



# PIT Tag Information System

Columbia Basin

# Newsletter

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The PTAGIS Newsletter is published periodically by Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

We welcome input from the PTAGIS community, so email us at [ptagis\\_support@ptagis.org](mailto:ptagis_support@ptagis.org) with your story ideas.

If you have questions regarding the contents of this publication, or about the PTAGIS program, please contact Carter Stein, PTAGIS Program Manager.

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## Correction to last PTAGIS Newsletter

JENNIFER NIGHBOR (PTAGIS Kennewick Field Office)

Please note the following correction to the November PTAGIS Newsletter, Volume 8, Issue 1.

Earl Prentice was left off as a co-author of the article, "In-stream PIT Tag Detection Taken to the Next Step."

Many thanks to Earl Prentice for his contribution to the PTAGIS Newsletter as well as our sincerest apologies for the omission. ☺

## 2008 PIT Tag Distribution Update

JENNIFER NIGHBOR (PTAGIS Kennewick Field Office)

PIT Tag distributions are in full swing and I wanted to take a moment to update everyone on the progress.

As of the end of February, 809,800 PIT Tags have been shipped to 40 different projects throughout the United States and Canada.

Thanks to all of you for using the interim PIT Tag distribution process. The timely returns of the PIT Tag Distribution Request Forms (PDRF) have allowed me to ship the approved tags by the requested dates. ☺

## PIT Tag Steering Committee Meeting

JENNIFER NIGHBOR (PTAGIS Kennewick Field Office)

The PIT Tag Steering Committee Meeting was held on January 15-16, 2008 at the PTAGIS Kennewick Field Office. The meeting minutes may be found at [PTSC 2008 Minutes](#).

The goal of the Committee is to coordinate implementation of PIT Tag tagging and interrogation systems and to provide a comprehensive PIT Tag database accessible to all interested parties in the Columbia River Basin. The purpose of the Committee is to:

- Provide technical guidance for the field tagging, interrogation facilities and data management of the PIT Tag Operations Center.
- Provide feedback to the PSMFC Executive Director for annual performance review of the PTOC.
- Coordinate training for taggers and other field personnel involved with the PIT Tag tagging system as needed. Facilitate implementation of standardized tagging techniques to ensure high quality marking.
- Establish system specifications and update annually to assure integrity and continuity of the data.
- Provide coordinated recommendations to appropriate agencies on activities and programs that further the Committee's goals.
- Identify and forward policy issues to FPAC (Fish Passage Advisory Committee) for resolution through the CBFWA (Columbia Basin Fish Wildlife Authority).

Please see the wiki page for more information on the [PIT Tag Steering Committee](#). ☺

## Requesting Separation-by-Code Support

DAVE MARVIN (PTAGIS Portland Office)

*The start of the 2008 smolt (and adult) sampling season is rapidly approaching. As in previous years, the PIT Tag Operations Center will be implementing your Separation-by-Code (SbyC) requests to selectively collect or divert your PIT-tagged fish as they pass through the smolt and adult sampling facilities at six Columbia Basin dams.*

The procedure for requesting and coordinating your SbyC requests has not changed from previous years, but some of the Program and Project contacts have been recently updated. If you will, or intend to, request an SbyC implementation for your PIT-tagged fish in 2008, please review the coordination protocols documented in the **Support** section of the **PTAGIS Web Portal** at [www.ptagis.org/ptagis](http://www.ptagis.org/ptagis). Note that all Program Contacts, including PTAGIS and the PIT Tag Operations Center, require a minimum of 30 days' notice prior to the implementation of your SbyC request.

PTAGIS would appreciate receiving a notice of your intent even if you have tentative plans for an SbyC request in 2008 but are not yet ready to begin the coordination process. This will help us better schedule our resources so that we can reply promptly if and when your SbyC request is made. Please notify the PTAGIS Program Manager, Carter Stein ([carters@psmfc.org](mailto:carters@psmfc.org)) by March 21, 2008, with your SbyC request (or intent). Please direct your questions regarding the collection and diversion capabilities of the various SbyC facilities, or the implementation of your SbyC request, to Dave Marvin at [Dave.Marvin@ptagis.org](mailto:Dave.Marvin@ptagis.org). ☺

## Little Goose Full Flow Update

ALAN BROWER (PTAGIS Kennewick Field Office)

*The full flow PIT Tag detection monitors planned for deployment in April of 2008 have been delayed. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sources report that time constraints regarding the large undertaking necessitated delaying the project a year.*

The entire project consists of adding four full flow PIT tag antennas, repairing the primary dewatering structure and relocating the outfall at the juvenile fish facility. The primary dewatering structure is being brought up to safe standards for this season.

Construction is intended to take place during the next winter maintenance season with the system operational in April 2009. ☺



Figure 1. Location for Little Goose Full Flow Monitor

## In Remembrance of Brad Peterson

SCOTT LIVINGSTON (PTAGIS Kennewick Field Office)



As most of us know by now, we are sad to announce that Brad was involved in a skiing accident in early February that took his life. We would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the great contributions and positive effects on the fisheries community that Brad left behind.

For the PSMFC-PTAGIS project, Brad was always a superior source of technical information and solid advice. Throughout the years, PSMFC, various research agencies and private contractors consulted Brad on many technical issues and relied heavily on his vast expertise, experience, and perseverance to overcome some of the most difficult situations.

After his employment with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Brad was tasked with developing several, highly technical PIT tag readers that would serve the needs of the PIT tag community. One of which was the FS-1001M (Multiplexer). Due to Brad's experience and intellect, this PIT tag reader has vastly expanded the researchers' ability to monitor fish passage, where in the past was thought to be deemed impossible. Thanks to the success of this system, it is used throughout the country by many research agencies.

During the year 2006, or there about, Digital Angel Corp. (DA) assigned Brad the lead role as Project Manager on the Bonneville Corner Collector Antenna and Transceiver system (B2CC).

This decision proved to be the right one. After long hours, extensive travel, adverse conditions and overcoming all the technical hurdles that went with the installation, Brad's commitment and perseverance once again paid dividends.



*Pictured above is Brad next to the B2CC antenna just prior to delivery to the channel. This was taken on Wednesday, March 22, 2006 At Bonneville Dam PH2.*

The installation and operation of the entire system was a success and is a tribute to Brad's personality.

The mentioned successes that Brad enjoyed are only a few of many. The fisheries community has not only lost an invaluable resource, but most of all, a good friend and colleague.

On a personal note, working with Brad was always a pleasant one. Even during the most difficult situations, he was able to put aside any frustrations and focus on the task. Along with that, his added humor made things just seem easier.

On behalf of the PSMFC-PTAGIS project, we would like to acknowledge Brad's friendship and professional expertise that he extended to our project. And for that, he will be greatly missed by all of us. ☺