

Methods and Techniques to Improve the Data Quality of a Survival Study

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The results of a survival study are a function of the data collected for the study. There are several methods and techniques that can be implemented into various aspect of a survival study to help increase the quality of the data collected. These methods and techniques are related to the tagging, husbandry, release container loading /transportation and releases of the fish. In 2010 Biomark worked with Douglas County Public Utility District in Washington on a study to verify survival of Chinook salmon through the Wells Hydroelectric Project. Through the use of good tagging techniques, routine mortality and shed tag collection, interrogation of fish immediately prior to loading and frequent monitoring of release containers during transport and release we were able to increase the accuracy of the tag data used in the study by 4.15%. The methods and techniques can be customized to fit the size and scope of any survival study.