

PTSC Conference Call

Monday, November 18, 2013

Attendees: Tiffani Marsh, Pat Keniry, Scott Putnam, Jeff Fryer, Steve Pastor, Charlie Morrill, Nicole Tancreto, John Tenney, Randy Fisher

Action Items:

- PTSC will update Marking Manual
 - Tiffani has the latest revisions and will distribute to the group for review and edit
 - When Tiffani returns in early January, she will compile revisions and have version ready for the group to review and finalize at PTSC Annual Meeting in January 2014
- John will inform BPA and Biomark about the PIT tag recovery incident described below
- Next PTSC Annual Meeting planned for January 16, 2014 – John will draft agenda and distribute

Summary of PIT tag recovered from Coho caught in Swift Reservoir

PTAGIS contacted by fisherman in October about a PIT tag he recovered from a Coho he caught in Swift Reservoir. He mentioned that he found it because he had bitten into it when he was consuming the fish. He sent the tag to PTAGIS-Kennewick where the code was read. The PIT tag was not distributed by PTAGIS for BPA projects and was not found in the database. PTAGIS contacted Biomark and was given a contact at WDFW to whom the tag was sent. WDFW indicated that the tag had then been given to Pacifcorp for a tagging project in the upper Lewis River. WDFW confirmed with Pacifcorp that they had been tagging fish in the dorsal sinus, and WDFW informed them that they should be tagging in the abdominal cavity.

Question: Should the PTSC respond to this incident and if so, how?

Suggestions:

- PTSC could recommend food-safe PIT tags to those folks who wish to tag in the dorsal sinus
 - It was noted that these were investigated in the Basin years ago and there were problems with size, read range, and water permeability
- PTSC could send a letter to the organizations that were responsible reiterating the best practice of tagging in the abdominal cavity
- PTSC could write a PTAGIS newsletter article restating the best practices for tagging and possibly including some language about possible liability should non-standard tagging methods
 - PTAGIS could consult with attorneys to determine just what the liability could be and which agencies would be liable.
- PTSC could finish the revision of the PIT Tag Marking Manual that was started in 2011, making the recommendation to tag only in the abdominal cavity stronger

PTAGIS Roadshow

PTAGIS is planning some information sessions around the Basin to show features of new system and ask for feedback on next generation tagging software (P4). Survey to request input on locations for these sessions received 57 responses.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=ThPhG6C4GP6_2b_2fNebzp8h36Esk5ImIDwZ8A7TaYS_2fhNs_3d

Question: Does the PTSC know of any other regional meetings that are taking place during the last 2 weeks of January or first 2 weeks of February?

- IDFG holds a statewide anadromous fish meeting in Boise the last week of January – PTAGIS could hold a session during that meeting and knock off a large chunk of IDFG users in one stop

- PTSC members will try to attend at least one of the sessions

Next Version of Tagging Software (P4)

PTAGIS has begun scoping for the next version of tagging software. See responses to initial survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=Vl4adTzgKQyW5fsi4ogtH6lNsaSRVll2HGE9oV23C14_3d. John is planning on creating P4 that is primarily a port of P3 functionality into modern technology that can be supported and expanded. This could be ready for 2015 tagging season. During that time, we will be working with the community to scope out additional features/functionality that can be added to P4 once the basic port is complete. PTAGIS will be specifying this in our FY2014 SOW with BPA.

PIT Tag Workshop in 2015

Question: Does the PTSC see a need for or interest in PTAGIS hosting a PIT tag workshop in winter of 2015?

- Would be good timing if P4 is finished
- PTAGIS would need assistance from PTSC in creating agenda, finding speakers, etc

PTSC Annual Meeting Planned for January 16, 2014

Potential topics:

- 2013 review
- NPCC FTF recommendations
- P4 early scoping results
- PIT Tag Forecaster project
 - Project BPA has asked us to implement to provide future planned PIT tagging numbers by ESU/MPG and location
- Half-duplex/Full-duplex dual reading mode on FS2020 transceivers
- Biomark project to test hydrofoil antennas at BCC

Minimum tagging length

Scott Putnam brought up possible conflicts with 4(d) apps because NMFS has stated that fish under 70mm should not be tagged. Marking manual specifies 65mm. Also possible conflicts with fall and summer Chinook marking. Tiffani indicated that the original marking manual was written with 12mm tags in mind and they could add more information about the 9mm tags that are now available. Charlie will bring up this issue at the next FPAC meeting.

Update: Tiffani sent an email to Blane Bellerud and Scott Rumsey, and included Ritchie Graves, on 18 November asking about the new size requirements. She will let the committee know when she receives a response.