

Cost effective monitoring of Steelhead spawning abundance and distribution using Allflex technology

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Fisheries biologists have a valuable and cost effective tool for studying the behavior of individual or populations of target and non-target species. Passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags can be inserted in fish in a wide range of sizes (i.e., fish > 55mm), at multiple locations during migration, and during all life history stages. PIT tags are fairly inexpensive when compared to other types of technology (i.e., acoustic or radio telemetry) and only need receiving antennas placed in strategic locations to collect information. Temporary remote antenna array sites along with PIT tagged fish can be used for a variety of studies to include: movement, habitat usage, production estimates, and behavior. Temporary sites are also capable of providing information in a more cost-effective manner than other labor-intensive monitoring and evaluation practices, and/or adding to the scope and validity of the data collected from existing M&E activities. Information regarding the budgeting, building and implementation of remote antenna array sites is provided.