**Spillway passage** survival of hatchery yearling and subyearling chinook salmon at Ice Harbor Dam, 2002

**Fish Ecology Division** 

**Northwest Fisheries Science Center** 

**National Marine Fisheries Service** 

Seattle, Washington

by

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#### Report of research by

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# EXECUTIVE SuMMARY

In 2002, the National Marine Fisheries Service estimated relative survival for river-run hatchery yearling and subyearling chinook salmon *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*  passing through the spillway at Ice Harbor Dam on the Snake River. At the Lower Monumental Dam juvenile fish bypass/collection facility, yearling chinook salmon were collected and marked with either a PIT tag or both a radio tag and a PIT tag, and subyearling chinook salmon were marked with a PIT tag. After a 24-h holding period, treatment and reference groups were transported to Ice Harbor Dam and released. Treatment groups were released immediately upstream from all spillbays, and reference groups were released into the tailrace 0.5 km below Ice Harbor Dam under both day and night operations.

For PIT-tagged fish, relative spillway survival was estimated from detections at the juvenile bypass/detection facilities at McNary, John Day, and Bonneville Dams and from detections in the Columbia River estuary by the PIT-tag detector trawl. Nineteen paired replicates of yearling chinook salmon were released from 3 May to 4 June, and 13 paired replicates of subyearling chinook salmon were released from 28 June to 10 July.

For radio-tagged fish, relative spillway survival was estimated from detections at telemetry transects between Ice Harbor and John Day Dams; juvenile bypass/PIT -tag detection facilities at McNary, John Day, and Bonneville Dams; and from detections in the Columbia River estuary by the PIT-tag detector trawl. Eighteen paired replicates of yearling chinook salmon were released from 5 May to 4 June.

Relative spillway passage survival for hatchery yearling chinook salmon was estimated at 0.892 (95% CI, 0.840-0.944) for fish tagged with only a PIT-tag and 0.865 (95% CI, 0.833-0.897) for fish tagged with both a radio- and PIT-tag. Relative spillway survival was similar between daytime and nighttime operations for both PIT-tagged only  $(P = 0.929)$  and radio-tagged  $(P = 0.355)$  fish.

Relative spillway survival for PIT-tagged subyearling chinook salmon was 0.894 (95% CI, 0.856-0.932). Relative spillway passage survival was similar between daytime and nighttime releases for subyearling chinook salmon ( $P = 0.327$ ). For both yearling and subyearling fish, only weak correlation was found between relative spillway survival and total dam discharge, spill volume, tail water elevation, release date, fork length at tagging, and water temperature.

Tailrace egress was calculated as the elapsed time from release into the spi1Jway at Ice Harbor Dam to detection at Goose Island (approximately 2 km downstream). Overall median tailrace egress time through this reach was 30 min.

Survival from the Ice Harbor Dam tailrace to McNary Dam for radio-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon was estimated at 0.749 (95% CI, 0.711-0.787). The study area was partitioned into three separate reaches: Ice Harbor to Sacajawea Park, Sacajawea Park to Port Kelley, and Port Kelley to McNary Dam. Among these reaches, estimated survival was lowest in the reach from Sacajawea Park to Port Kelley (0.860; 95% Cl, 0.838- 0.882). The survival estimate through this reach was significantly lower  $(P < 0.05)$  than through the other two reaches.

Comparisons of survival estimates obtained using PIT and radiotelemetry tagging methodology resulted in no significant difference ( $P = 0.382$ ). Travel times from release to McNary Dam were significantly different  $(P \le 0.05)$  between all comparisons but were not likely to be biologically significant, with differences of less than 0.5 d.

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# **CONTENTS**



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# **INTRODUCTION**

The Columbia and Snake River Basins have historically produced some of the largest runs of salmon *Oncorhynchus* spp. and steelhead *O. mykiss* in the world (Netboy 1980). More recently, however, some stocks have decreased to levels warranting listing under the U.S. Endangered \$pecies Act of 1973 (NMFS 1991, 1992, 1998, 1999). Human activities contributing to the decline and loss of some salmonid stocks include overfishing, hatchery practices, logging, mining, agricultural practices, and dam construction and operation (Nehlsen et al. 1991). A primary focus of recovery efforts for depressed stocks has been assessing and improving fish passage conditions at hydroelectric projects.

Spillway passage has long been considered the safest route for migrating juvenile salmonids at Snake and Columbia River hydroelectric projects. Holmes (1952) reported estimates of 96% (weighted average) to 97% (pooled) survival for Bonneville Dam spillway passage during the 1940s. A review of thirteen estimates of spillway passage mortality published through 1995 concluded that the most likely range in mortality for standard spillbays is 0 to 2% (Whitney et al. 1997). Similarly, recent survival studies of juvenile salmonid passage through various routes at dams on the lower Snake River have indicated that, among the different passage routes, survival was highest through spillways, followed by bypass systems, then turbines (Iwamoto et al. 1994; Muir et al. 1995a,b, 1996, 1998; Smith et aI. 1998). Pursuant to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS-NOAA Fisheries) Biological Opinion (NMFS 2000), project operations at Ice Harbor Dam have relied on increased volumes of spill to maximize spillway passage by migrating juvenile salmonids.

The current spill program calls for daytime (0600 to 1800 PDT) spill volumes of 45 kcfs and nighttime spill volumes up to state and federal total dissolved gas limits, or 100% of total river flow. Uhder these operations, Eppard et al. (2000) estimated Ice Harbor fish passage efficiency (FPE) at 97%, with 81% FPE through the spillway for hatchery yearling chinook salmon during the 1999 spring migration. In 2000, the NMFS estimated spillway passage survival at  $97.8\%$  (SE = 0.020) and 88.5% (SE = 0.015) respectively for PIT-tagged hatchery yearling and subyearling chinook salmon passing Ice Harbor Dam under nighttime operations (Eppard et al. 2002). A second year of study was proposed for 2001 to validate the findings from 2000 at Ice Harbor Dam and to estimate survival during daytime operations. However, extremely low river flows resulted in less than one day of spill operation that year (Axel et al. 2003).

In 2002, we conducted a second year of survival evaluations for hatchery yearling and subyearling chinook salmon passing through the spillway at Ice Harbor Dam using passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags. To determine if radiotelemetry can confidently be used to estimate survival, we conducted a concurrent study to evaluate the application of radiotelemetry techniques for estimating spillway survival of hatchery yearling chinook salmon at Ice Harbor Darn. Specific objectives of this study were:

- 1) Estimate relative spillway passage survival for PIT-tagged and radio-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon under daytime and nighttime operations.
- 2) Partition reach survival between Ice Harbor and McNary Dams for radio-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon.
- 3) Determine tailrace egress times for radio-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released into the spillway at Ice Harbor Dam.
- 4) Compare relative survival estimates and timing for PIT-tagged and radio-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon.
- 5) Estimate relative spillway passage survival for PIT-tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon during daytime and nighttime operations at Ice Harbor Dam.

