



# FISH PASSAGE CENTER

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Lynn Palensky  
Northwest Power Conservation Council  
*Michele DeHart*

FROM: Michele DeHart, Fish Passage Center

DATE: March 26, 2018

RE: Response to February 20, 2018 request to review, agree or provide updated information to the NPCC staff, in preparation for the regional research review.

After reviewing the Word document and spreadsheet attached to the February 20, 2018, email requesting agreement or update to the NPCC staff designation of which projects are research and which projects are not, it became clear that the Smolt Monitoring Program project, the Comparative Survival Study project and the Fish Passage Center project do not actually fit into the categories or definitions developed by the NPCC staff. This memorandum is provided to the NPCC staff as an update and further explanation of these three projects specifically:

- Describing how the three projects are managed and implemented in a completely coordinated manner to maximize efficiency. These three projects work together to provide juvenile and adult fish passage information to the regions fish, power and river managers and the public.
- At the same time these projects collect data, and generate analyses that address critical uncertainties, action effectiveness, and causal relationships between environmental variables, project operations and fish survival.
- These projects together fit into the structure of adaptive management monitoring, at the same time these projects together work to address prevailing fish passage management issues in the region such as action effectiveness, causal relationships between environmental variables and fish passage metrics. In other words these projects do not exactly fit into the definitions of research or monitoring as described in the word document instructions.

- The products of these three projects have a public review, in place. In addition the NPCC Fish and Wildlife Program established an Independent Scientific Advisory Board annual review process for these projects.

**The Smolt Monitoring Program** contract is managed and implemented Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. The Smolt Monitoring Program is established by measures in the NPCC Fish and Wildlife Program. This PSMFC contract funds the remote site personnel and remote site budgets for the mainstem monitoring and trap site marking included in the SMP. The SMP project contract funds the personnel and supplies for the on-site sampling at the SMP sites.

**The Comparative Survival Study** contract is managed and implemented by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. This project contract provides program costs for the purchase of and implanting of PIT tags in CSS mark groups. Many CSS mark groups are coordinated with other marking projects so that only a portion of some mark groups are funded through CSS. In some cases CSS utilizes marks from other mark groups without providing additional funding. Of the total CSS contract cost approximately 50% is the cost of tags. The CSS study contract also provides funds for the CSS Oversight Committee. Less than 10% of the project funding is provided for the CSS Oversight Committee.

**The Fish Passage Center** project contract is managed and implemented by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. The Fish Passage Center was established by the NPCC Fish and Wildlife Program and provides the specific products and services outlined in the Program.

- SMP -The FPC is responsible for the technical design implementation of the Smolt Monitoring Program, including ESA permit, and environmental compliance of the SMP, the monitoring design, gas bubble trauma training, and development of sampling protocols for SMP, GBT and fish condition monitoring, development of remote data entry programs, data management, quality assurance and web site display and access to the public of the data. FPC is responsible for SMP data analyses and reporting as part of the FPC Annual Report. FPC provides technical support to remote site personnel, maintains responsibility for hardware and software maintenance and assistance for remote sites. PSMFC central staff is responsible for HR and personnel management for the SMP.
- CSS – The FPC is the project leader for the CSS. The FPC coordinates and facilitates the CSS study with and for the CSS Oversight Committee which is comprised of representatives of state, tribal and federal fishery managers. The FPC coordinates mark groups with the state, federal and tribal fishery managers. The FPC is responsible for all data management for the CSS. The FPC prepares data summaries for the Oversight Committee and supports Oversight Committee analyses. The FPC conducts specific analyses for the CSS Annual Report. FPC develops software and hardware to facilitate CSS data management and data. All CSS data and analyses are managed by and displayed on the FPC website. FPC develops the CSS Annual Report from individual chapters developed by CSS Oversight Committee members and FPC staff. The FPC organizes and implements the CSS Annual Review meeting and response to public review comments.

