PTAGIS NEWS

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Thanks for Coming!

We would like to thank all the participants of the PIT-Tag Technical Workshop on February 1 and 2. The large turn-out and level of participation made it a great success. It was a pleasure to meet so many of the people we correspond with by telephone throughout the year. Putting a face to the voice was fun and exciting. We look forward to working with you this coming season!

BPA Announces Plans for New Tag Frequency

At the 1996 PIT-Tag Workshop, Dr. Tom Morse (PTAGIS Contract Officer Technical Representative) announced that Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) intends to replace the existing 400 kHz transceiver systems currently in place at Juvenile Fish Bypass Systems within the Columbia and Snake rivers, with the new International Standards Organization (ISO) frequency, 134.2 kHz, in time for the 1998 out migration.

BPA has initiated a process for the procurement of prototype stationary transceivers (the type intended for use within the Juvenile Fish Bypass Systems) from various manufacturers. These prototypes will be evaluated by a team consisting of electronics experts from National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bonneville Power Administration and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. The evaluation should lead to the selection of a manufacturer for this equipment during September, 1996.

In the mean time, the PIT-Tag Steering Committee is in the process of gathering research requirements related to this change over. A survey has been distributed to Tag Coordinators in an effort to determine whether or not to operate a 400 kHz interrogation system in tandem with the new ISO 134.2 kHz system at the juvenile bypass facilities. Because a dual system of this nature would be very complex and expensive to operate the Committee is asking for information from the research community. Of course, both frequencies are planned to be used at the Lower Granite Adult Ladder.

More information on this system change will be provided in future issues of PTAGIS News.

New Data Collection Standards Take Effect

The change to the new data format was postponed from February 24, 1996 until March 15, 1996. However, the change over has been made. This means that PTAGIS files must conform to the 1996 Specification in order to be loaded into the PTAGIS data set. Changes to the data format are listed on the 1996 Changes page of the 1996 PIT-Tag Specification Document.

In order to make the transition to the new data form less painful for everyone, we have modified the PITVAL.EXE software. Version 2.1 of this software will convert and validate old versions of Tagging, Release Information and Mortality files to prepare them for uploading to PTAGIS.

Changes have also been made to the tagging software, PITTAG.EXE, in order to support the change to the new data format. Version 7.1 of PITTAG.EXE is also intended to improve the tagging program user interface.

Both PITTAG.EXE V7.1 and PITVAL.EXE V2.1 are available from our web server at http://www.psmfc.org/pittag, from our ftp server at ftp://ftp.psmfc.org/pub/pittag/progs/pitrel96.exe or from the progs area of the PTAGIS Kermit Server at (503) 650-5437 (get the file pitrel96.exe).

If you would like to have the 1996 PIT-Tag Specification Document mailed to you, please fill out the documentation Order Form on the last page of this newsletter.

Data File Uploading E-Mail

There will be a change to Data File Uploading e-mail messages in the near future. Currently, a copy of the upload message that displays on the monitor at the time of the upload is being sent. Soon, a copy of the message will be forwarded *only* when an error is found during the upload.

Slow Internet Connection?

We have had complaints from users that our internet connection to their machine is slow. PSMFC utilizes a 1.5GB T1 connection to the internet via internet service provider (ISP), UUNet (Alternet). Your site may have a different ISP.

To trouble shoot slow network connections, please talk to your site's Network Administrator. Ask that person to run the "traceroute" utility between your site and ours. When we performed a traceroute for one of our customers in the Seattle area, we found that network packets were routed across more than 25 machines between Chicago, San Diego, the Bay Area and Sacramento. This routing took about a quarter of a second for a network packet. In another instance one of our customers who switched to the same ISP as ours, found that the speed of their network connection increased dramatically. Please, work with your Network Administrators to attack internet performance issues.

Need Training?

If you or your agency needs special training with any of the PTAGIS supported applications software (PTAGIS3, PITTAG.EXE or PITVAL.EXE), please contact Carter Stein at (503) 650-5400. Custom training for small groups can be arranged at your convenience.

CRLF Problems?

Have you had problems loading a comma separated value lists (CSV lists)? We have had reports that importing these files into certain applications fails. The problem seems to be the mapping of line termination's between our server and your PC. In order to correctly map our new/line characters to your carriage return/line feed characters you can:

Using Kermit:	Using Z-Modem:
Set your Kermit file transfer mode to "Text".	Set "Native Line Feed" mode.

New Documentation Order Form

If you need any PTAGIS documentation or software, please order it by filling out this form. By utilizing this process, we hope to reduce publication and mailing costs for PTAGIS related materials.

If you have any ideas or articles to submit to PTAGIS News, send them to pittag@psmfc.org or fax them to us at (503) 650-5426.

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