Results of this study will be used to help management make decisions that will optimize survival for juvenile salmonids arriving at Ice Harbor Dam. This study addressed research needs outlined in SPE-W -00-1 of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, North Pacific Division, Anadromous Fish Evaluation Program.

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#### METHODS

#### Study Area

The study area included a 118-km reach of the Snake and Columbia Rivers beginning at Ice Harbor Dam, continuing past McNary Dam, and ending at Crow Butte (Figure 1). Ice Harbor Dam, the first dam on the Snake River, is located 16 km above the confluence of the Snake and Columbia Rivers. McNary Dam, on the Columbia River, is located 470 km above the mouth of the Columbia River. For survival estimates of radio-tagged fish, the 68-km study area was further partitioned into three separate reaches: Ice Harbor Dam to Sacajawea Park at the mouth of the Snake River (reach 1), Sacajawea Park to Port Kelley (reach 2), and Port Kelley to McNary Dam (reach 3). Radiotelemetry receivers and multiple-element aerial antennas were used to establish detection transects between Ice Harbor Dam on the Snake River and Crow Butte on the Columbia River.

#### **PIT-Tag Evaluations**

#### Fish Collection and Tagging

For both yearling and subyearling hatchery chinook salmon, we collected and PIT-tagged river-run fish at the Lower Monumental Dam smolt collection facility in conjunction with the smolt monitoring program. Only chinook salmon not previously PIT tagged were used. Hatchery fish were identified by the absence of an adipose or pelvic fin or by the presence of a coded wire tag. Fish were anesthetized with tricaine methanesulfate (MS-222) and sorted and tagged in a recirculating anesthetic system. Fish for treatment and reference release groups were tagged simultaneously, and personnel were periodically rotated among tagging stations to minimize bias.

Fish were PIT tagged by hand (Prentice et al. 1990a,b,c) using individual syringes with a 12-gauge hypodermic needle. Used syringes were sterilized in ethyl alcohol for a minimum of 10 min before reloading with PIT tags. Yearling chinook were collected from 2 May through 3 June; subyearling chinook were collected from 27 June through 9 July. PIT-tagged fish were transferred from the smolt monitoring facility through a water-filled pipe to 568-L tanks mounted on trucks, where they were held for a minimum of 24 h with flow-through water to recover from anesthesia and for determination of post-tagging mortality. Maximum holding densities were 350 fish per tank for yearling chinook and 460 fish per tank for subyearling chinook. After the recovery period, trucks transported the fish to Ice Harbor Dam.

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Figure 1. 2002 Study area showing location of radiotelemetry transects used for estimating spillway passage at Ice Harbor Dam. 1 = Mouth of the Snake River (Sacajawea Park);  $2 =$  Port Kelley;  $3 =$ Irrigon, OR;  $4 =$  Crow Butte East; and  $5 =$  Crow Butte West.

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#### Releases

On arrival at Ice Harbor Dam, treatment groups were transferred from holding tanks via a 1O.2-cm-diameter hose to a 935-L release tank. Release tanks were maneuvered with a mobile crane to the upstream side (forebay side) of individual spillbays, where fish were released at a depth of 3 m. Daytime groups were released immediately after transport from Lower Monumental Dam, while nighttime groups remained in tanks for an additional 9 h prior to release. Selection of spillbays for release was based on a 2-block design, where blocks were sequences of spillbays used during the first and second halves of the season. The sequence of spillbays used during the first half was randomly selected from the 10 available spillbays. This sequence was then used in reverse order during the second half of the season.

Reference (tailrace) groups were transferred to a 935-L tank mounted on an  $8.5 \times 2.4$ -m barge in the forebay of Ice Harbor Dam, transported to the tailrace and released mid-channel, water-to-water into the tailrace downstream of the stilling basin. To provide mixing of treatment and reference groups, treatment groups were released approximately 7 min prior to reference groups to allow time for fish to pass through the spillbay and stilling basin. This time interval was based on Ice Harbor Dam tailrace egress evaluations conducted in 1999 (Eppard et al. 2000).

For each release day, specific operating conditions were not requested; however, constant tailrace conditions (spill pattern, flow level, and powerhouse loading) were requested during both day and nighttime releases to provide a stable tailrace condition during releases. Project operations data were collected every 5 min, and the operations most closely corresponding to each release time were assigned to that treatment group.

#### Study Design and Data Analysis

A paired-release study design was used for estimating relative survival where groups of PIT-tagged fish were released at two sites, one upstream (treatment) and one downstream (reference) from the Ice Harbor Dam spillway. Individual fish records were downloaded for detections at juvenile bypass/detection facilities at McNary, John Day, and Bonneville Dams and the PIT-trawl towed array in the Columbia River estuary (pSMFC 1996). The single-release (SR) model (Cormack 1964; Jolly 1965; Seber 1965) was used to estimate survival and detection probabilities for individual release groups from Ice Harbor to McNary Dam, McNary to John Day Dam, and John Day to Bonneville Dam. Relative spillway passage survival was then expressed as the ratio of spillway (treatment) to tailrace (reference) survival estimates.

Average relative survival was calculated using weighted geometric means, where weights were inversely proportional to their respective sample variances (Burnham et al. 1987, p. 259). Because the variance of a survival probability estimate based on the SR model is a function of the estimate itself, lower survival estimates tend to have smaller estimated variance. Therefore, the inverse estimated absolute variance was not used in weighting, since this could result in a weighted mean that is biased toward these lower estimates (Muir et al. 2001, 2003).

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The SR model was used for survival estimates for PIT-tagged yearling and subyearling chinook salmon. The SR model relies on two critical assumptions: AI) release groups have homogeneous passage distributions downstream (so that they encounter similar river conditions during passage), and A2) all fish in a given cohort had equal probabilities of detection and survival at a given site. Evaluations of model assumptions are presented in Appendix A.

#### Radiotelemetry Evaluations

# Fish Collection and Tagging

Radio tags were purchased from Advanced Telemetry Systems Inc.,<sup>1</sup> had an expected battery life of 7 d and were pulse-coded for unique identification of individual fish. Each radio tag measured 17 mm in length by 6 mm in diameter and weighed 1.4 g in air.

