

PIT tag sampling of treaty and commercial fisheries in the Lower Columbia River

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Since the 1990's, the incorporation of PIT tag technology into salmon and steelhead monitoring and infrastructure improvements has lead to the widespread use of PIT tags in the Columbia River system. Prior to 2010, PIT tag detection systems have been utilized for adult and juvenile monitoring at mainstem dams, fish ladders, and other in-river sites. Monitoring with hand held detectors has occurred at rotary screw traps, adult traps, bird nesting sites, and for northern pikeminnow sampled in the Sport Reward Fishery. One of the biggest remaining gaps for PIT tag monitoring in the Columbia River are mainstem fisheries. In August 2010, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC), with funding from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), implemented PIT tag sampling concurrent with the ongoing fisheries sampling for biological data and CWT. The purposes of this monitoring program are to: 1) report PIT tag fish sampled to PTAGIS, 2) develop estimates of PIT tags sampled in fisheries, and 3) where possible develop estimates of harvest by PIT tag group. Preliminary results from the fall 2010 fishery will be presented.