Date: August 23, 2002

To: ISRP

From: Sandra Downing, NOAA Fisheries (NMFS)

RE: Project 198331900. New Marking and Monitoring Techniques for Fish

The ISRP review asked us to provide prioritization, budget details, and a plan for monitoring and evaluating each of the subprojects. The proposal includes five research objectives that could be designated subprojects. They are:

- 1. to upgrade the FS1001A transceiver that was developed to interrogate adult salmonids in fish ladders
- 2. to develop and evaluate a high-flow interrogation system for the corner collector at Bonneville Dam
- 3. to continue the development of in-stream interrogation systems
- 4. to help convert the flat-plate system for juvenile salmonids at Bonneville Dam to work with FS1001A transceivers
- 5. to adapt state-of-the-art technology to expand the capabilities of PIT-tag technology and thereby improve collection of information for the fish managers

Prioritization

The investigators would prioritize the objectives in the same order as they are listed above. We believe that completing Objectives 1-4 is critical for providing the infrastructure support that the fisheries community needs to satisfy RPA Actions 50, 87, and 192. We appreciate having the authors of the 2000 BIOP clarify that Objective 5 does not appear to address RPA Action 193 as it was intended by them. Therefore, if CBFWA wishes we will withdraw this subproject; however, we do believe it is important for the fisheries community to invest in the development of future RME tools that may yield better estimates of survival. For example, developing an effective automated fish identification and enumeration system could significantly improve the return estimates that the fish managers use in their efforts to restore threatened and endangered stocks. In addition, the development of a semi-active radio-PIT tag might in the future enable the fisheries community to interrogate fish in spillways.

The RME Hydro Subgroup concurred that Objectives 1, 2, and 4 are critical to addressing Actions 50, 87, and 192. Unfortunately, the RME Status-Monitoring Subgroup did not evaluate Objective 3 as recommended by the Hydro Subgroup. However, the need for installation of in-stream detection systems is specifically listed in #3 in the future needs section of the mainstem/systemwide juvenile and adult passage program summary where BPA lists eight items that it needs to fund to help satisfy the NMFS BIOP Performance Objectives.

Budget

Objectives 1 and 2 are complex, highly technical development subprojects, as reflected in the budget portion of the proposal:

Objective	Description	FY03
1	upgraded transceiver	468,100
2	development and evaluation of high-flow system	181,100
3	in-stream interrogation system	74,700
4	conversion of the flat-plate system	41,900
5	adaptation of the state-of-the-art technology	61,500

Total = 827.3K + administration costs

ISRP requested that the future objectives be identified with their main objectives or subprojects and that a budget summary be presented to demonstrate the future breakdown.

	Main objective	List of future objectives/tasks	FY04-05
,	1	future objectives 1-5	503,300
	2	future objectives 7-13	724,000
	3	future objective 6	268,000
	4	NA	
	5	future objective 14	468,500

Total = 1963.8K + administration costs

It is important to remember that for Objective 1 (upgraded transceiver) the private company, Digital Angel, is matching this with in-kind support equal to \$468,000 over the 3-year period.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is also supporting the development of the high-flow system. They are funding the work performed by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL).

Monitoring and Evaluation Plans

Upgraded transceiver and high-flow subprojects -- For both the upgraded transceiver and high-flow subprojects, the plan is to have multi-agency technical groups that will closely monitor the progress of the developments. This approach worked well with both the development of the original 134.2-kHz transceiver to replace the 400-kHz equipment at the juvenile fish facilities and the 134.2-kHz transceiver developed to interrogate adult salmonids returning in fish ladders. This approach was outlined in the detailed project plan for upgrading the FS1001A transceivers that was attached with the original proposal (both project plans are attached to this document). Generally in this approach, a requirements document is written that would then be distributed throughout the fisheries community for review. Then during the development of each major component, there is a design review by the technical group and then a prototype is fabricated that is then tested thoroughly in-house with the results reviewed by the technical group. Finally, there will be several complete prototypes fabricated that will undergo independent laboratory and field testing by the technical group to ensure that the system satisfies the requirements document. During the whole process, the schedule calls for periodic status conference calls; however, in the past, conference calls were also held immediately when problems arose to ensure that the pros and cons of different solutions were fully discussed.

In the high-flow subproject, there are a number of parties involved so that coordination will be critical if it is to succeed; especially, as both BPA and the Corps are funding parts of the project. In this subproject, PNNL will manage the project, NMFS will head up the biological evaluation, Digital Angel will head up the transceiver development and the antenna development, Digital Angel will also manufacture the transceivers and antennas, PSMFC will head up the installation of the electronic components while the Corps and its contractors will be in charge of the installation drawings and the antenna and infrastructure installation. All of these parties will need to collaborate to try to meet the installation schedule. PNNL will also need to do a good job of recording events so that the technical group can do its monitoring task. Until a prototype design is completed, it is not possible for NMFS to prepare a test plan for the biological evaluation. We will certainly tag sufficient numbers of juvenile fish from different species in order to get solid estimates of the reading efficiency of the system as well as the impact of debris on fish condition. As indicated in the proposal, the plan will be widely distributed for review.

In-stream interrogation system -- For the in-stream interrogation system, the prototype components for auto-tuning and antenna switching (multiplexing) will be tested at the NMFS Pasco Research Station in October 2002. At this site, there is a stream with a water level that can be adjusted to mimic stream conditions when the auto-tuning feature would be needed. The stream can also handle multiple antennas, so that both the multiplexing feature and the ability to turn off an antenna automatically when it is no longer under water can be tested. We will use read range as one measure of how well the system autotunes itself – i.e., over what amount of water level change, does the system maintain a read range of X cm. Then in the multiplexing tests, one test will determine how quickly an antenna switches between active and inactive states. In another test, we will confirm that if a fish is swimming over one antenna, the system will not switch to the next antenna before the tag code is transmitted. We have a list of real-life conditions that we will use to determine how the prototypes respond and what their limitations are. If the prototypes are too limited, NMFS will need to evaluate whether it is worth the cost of further development or to wait for the upgraded transceiver. Similar tests will also be conducted with the upgraded transceiver when it is available. The development of the backpack-sized portable transceiver would use the approach outlined above for the upgraded transceiver and corner-collector system.

Flat-plate conversion -- Over the years, NMFS has recorded the read range and field size for the ISO-based flat-plate system using the Patten-Engineering transceiver. These same measurements will be taken on the converted system to ensure that the fisheries community can have confidence in the data that are collected by the converted system. In addition, NMFS will conduct a biological evaluation using the

same procedure it has used with the 400-kHz and then with the original ISO-based system. Thus, there will be a direct comparison of the performance of the converted system and its predecessors using PIT-tagged fish.

State-of-the-art technology -- If the fisheries community decides to move forward with supporting the R&D work to adapt state-of-the-art technologies to fisheries applications, then in each case, the R&D work would be conducted in a step-by-step process so that if a tool fails to satisfy a critical test, then work would stop on that project. Otherwise, this subproject involves interfacing with tag manufacturers to encourage them in their efforts to adapt their technologies to fisheries applications. NMFS would help evaluate these products to determine how well they can be adapted to fisheries applications.