River-run hatchery yearling chinook salmon were collected at the Lower Monumental Dam smolt collection facility from 4 May to 3 June. Only hatchery origin yearling chinook salmon not previously PIT tagged were used. Fish were anesthetized with tricaine methanesulfate (MS-222) and sorted in a recirculating anesthetic system. Fish for treatment and reference release groups were transferred through a water-filled 1O.2-cm hose to a 935-L holding tank. Following collection and sorting, fish were transported to Ice Harbor Dam where they were maintained via flow-through river water and held for 24 h prior to radio tagging.

Fish were surgically implanted with radio tags using techniques described by Eppard et aI. (2000). A PIT tag was also implanted in the body cavity of the fish during surgical procedures (Prentice et al. 1990a,b,c). Immediately following surgery tagged fish were placed into a 19-L recovery container (2 fish per container) with aeration until recovery from the anesthesia. Recovery containers were then closed and transferred to a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Reference to trade names does not imply endorsement by the National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA.

1,152-L holding tank designed to accommodate up to 28 containers. Fish holding containers were perforated with 1.3-cm holes in the top 30.5 cm of the container to allow an exchange of water during holding. All holding tanks were supplied with flow-through water during tagging and holding, and were aerated with oxygen during transportation to release locations. After tagging, fish were held a minimum of 24 h with flow-through water for recovery and determination of post-tagging mortality. Holding density did not exceed two fish per recovery container for radio-tagged yearling chinook salmon.

## Releases

After the post-tagging recovery period of approximately 24 h, radio-tagged fish were moved in their recovery containers from the holding area to the release areas (Ice Harbor Dam spillway or tailrace). Treatment groups were transferred water-to-water from holding tanks to the PIT -tag release tank. Releases of radio-tagged fish began with the releases of PIT -tagged fish but were spread out over a 2-h period to avoid overloading the telemetry receivers with large numbers of radio tags passing the monitoring stations simultaneously.

Reference groups were transferred in their recovery containers to a 1,152-L tank mounted on an  $8.5 \times 2.4$ -m barge in the forebay of Ice Harbor Dam, transported to the tailrace and released mid-channel, water-to-water into the downstream section of the stilling basin. Project operations data were collected every 5 min, and the operations most closely corresponding to each release time were assigned to that treatment group.

#### Study Design and Data Analysis

A paired-release study design was used for estimating relative survival where groups of radio-tagged fish were released at two sites, one upstream (treatment) and one downstream (reference) from the Ice Harbor Dam spillway. Telemetry transects were located at Sacajawea Park on the Snake River mouth and at Port Kelley; McNary Dam; Irrigon, OR; and Crow Butte on the Columbia River (Figure 1). Based on detections of individual radio-tagged fish, the single-release model (Cormack 1964, Jolly 1965, Seber 1965) was used to estimate survival and probability of detection for individual release groups. Since radio-tagged fish were also tagged with a PIT tag, detections at the juvenile bypass/detection facilities at McNary, John Day, and Bonneville Dams and with the PIT -trawl towed array in the Columbia River estuary were also used for survival estimates.

Relative spillway passage survival was then expressed as the ratio of survival estimates for treatment fish to reference fish. Average relative survival was calculated using weighted geometric means. As described above for PIT-tagged yearling chinook salmon, weights were the inverse of the respective sample variances (Burnham et al. 1987; Muir et al. 2001, 2003).

Mixing tests for radio-tagged fish were not conducted due to the very high detection rates at downstream detection sites. Additionally, the large majority of all detections for both groups at most sites occurred during one or at most two days. Due to small release numbers and these very high detection rates, SR model assumptions could not be assessed using contingency tables because table cells for "not detected" fish were almost always zero or very small.

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Reach survival for radio-tagged fish between Ice Harbor and McNary Dams was estimated using the single-release model. To estimate survival for reach 1, we used only radio-tagged fish released into the tailrace of Ice Harbor Dam. To estimate survival through reaches 2 and 3, we used all radio-tagged fish detected on the Sacajawea Park receivers. We used paired, two-tailed *t-tests* to compare survival between reaches.

Tailrace egress for fish passing through the spillway was calculated as the elapsed time between release just upstream of the spillway and first detection on the Goose Island detection line 2 km downstream of the dam.

Survival estimates between tagging methods (PIT and radiotelemetry) were compared with a *t-test* to assess the use of radiotelemetry for survival estimation. Travel time between tagging methods was compared using pennutation tests on the difference between the two medians (Efron and Tibshirani 1993). Permutation tests evaluate the size of the difference between the observed medians relative to the distribution of all possible differences. The estimated distribution was constructed by:

- 1) pooling the two samples;
- 2) randomly pennuting the pool into two groups the size of the original samples;
- 3) calculating the difference between the medians of the two permuted groups; and
- 4) repeating steps 2 and 3 a large number of times (e.g., 1,000).

A P-value for this test was the proportion of times the pennuted differences were larger than the observed difference. This tested the use of radiotelemetry for assessing the migrational behavior of juvenile chinook salmon. Travel time comparisons were calculated from release (Ice Harbor Dam) to first PIT-tag detection within the juvenile bypass system at McNary Dam (68 km).

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# RESULTS

# Yearling Chinook Salmon

#### PIT-Tag Evaluations

Fish Collection, Tagging, and Release--Yearling chinook salmon were collected and PIT tagged at Lower Monumental Dam on 19 d from 2 May to 3 June. Tagging began after 30% of the yearling chinook salmon had passed Lower Monumental Dam and was completed when 99% of these fish had passed (Figure 2). During respective daytime and nighttime operations, we released 6,128 and 5,886 PIT-tagged fish into the spillway and 6,160 and 6,160 into the tailrace at Ice Harbor Dam. Handling and tagging mortality for yearling chinook salmon was 0.6% overall. Overall mean fork lengths of fish released during daytime operations were 143.6 mm (SD = 11.6) for spillway releases and  $145.9$  mm (SD = 11.0) for tailrace releases (Table 1). Daytime releases occurred between 1226 and 1547 PDT and were made though spillbays discharging from 3.4 to 5.3 kcfs and open from 2.0 to 3.1 stops.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District operated Ice Harbor Dam based on the NMFS 2000 Biological Opinion (NMFS 2000) guidelines: project spill was 45 kcfs during daytime hours (0600-1800 PDT) and at or near 100% (up to the 120% total dissolved gas cap) during nighttime hours (1800-0600) for much of the study period (3 May-lO July; Appendix Figure B1). Daily total river flows were lower in 2002 than the daily average for the previous ten years (1992-2001), especially during the early part of May (Appendix Figure B2).

