



FISH PASSAGE CENTER

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MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Michele DeHart

DATE: April 12, 2013

RE: Operation of the Ice Harbor Adult Trap (Spring 2013)

The Fish Passage Center was recently contacted as PTAGIS coordinators for the Smolt Monitoring and Comparative Survival Study projects to gain permission to Radio Tag previously PIT tagged adults at Ice Harbor Dam during 2013 as part of a Corps of Engineer study. We did not grant permission because we had concerns over the potential effects from trapping, anesthetizing, radio tagging, transporting adults upriver for release, and any other potential handling effects. Specifically because the effects are unknown and they could directly particularly affect the CSS study.

We have three additional concerns over the operation of the Ice Harbor Adult trap. It is our understanding that there is no separation by code for this trap so that adults are released only after being trapped, handled and anesthetized. There is no method for avoiding PIT tagged study fish prior to trapping. Additionally the only way to release trapped adults, regardless of radio tagging or not, is to truck them upstream for release at Levey Park Boat ramp. The effects of running this trap in this manner could potentially affect PIT tag studies and untagged adults from the run at large. Finally, we don't have a clear understanding for sample sizes chosen and statistical goals for the study.