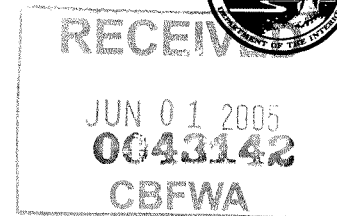




United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Columbia River Fisheries Program Office
1211 SE Cardinal Court, Suite 100
Vancouver, Washington 98683



May 31, 2005

Mr. Rod Sando
Executive Director
Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority
851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 260
Pacific First Building
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Mr. Sando:

The PIT Tag Steering Committee (PTSC) came to a recent meeting of the Fish Passage Advisory Committee (FPAC) with two items of keen interest to them. PTSC chairperson Doug Marsh (NMFS) requested action be taken on the two items. Item 1 is a technical issue that, in FPAC's judgment, does not require CBFWA action. Item 2, however, requires CBFWA attention as it appears to be a policy issue rather than a technical issue.

1) Adding HDX tag data to PTAGIS - It was generally felt that the data from HDX (half duplex) users would be a benefit to the community.

FPAC sees no reason not to add HDX information to PTAGIS. Given that PTAGIS is being re-designed at this time, FPAC agrees with the PTSC it is better to do it now then retro-fit it later. FPAC will transmit its recommendation to the PTOC to add the HDX tag data to the PTAGIS database

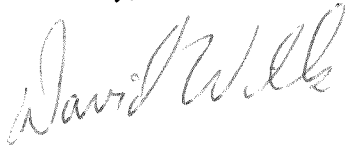
2) Adding USGS to the PIT Tag Steering Committee – The current members of the PTSC feel USGS would be a valuable technical addition to the committee and would welcome them as full participating members.

FPAC has questions about whether the CBFWA umbrella is necessary for inclusion in the PTSC charter. The presence of PSMFC in the charter was believed to be wholly due to their being the database managers and not as a ground-breaker for non-CBFWA entities being included. The PTSC mentioned in their letter to FPAC one lab of USGS-BRD as the recommended representative. FPAC believes if USGS is added, that USGS should make the decision as to who the representative will be, not FPAC or the PTSC.

The FPAC is requesting direction from CBFWA as to whether or not USGS should be granted member status to the PTSC, and the rationale for the decision.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (360) 604-2500. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Wills".

David Wills
FPAC chairperson

cc:

D. Marsh

C. Stein