Ice Harbor Dam operations during daytime releases ranged from 44.3 to 98.0 kcfs total spill volume, or 34 to 77% of total project discharge; tailwater elevation was between 342.6 and 349.1 ft; and water temperatures ranged from 10.8 to 14.0°C (Appendix Table Bl). Overall mean fork length for fish released during nighttime operations was 144.5 mm (SD = 11.4) for spillway releases and 146.6 mm (SD = 11.4) for tailrace releases (Table 2). Nighttime releases occurred between 2154 and 2321 PDT and were made though spillbays discharging from 3.4 to 12.0 kcfs and open from 2.0 to 8.0 stops. Ice Harbor Dam operations during nighttime releases ranged from 48.6 to 119.0 kcfs total spill volume, or 70.4 to 100% of total project discharge; tail water elevation ranged from 341.2 to 348.2 ft; and water temperatures ranged from 10.6 to 13.8°C (Appendix Table B2).



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Figure 2. Cumulative passage distribution of yearling chinook salmon at Lower Monumental Dam during 2002. Arrows indicate beginning and ending release dates for tagged yearling chinook salmon to evaluate Ice Harbor Dam spillway survival, 2002.



Table 1. Sample size, mean, standard deviation (SD), and range of fork lengths (mm) for daytime releases of PIT-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon at Ice Harbor Dam, 2002.

\* PIT-tagged yearling chinook released to spillways had slightly larger average fork length than those released to the tailrace  $( $3 \text{ mm}$ ). Although we do not know the reason for the size discrepancy, it was not$ large enough to present a meaningful biological difference between the two treatments evaluated. No such discrepancy occurred among similar groups of radio-tagged yearling chinook or PIT-tagged subyearling chinook salmon. which were treated in the same manner for this study.



Table 2. Sample size, mean, standard deviation (SD), and range of fork lengths (mm) for PIT-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon with a known length at tagging and released during nighttime operations at Ice Harbor Dam, 2002.

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**Detection and** Survival--Of the 24,661 PIT-tagged yearling chinook salmon released at Ice Harbor Dam, 11,270 (45.7% of those released) unique PIT-tags were detected at downstream locations on the Columbia River (Table 3). Detection probabilities at McNary Dam under daytime operations were similar between treatments, with overall estimates of 0.357 ( $SE = 0.039$ ) for spillway and 0.346 ( $SE = 0.034$ ) for tailrace releases (Table 4). Under nighttime operations, detection probabilities were 0.392 ( $SE = 0.042$ ) for spillway releases and 0.383 ( $SE = 0.035$ ) for tailrace releases. Variability in detection probabilities at McNary Dam was due to increased levels of spill as total river flows increased later in the study (Figure 3), and probably resulted in survival estimates for earlier groups having higher weight in weighted geometric means.

Survival estimates for individual release groups of PIT-tagged yearling chinook salmon that passed through the spillway at Ice Harbor Dam relative to those released in the tailrace ranged from 0.511 to 2.243 during daytime operations and from 0.609 to 1.521 during nighttime operations (Tables 5 and 6). The weighted geometric mean relative survival estimates were 0.895 (95% CI, 0.825-0.964) for daytime releases and 0.890 (95% CI, 0.812-0.968) for nighttime releases. There was no significant difference between daytime and nighttime relative spillway survival (paired *t*-test;  $t = 0.09$ ,  $P = 0.929$ ).

The overall estimate (weighted geometric mean) of spillway passage survival for PIT-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon was 0.892 (95% CI, 0.840-0.944). For yearling chinook salmon passing through the Ice Harbor Dam spillway, we found weak correlation between relative survival and total dam discharge, spill volume, tailwater elevation, release date, fork length at tagging, or water temperature (Appendix Figures CI-C6).

Table 3. First time detections at downstream PIT-tag detection sites with proportion of fish released for evaluating survival for hatchery yearling chinook salmon passing through the spillway at Ice Harbor Dam, 2002. Standard error shown in parenthesis.



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Figure 3. Total discharge, spill, and detection probabilities of PIT-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon at McNary Dam during the Ice Harbor Dam spillway survival study, 2002.



Table 5. Relative survival estimates for PIT-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released during daytime operations into the spillway and tailrace of Ice Harbor Dam, 2002. Standard errors shown in parenthesis. The overall relative survival estimate is presented as a weighted geomean.



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Table 6. Relative survival estimates for PIT-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released during nighttime operations into the spillway and tailrace of Ice Harbor Dam,2002. Standard errors are shown in parenthesis. The overall relative survival estimate is presented as a weighted geomean.

#### Radio-tag Evaluations

Fish Collection, Tagging, and Release--Yearling chinook salmon were collected and radio tagged at Lower Monumental Dam on 18 d from 4 May to 3 June. Tagging began after 30% of the yearling chinook salmon had passed Lower Monumental Dam and was completed when 99% of these fish had passed (Figure 4). During respective daytime and nighttime operations, we released 282 and 264 radio-tagged fish into the spillway and 270 and 267 into the tailrace at Ice Harbor Dam. Tagging mortality for yearling chinook salmon was 3.3% overall.

For daytime releases, overall mean fork length was  $146.6$  mm (SD = 9.8) for fish released to the spillway and 145.9 mm  $(SD = 13.4)$  for fish released to the tailrace (Table 7). Daytime releases occurred between 1328 and 1714 PDT and were made though spillbays discharging from 3.4 to 5.3 kcfs and open from 2.0 to 3.1 stops (Appendix Table B1). Ice Harbor Dam Project operations during daytime releases ranged from 44.3 to 98.0 kcfs total spill volume, or 34 to 77% of total project discharge; tail water elevation was between 342.6 and 349.3 ft, and water temperatures ranged from 10.8 to 14.0°C.

For nighttime releases, overall mean fork length was  $146.2$  mm (SD = 9.9) for fish released to the spillway and  $147.2$  mm (SD = 13.1) for fish released to the tailrace (Table 8). Nighttime releases occurred between 2154 and 0054 PDT and were made through spillbays discharging from 3.4 to 13.5 kcfs and open from 2.0 to 8.0 stops. Ice Harbor Dam project operations during nighttime releases ranged from 48.6 to 119.0 kcfs total spill volume, or 70.4 to 100% of total project discharge; tail water elevation was between 341.2 and 348.2 ft; and water temperatures ranged from 10.6 to 13.8°C (Appendix Table B2).

