

Conversion rates of adult sockeye between Bonneville Dam and the Wenatchee and Okanogan Basins

Since 2006, between 503 and 1113 adult sockeye salmon have been PIT tagged annually at the Bonneville Dam Adult Fish Facility and tracked upstream using PTAGIS. Based on detections at Rock Island PIT tag antennas, survival from Bonneville to Rock Island Dam has ranged from 80.2% in 2009 to 85.8% in 2008, with earlier migrating sockeye surviving at higher rates than later migrating sockeye salmon. Detections at upstream dams have been used to estimate escapement at those sites for comparison with dam counts. Sockeye salmon generally move quickly upstream, with median travel rates from Bonneville Dam to Rock Island dam between 34.7 km/day in 2008 and 38.2 km/d in 2009.

Since 2009, this project has used Columbia Basin Accords funding to extend the PIT tag detection system into the Okanogan Basin, deploying an in-river system upstream of Osoyoos Lake in Canada (OKC) in 2009 and at Zosel Dam fish ladders in 2010. This has allowed for a comparison of conversion rates from Wells to OKC of fish PIT tagged at Bonneville Dam with those PIT, acoustic, and/or temperature tagged at Wells Dam.