



## FISH PASSAGE CENTER

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July 9, 2014

Dr. Rich Zabel  
NMFS, NWFSC  
Fish Ecology Division  
2725 Montlake Blvd., East  
Seattle, WA 98112

Dear Dr. Zabel:

*The East Sand Island Cormorant DRAFT Environmental Impact Statement* is presently in the public review process. That document references specific publications such as Evans et al. (2012) and Zamon et al. (2013) which include analyses of PIT tag recaptures on East Sand Island that differentiate between PIT tags consumed by Terns and PIT tags consumed by Cormorants for the East Sand Island tag detections. The designation of Cormorant-consumed tags versus Tern-consumed tags for the East Sand Island detections is not included in the public PTAGIS data system.

After telephone discussions with Cynthia Studebaker, US Army Corps of Engineers; Daniel Roby, Oregon State University; Alan Evans, Realtime Research; and Jen Zamon, NOAA Fisheries; the Fish Passage Center (FPC) was advised that the Tern versus Cormorant consumption designation was generated by NOAA Fisheries and, although the data had been previously published in the public domain and included in the DRAFT EIS, a formal data request was required. The FPC submitted an e-mail formal specific data request to NOAA Fisheries on June 23, 2014. Following is the text of that request sent to NOAA on June 23, 2014.

*“On Mon, Jun 23, 2014 at 10:51 AM, Michele Dehart <[mdehart@fpc.org](mailto:mdehart@fpc.org)> wrote:*

*Jen Zamon, Daniel Roby, Cynthia Studebaker, Allen Evans:*

*Following our previous telephone conversations regarding data and methods referenced in the recent COE East Sand Island, Cormorant predation DRAFT EIS, we were advised by Jen Zamon, NOAA, that we need to submit a formal data*

*request in order to review the raw tag detection data from East Sand Island. We presently have all of the publically available PIT tag detection data for East Sand Island. Apparently the Tern versus Cormorant designation for these tags is not included in the public data base.*

*Therefore we are submitting this formal data request for the basis (methods for determination) of and the specific colony designation (e.g., cormorant vs. tern) for all salmonid (species 1, 2, 3, 4) (and each PIT tag) PIT-tags that have been recovered at East Sand Island in all years. In addition, it is our understanding that those tags that have been designated as having been recovered in the cormorant colony, there is a secondary designation as to what species of cormorant. We are requesting this secondary designation as well.*

*We understand that this data base was the foundation for a portion of the DRAFT EIS, and has been incorporated into peer reviewed publications; therefore we assume that it is readily available in final form and will not require any additional work or time to provide in response to this request. Thank you in advance, for your help on this matter.”*

Today on July 9, 2014, the FPC was advised by Kurt Fresh, NOAA Fisheries, that the subject data request must be submitted via a formal written letter to Rich Zabel, NOAA Fisheries. Therefore, the purpose of this letter is to once again formally request the Tern versus Cormorant consumption designation for each PIT tag recovered on East Sand Island as described in our June 23 e-mail request. Analyses of these data have been previously published in Evans et al. (2012) and Zamon et al. (2013) as well as included in the Draft Cormorant EIS.

To restate this data request:

The Fish Passage Center is requesting the NOAA generated Tern, Cormorant and Brandt Cormorant designation for each salmonid PIT tag [(Species (PTAGIS codes) = 1 (chinook), 2 (coho), 3 (Steelhead), or 4 (sockeye)] recovered on East Sand Island.

Because the public review period on the East Sand Island Cormorant DRAFT EIS is quickly passing, and because NOAA requirements for a formal data request letter has caused some delay, hopefully the NOAA response to this request will be timely.

Best Regards,



Michele DeHart, Manager  
The Fish Passage Center