Detection and Survival--Of the 1,083 radio-tagged yearling chinook salmon released at Ice Harbor Dam, 957 (88.4% of those released) unique tags were detected at downstream telemetry transects on the Snake and Columbia Rivers. Of these, 956 (99.9%) were detected at Sacajawea Park. Detection probabilities at all transects were extremely high for both treatment and reference groups, ranging from  $0.946$  (SE =  $0.016$ ) at Port Kelly to 1.000 (SE = 0.000) at both Sacajawea Park and McNary Dam for daytime-released fish and from  $0.915$  (SE = 0.020) at Port Kelley to 1.000 (SE = 0.000) at Sacajawea Park and McNary Dam for nighttime-released fish (Tables 9 and 10).



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Table 7. Sample size, mean, standard deviation (SD), and range of fork lengths (mm) for radio-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon (with a known length at tagging) released during daytime operations at Ice Harbor Dam, 2002.



Table 8. Sample size, mean, standard deviation (SD), and range of fork lengths (mm) for radio-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon (with a known length at tagging) released during nighttime operations at Ice Harbor Dam, 2002.



Table 9. Detection probabilities at radiotelemetry transects for daytime releases of radio-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon into the spillway and tailrace of Ice Harbor Dam, 2002. Standard errors are in parenthesis.

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	Nighttime releases, radio-tagged yearling chinook					
Release date	Spillway (treatment)			Tailrace (reference)		
	Sacajawea	Port Kelley	<b>McNary Dam</b>	Sacajawea	Port Kelley	<b>McNary Dam</b>
05 May	1.000(0.000)	0.833(0.108)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)
08 May	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)
09 May	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	0.923(0.074)	1.000(0.000)
11 May	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)
12 May	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	0.778(0.139)	1.000(0.000)
14 May	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	0.917(0.080)	1.000(0.000)
15 May	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	0.923(0.074)	1.000(0.000)
17 May	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)
18 May	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	0.917(0.080)	1.000(0.000)
20 May	1.000(0.000)	0.900(0.095)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	0.800(0.126)	1.000(0.000)
21 May	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	0.727(0.134)	1.000(0.000)
23 May	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)
24 May	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)
29 May	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)
30 May	1.000(0.000)	0.900(0.095)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)
01 June	1.000(0.000)	0.833(0.152)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	0.700(0.145)	0.900(0.095)
02 June	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	0.800(0.126)	1.000(0.000)
04 June	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	0.900(0.095)	1.000(0.000)
Overall	1.000(0.000)	0.968(0.014)	1.000(0.000)	1.000(0.000)	0.915(0.020)	0.994(0.006)

Table 10. Detection probabilities at downstream radiotelemetry transects for nighttime releases of radio-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon into the spillway and tailrace of Ice Harbor Dam, 2002. Standard errors are in parenthesis.

Survival estimates for individual release groups of radio-tagged yearling chinook salmon that passed through the spillway at Ice Harbor Dam relative to those released in the tailrace ranged from 0.600 to 1.000 during daytime operations and from 0.571 to 1.000 during nighttime operations (Tables 11 and 12). Weighted geometric mean relative survival was estimated at 0.848 (95% CI, 0.808-0.888) for daytime and 0.878 (95% CI, 0.828-0.928) for nighttime releases. No significant differences in relative survival estimates were found between daytime and nighttime spillway releases  $(t = 0.94$ ,  $P = 0.355$ ). The overall estimate (weighted geometric mean) of spillway passage survival for radio-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon was 0.865 (95% CI, 0.833-0.897). For radio-tagged fish passing through the Ice Harbor Dam spillway, we found only weak correlations between relative survival and total dam discharge, spill volume, tailwater elevation, release date, fork length at tagging, or water temperature (Appendix Figures C7-C12).

Partitioned Reach Survival--The reach from Ice Harbor Dam to McNary Dam was divided into three sections: Ice Harbor Dam to the mouth of the Snake River at Sacajawea Park (reach 1), Sacajawea Park to Port Kelley (reach 2), and Port Kelly to McNary Dam (reach 3). Survival of radio-tagged fish migrating through reach 1 and for the overall reach was estimated using detections only from fish released into the tailrace of Ice Harbor Dam. Survival through reaches 2 and 3 was estimated using detections at Sacajawea Park from all radio-tagged releases (spillway and tailrace releases). For the overall reach (Ice Harbor to McNary), survival was estimated at 0.749 (95% CI, 0.711-0.787). For individual reaches, survival estimates for radio-tagged fish were 0.961 through reach 1,0.860 through reach 2, and 0.905 through reach 3 (Table 13).

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Survival estimates through reach 2 were lower and significantly different from survival estimates through both reach 1 ( $t = 7.43$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ) and reach 3 ( $t = 3.03$ ,  $P = 0.005$ ). This may have been due in part to avian predation, primarily from Caspian Terns *Sterna caspia* that nest on Crescent Island, which is located within reach 2. Tags from  $7.7\%$  (n = 83) of the fish released at Ice Harbor Dam were recovered on Crescent Island (Table 14). Although the range of these birds appears to extend over the entire study area, 44.6% of the radio tags recovered on the island were last detected at Sacajawea Park, and 31.3% were last detected at Port Kelly (Table 15).



Table 11. Relative survival estimates for radio-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released during daytime operations into the spillway and tailrace of Ice Harbor Dam,2002. Standard errors are shown in parenthesis. The pooled relative survival estimate is presented as a weighted geometric mean.



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Table 12. Relative survival estimates for radio-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released during nighttime operations into the spillway and tailrace of Ice Harbor Dam, 2002. Standard errors are shown in parenthesis. The pooled relative survival estimate is presented as a weighted geometric mean.

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Table 13. Survival estimates for partitioned reaches between Ice Harbor and McNary Dams, 2002 (standard errors in parenthesis). Ice Harbor Dam to Sacajawea Park based on tailrace released fish. Sacajawea to Port Kelly and Port Kelly to McNary Dam based on all fish detected at Sacajawea Park.

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Table 14. Minimum estimates of avian predation with percent of daily release groups for radio-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released at Ice Harbor Dam based on the recovery of radio and/or PIT tags from Crescent Island, 2002.

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Table 15. Location of last radio-tag detection for hatchery yearling chinook salmon released into the spillway or tailrace of Ice Harbor Dam and whose tags were recovered on Crescent Island, 2002.



