $SAR_{LGR-10-LGR}$ is a weighted estimate that is obtained by taking the proportion of the total population of smolts (tagged and untagged) at Lower Granite Dam in each study category and multiplying by the respective study category's $SAR_{LGR-10-LGR}$. In effect, the weighted $SAR_{LGR-10-LGR}$ is the estimated SAR for the overall hatchery release (without jacks). The data presented in Table 3 were taken from the 2011 CSS Annual Report, which can be downloaded from the FPC webpage (<http://www.fpc.org/documents/CSS.html>). Figure 4 is a time series of the Weighted $SAR_{LGR-10-LGR}$ estimates over the twelve years of available data.

Table 3. Rapid River Hatchery Spring Chinook Survivals from CSS

Release Date	Migration Year	Juvenile			Adult Survival		
		Survival (LGR-BON)	Proportion Transported	T/C Ratio	SAR(T) %	SAR(C ₀) %	Weighted $SAR_{LGR-10-LGR}$
4/1	1997	0.33	0.54	1.73	0.79	0.45	0.65
4/13	1998	0.59	0.86	1.66	2.00	1.20	1.88
4/2, 4/20	1999	0.57	0.80	1.28	3.04	2.37	2.91
3/17	2000	0.58	0.68	1.32	2.10	1.59	1.94
3/15	2001	0.33	0.97	21.7	1.08	0.05 ^B	1.06
3/18	2002	0.71	0.67	1.51	1.01	0.67	0.90
3/17	2003	0.66	0.55	1.07	0.25	0.23	0.24
3/15	2004	0.35	0.89	1.57	0.36	0.23	0.34
3/15	2005	0.54	0.87	2.36	0.27	0.12 ^C	0.25
3/17	2006 ^D	0.55	0.71	1.35	0.57	0.42	0.50
3/15	2007 ^D	0.63	0.35	1.77	0.45	0.25	0.34
3/17, 3/19	2008 ^D	0.55	0.59	1.52	1.47	0.97	1.30
3/16	2009 ^{A D}	0.71	0.44	2.04	1.29	0.63	0.95
3/15	2010 ^{D E}	0.71	0.23	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

^A Migration year 2009 is incomplete with Age 2-salt adult returns through 9/12/2011

^B Assumed $SAR(C_0)$ same as $SAR(C_1)$ for 2001

^C In-river SAR is combination of groups C_1 and C_0

^D Estimates for migration years 2006 through 2009 reflect use of new methodology developed for random pre-assignment of “monitor mode” and “return-to-river mode” operations. See 2011 CSS Annual Report for details.

^E No adult returns to date, only juvenile metrics are available

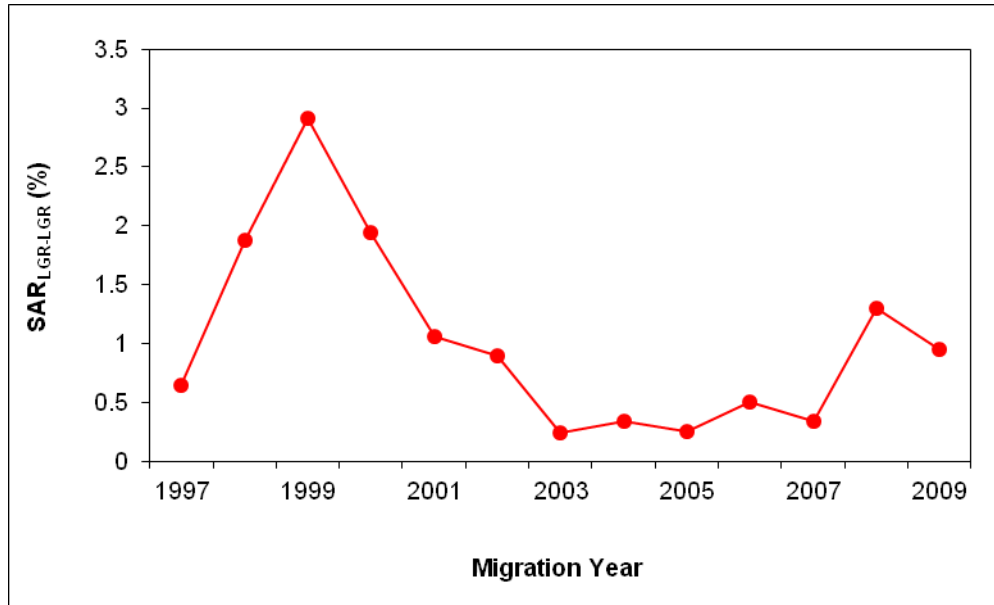


Figure 4. Weighted SAR_{LGR-10-LGR} for Rapid River Hatchery spring Chinook releases over the past 12 years (1997-2009). Migration year 2009 is incomplete with Age 2-salt adult returns through 9/12/2011.

We hope that the information we have provided regarding the use and application of information from the marked groups over the last several years is of some use to you. If you would like any additional information regarding these releases please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Michele DeHart
Fish Passage Center Manager

Cc: Pete Hassemmer, IDF&G
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