**Tailrace** Egress--Tailrace egress is defined as the elapsed time in minutes from release into the spillway at Ice Harbor Dam to the first detection at Goose Island approximately 2 km downstream from the dam. Median tailrace egress for all radio-tagged fish was 30 min (16 and 152 min for the  $10<sup>th</sup>$  and  $90<sup>th</sup>$  percentiles, respectively). Fish released during nighttime operations had slightly faster median egress time (27 min) than fish released during daytime operations (32 min). Fish released through Spillbays 9 and 10 had the longest median egress time (46 and 48 min, respectively, for fish released during both daytime and nighttime operations) compared to fish released through the other bays (Figure 5).



Figure 5. Median tailrace egress times in minutes for radio-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released into the spillway during daytime and nighttime operations at Ice Harbor Dam, 2002.

## **PIT - and Radio-tag Comparison**

A statistical comparison between relative spillway passage survival estimates obtained using PIT -tag and radio-tag methodologies indicated they were not significantly different ( $t = 0.88$ ,  $P = 0.382$ ). A comparison of median travel times from release to McNary Dam showed a statistically significant difference for all groups (spillway/day, spillway/night, tailrace/day, and tailrace/night; Table 16) where radio-tagged fish traveled slightly slower than their PIT-tagged counterparts. However, differences were measured in tenths of days and were not likely to have been biologically significant. Based on recovery of PIT tags from Crescent Island, a minimum of 2.1 % of the PIT -tagged fish released at Ice Harbor Dam in 2002 was taken by avian predators, compared to 7.7% of the radio-tagged fish released. The majority of tags for both methodologies were taken from later release groups (Figure 6).



Figure 6. Percent of tags (both PIT and radio) released into the spillway or tailrace of Ice Harbor Dam and subsequently recovered from Crescent Island, 2002.



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Table 16. Comparison of median travel times (in days) from release into the spillway and tailrace of Ice Harbor Dam to first PIT-tag detection at McNary Dam for PIT- and radio-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon, 2002.

## Subyearling Chinook Salmon,

### Fish Collection, Tagging, and Release

Subyearling chinook salmon were collected and PIT tagged at Lower Monumental Dam on 13 d from 27 June to 9 July. Tagging began after 22% of the subyearling chinook salmon had passed Lower Monumental Dam and was completed when 53% of these fish had passed (Figure 7). We released 7,561 and 6,766 PIT-tagged fish into the spillway and  $6,663$  and  $6,507$  into the tailrace at Ice Harbor Dam during daytime and nighttime operations, respectively.

Handling and tagging mortality for yearling chinook salmon was 0.9% overall. For daytime releases, overall mean fork length was  $111.5$  mm (SD = 10.9) for fish released to the spillway and  $112.4$  mm (SD = 10.9) for fish released to the tailrace (Table 17). Daytime releases occurred between 1440 and 1600 PDT and were made though spillbays discharging from 3.4 to 5.3 kcfs and open from 2.0 to 3.1 stops. Ice Harbor Dam operations during daytime releases ranged from 44.7 to 46.1 kcfs total spill volume, or 49 to 78% of total project discharge; tailwater elevation ranged from 342.4 to 345.7 ft, and water temperatures ranged from 16.2 to 19.1 $\rm{^{\circ}C}$  (Appendix Table B3).

For nighttime releases, overall mean fork length was  $111.7$  mm (SD = 10.6) for fish released to the spillway and  $112.0 \text{ mm}$  (SD = 10.8) for fish released to the tailrace (Table 18). Nighttime releases occurred between 2215 and 2350 PDT and were made though spillbays discharging from 3.4 to 10.1 kcfs and open from 2.0 to 6.0 stops. Ice Harbor Dam operations during daytime releases ranged from 30.2 to 84.8 kcfs total spill volume, or 100% oftotal project discharge; tailwater elevation ranged from 340.2 to 344.5 ft, and water temperatures ranged from 16.2 to 18.8°C (Appendix Table B4). Severe thunderstorms on the night of 7 July prevented the release of the tailrace reference group; therefore, this group Was omitted from detection and survival analyses.



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Figure 7. Cumulative passage distribution of subyearling chinook salmon at Lower Monumental Dam during 2002. Arrows indicate beginning and ending release dates for PIT -tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon to evaluate Ice Harbor Dam spillway survival, 2002.



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Table 18. Sample size, mean, standard deviation (SD), and range of fork lengths (mm) for PIT-tagged subyearling chinook salmon (with a known length at tagging) released during nighttime operations at Ice Harbor Dam to evaluate spillway survival, 2002. (Note: Severe weather conditions prevented the tailrace release on 07 July.)

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### **Detection and Survival**

Of the 27,587 PIT -tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released at Ice Harbor Dam for estimation of spillway passage survival, unique PIT-tags were detected at downstream locations on the Columbia River for 15,092 (54.7%; Table 19). Detection probabilities at McNary Dam for daytime release groups were similar between treatments, with overall estimates of  $0.536$  (SE = 0.012) and 0.545 (SE = 0.012) for spillway and tailrace releases, respectively (Table 20).

For nighttime releases, overall detection probabilities were  $0.565$  (SE =  $0.013$ ) and  $0.546$  (SE = 0.013) for spillway and tailrace released fish, respectively. Similar to the yearling chinook salmon released in the spring, detection probabilities at McNary Dam were affected by the overall amount of spill. As total river flows and total spill volume decreased, detection probabilities increased (Figure 8).

Survival estimates for individual release groups of PIT-tagged subyearling chinook salmon that passed through the spillway at Ice Harbor Dam relative to those released into the tailrace ranged from 0.757 to 1.333 and 0.695 to 1.144 during daytime and nighttime operations, respectively (Table 21 and 22). The weighted geometric mean relative survival estimates were 0.876 (95% CI, 0.828-0.924) and 0.915 (95% CI, 0.855-0.975) for daytime and nighttime released fish, respectively. There was no significant difference between daytime and nighttime relative spillway survival  $(t = 1.00$ ,  $P = 0.327$ ). The overall estimate (weighted geometric mean) of spillway passage survival for PIT -tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon was 0.894 (95% CI, 0.856-0.932). For subyearling chinook salmon passing through the Ice Harbor Dam spillway, no significant correlation was found between relative survival and total dam discharge, spill volume, tailwater elevation, release date, fork length at tagging, or water temperature (Appendix Figures C13-C18).

Table 19. First time detections at downstream PIT-tag detection sites with proportion of fish released for evaluating survival for hatchery subyearling chinook salmon passing through the spillway at Ice Harbor Dam, 2002. Standard error shown in parenthesis.



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Table 20. Detection probabilities at McNary Dam for PIT-tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released during daytime and nighttime operations into the spillway and tailrace of Ice Harbor Dam, 2002. Standard errors are presented in parenthesis.

Release	Daytime		Nighttime				
date	Spillway	Tailrace	Spillway	Tailrace			
28 June	0.582(0.051)	0.450(0.051)	0.501(0.048)	0.515(0.053)			
29 June	0.575(0.066)	0.473(0.054)	0.308(0.074)	0.331(0.064)			
30 June	0.498(0.050)	0.379(0.055)	0.382(0.058)	0.295(0.048)			
01 July	0.502(0.044)	0.254(0.053)	0.423(0.053)	0.490(0.055)			
02 July	0.467(0.056)	0.291(0.040)	0.449(0.039)	0.320(0.040)			
03 July	0.501(0.059)	0.382(0.050)	0.647(0.037)	0.530(0.046)			
04 July	0.388(0.066)	0.592(0.043)	0.587(0.043)	0.560(0.042)			
05 July	0.440(0.063)	0.689(0.031)	0.611(0.034)	0.604(0.030)			
06 July	0.414(0.060)	0.635(0.028)	0.614(0.033)	0.671(0.028)			
07 July	0.434(0.057)	0.585(0.032)					
08 July	0.277(0.052)	0.611(0.034)	0.728(0.040)	0.713(0.038)			
09 July	0.319(0.056)	0.671(0.046)	0.570(0.065)	0.513(0.055)			
10 July	0.467(0.072)	0.501(0.059)	0.633(0.056)	0.581(0.060)			
Overall	0.536(0.012)	0.545(0.012)	0.565(0.013)	0.546(0.013)			



Figure 8. Total discharge, spill, and detection probabilities of PIT-tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon at McNary Dam during the Ice Harbor Dam spillway survival study, 2002.

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Table 21. Relative survival estimates for PIT-tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released during daytime operations into the spillway and tailrace of Ice Harbor Dam, 2002. Standard errors are shown in parenthesis. The overall relative survival estimate is presented as a weighted geomean.



Table 22. Relative survival estimates for PIT-tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released during nighttime operations into the spillway and tailrace of Ice Harbor Dam, 2002. Standard errors are shown in parenthesis. The overall relative survival estimate is presented as a weighted geomean.

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## DISCUSSION

For PIT-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon at Ice Harbor Dam in 2002, the overall estimate of relative spillway passage survival (0.892) was lower than the estimate in 2000 (0.978). Weak correlations were found between relative survival estimates and environmental conditions in both studies. However, the strongest of these correlations indicated a relationship between spillway survival and total river flow, spill volume, and tailwater elevation, where survival was lower when total river flows were low.

For PIT -tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon, overall estimates of relative spillway passage survival were comparable between 2000 and 2002, at 0.885 and 0.894, respectively. Lower survival estimates for summer migrants have been attributed to higher predation rates created by unfavorable environmental conditions (i.e., low flows, low turbidity, and higher water temperatures). Increases in water temperature have been shown to increase the digestion and consumption rates of northern pikeminnow (Falter 1969; Steigenberger and Larkin 1974; Beyer et al. 1988; Vigg 1988). Decreases in turbidity and flow may increase capture efficiency of predators (Gray and Rondorf 1986) and increase exposure time when predator consumption rates are higher (Beamesderfer et al. 1990; Rieman et al. 1991).

River flows in early spring 2002 (1-17 May) were considerably lower than the lO-year average and were 20% lower than flows in 2000 during the same period (average daily flows of 85.1 and 68.4 kcfs for 2000 and 2002, respectively). These early spring flows in 2002 were onlyl6% higher than average flows during summer releases (68.4 and 57.3 kcfs for spring and summer, respectively). Although average daily flows in early May were low and similar to historic summer flows, the average water temperature during spring releases was 5°C lower than the average during summer releases. These lower water temperatures likely resulted in reduced digestion and consumption rates by predators.

Additionally, fish passing the spillway at Ice Harbor Dam exited the tailrace relatively quickly (median egress times of 30 min from release to detection at Goose Island, 2 km downstream of the dam). Based on recovery of PIT tags from Crescent Island, rates of predation by terns and sea gulls (Larus spp). were higher in the latter part of May, when relative survival estimates were also higher. Combined with decreased consumption rates, and therefore reduced predation under lower water temperatures, this may indicate that some other factor is influencing spillway passage survival at low total river flows.

Survival for yearling chinook salmon from release 5 km above Ice Harbor Dam to McNary Dam was estimated at 0.724 in 2001 (Axel et al. 2003). Survival through the reach between Sacajawea Park and Port Kelley was lowest (0.860), likely due to avian predation. Crescent Island, located within this reach, harbors the second largest Caspian tern colony in North America (>600) and large populations of gulls (>39,000; Collis et al. 2002). Birds from this island consumed nearly 8% of radio-tagged fish and just over 2% of the PIT-tagged fish released at Ice Harbor Dam. Tag-detection percentage on avian colonies is a minimum estimate of loss due to bird predation because not all tags taken by birds are deposited on a colony, and not all deposited tags are detected (Collis et al. 2001; Ryan et al. 2001)

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Hockersmith et al. (2003) found that during migrations of moderate duration  $( $d$ )$  the presence of a sham radio tag, whether surgically or gastrically implanted, had little effect on performance or survival compared with the presence of a PIT tag. A comparison of relative spillway passage survival estimates obtained using PIT -tag and radio-tag methodology resulted in no significant difference between survival estimates. Analysis of travel time from Ice Harbor to McNary Dam revealed significant differences, but these were less than 0.5 d for all treatments.

Based on recovery of radio and PIT tags from Crescent Island, radio-tagged fish may be more susceptible to avian predation (7.7 and 2.1 % for radio- and PIT -tagged yearling chinook salmon, respectively). Perry et al. (2001) concluded that the presence of a radio tag may make juvenile chinook salmon less buoyant than their untagged counterparts, causing them to expend more energy to maintain their position in the water column. They concluded that due to this reduced buoyancy, radio-tagged fish may reside at a shallower depth than non-tagged fish in order to reduce energy expenditure and remain in a suitable range of buoyancy.

Due to high detection probabilities, mobility of detection equipment, and reduced sample size numbers (and thus reduced impact to the resource), radiotelemetry is proving to be a very useful tool for estimating survival of juvenile salmonids. Based on the results of this study, we concluded that radiotelemetry is a technically valid and practical tool for estimating relative survival of migrating juvenile salmonids. Using a paired-release study design should minimize any bias associated with increased vulnerability to avian predation and other mortality factors, in that the treatment and reference groups would be similarly affected.

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#### APPENDIX A: Tests of Model Assumptions

#### **Methods**

The single-release model assumed that all fish in a given cohort had equal probability of detection at a given site and that treatment and paired reference groups had similar survival through common reaches (e.g., for spillway- and tailrace- released fish this was the reach downstream of the tailrace release location). If these paired groups were evenly mixed and traveled together through downstream reaches, we determined the assumptions were not violated. We tested the second assumption with  $\chi^2$  tests on  $r \times c$ contingency tables. where *r* was the number of rows of daily detection totals at a given detection site, and  $c = 2$  for the columns of spillway and tailrace. The P-values for these tests were calculated using Monte Carlo approximations to exact methods with Statxact (Mehta and Patel 1992). P-values based on asymptotic normal theory were not used due to the sparse nature of the tails of the detection distributions (i.e., many values of zero and small detection numbers).

We did not have appropriate data with which to objectively determine the level of bias that may have resulted from violations of SR model assumptions. However, when violations were indicated, we assessed the general magnitude of the violations and qualitatively determined the potential effects on study results.

A further model assumption was that detection and survival probabilities downstream from detection sites were not conditional on PIT -tag detection at upstream sites. That is, that detection and survival downstream from a detection site is not dependent on one or more prior detection events. We assessed this assumption using the methods of Burnham et al. (1987). Using contingency tables of the totals in various detection-history categories, we calculated  $\chi^2$  tests for each temporal group and overall. If goodness-of-fit tests for a series of temporal groups resulted in more significant tests than expected by chance ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ), we examined the appropriate tables to determine the nature of the violation and to see if there was consistency in the pattern of the violation. We did not evaluate contingency table tests where expected values of table cells were less than 1.0, as no inference regarding the assumptions was possible from such tables. In  $2 \times 3$  tables with one column of zeros, a reduced  $(2 \times 2)$  table was tested.

For the four detection sites used in this study (release at Ice Harbor Dam, detection at John Day Dam, Bonneville Dam, and the estuary PIT Trawl), two of Burnham et al.'s (1987) tests were applicable, Test 2.C2 and Test 3.SR3. Tests 2.C3, 3.SM3, and 3.SR4 were theoretically applicable but could not be used due to the small numbers of detections with the estuary PIT Trawl of both yearling and subyearling fish.



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Test 2.C2 was based on the contingency table:

If the assumptions were met, the counts at downstream sites for fish detected at McNary Dam should be in constant proportion to those for fish not detected (i.e.,  $n_1/n_2$ ) and  $n_1/n_2$ , and  $n_1/n_2$  should be equal). If there were no detections at the estuary PIT trawl, the table was reduced to a  $2 \times 2$  table. Test 3.SR3 was based on the contingency table:



If the assumptions were met, the numbers detected at Bonneville Dam and in the PIT trawl should be in constant proportion for fish "detected at John Day and McNary Dams" vs. "detected at John Day Dam but not detected at McNary Dam."

### **Results**

## PIT Tagged Hatchery Yearling Chinook Salmon

Distributions of PIT -tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon passing McNary Dam were compared for spillway and tailrace releases. In 14 of 38 tests, P-values were <0.05, indicating a significant lack of mixing between spillway and tailrace-released paired cohorts (Appendix Table AI). Although fish passed McNary Dam over several days (by cohort), the majority passed within 2-4 d (the span was shorter for later releases; Appendix Figures DI-D14). Lack of mixing was evidenced by tailrace groups passing ahead of the spillway fish (median travel time 1.9 vs. 2.0 d, respectively, for daytime released fish, and 1.8 vs. 1.9 d for night-released fish) with mildly protracted "tails" in some cases (Appendix Table A2).

Tests for John Day and Bonneville Dams had 5 and 1, respectively, of 38 tests with P-values <0.05 (Appendix Tables A3-A4). Passage distributions were similar to those at McNary Dam, but more protracted, and paired cohorts appeared to be somewhat mixed. Although these tests indicated a lack of mixing at McNary and John Day Dams, the differences in passage distributions were of short enough duration (i.e., less that a day delay for spillway-released fish) that the relative spillway-to-tailrace survival estimates were most likely minimally biased with respect to relative spillway passage survival.

The results of Test 2C.2 had P-values <0.05 in 4 of 36 calculable tests for daytime spillway- and tailrace-released fish, indicating some violations of the assumption that PIT-tag detection history at McNary Dam did not affect detection at downstream sites. Tests for night-released fish had no P-values <0.05 of 38 calculable tests, indicating no violations of the assumption. Violations to this assumption for daytime released fish were likely caused by detections systems selecting for smaller fish and a positive, albeit weaker, relationship between fish length at tagging and survival probabilities (i.e., larger fish generally have greater survival probabilities; Zabel et al. in review).

Further research is needed to investigate the causes of assumption violations, their effect on the accuracy of survival estimates, and potential remedial measures. Given current knowledge of these issues, we believe that the violations of assumptions have only a small effect on the single-release model survival estimates interpreted as average survival probability for the group, and we report estimates from the single-release model for all release groups. The results of Test 3.Sr3 had P-values <0.05 in 1 of 27 calculable tests for day-released PIT -tagged fish and in 2 of 25 calculable tests for night-released fish, indicating no meaningful violation of this model assumption.

# Appendix Table AI. Test of homogeneity in passage distributions at McNary Dam for PIT -tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released to the spillway and tailrace of Ice Harbor Dam, 2002. Shaded cells indicate significant differences in passage timing among tests  $(P < 0.05)$ .



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# Appendix Table A2. Travel time (d) distribution for groups of PIT -tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released into the spillway and tailrace of Ice Harbor Dam and detected by the full-flow bypass PIT-tag detector at McNary Dam, 2002.



Appendix Table A3. Test of homogeneity of John Day Dam passage distributions for groups of PIT -tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released into the spillway and tailrace of Ice Harbor Dam, 2002. Shaded cells indicate significant differences in passage timing among tests  $(P<0.05)$ .



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# Appendix Table *A4.* Test of homogeneity of Bonneville Dam passage distributions for groups of PIT -tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released into the spillway and tailrace of Ice Harbor Dam, 2002. Shaded cells indicate significant differences in passage timing among tests  $(P < 0.05)$ .



## PIT -tagged Hatchery Subyearling Chinook Salmon

Mixing tests for PIT-tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon passing McNary Dam resulted in 19 of 25 tests with P values  $\langle 0.05, \text{with many highly significant} \rangle$ differences ( $P \le 0.001$ ; Appendix Table A5). The reason for lack of mixing was the same as detailed for PIT-tagged yearling chinook salmon, but was more pronounced. Passage distributions were spread over a period as long as 3 weeks, but with most fish passing in 4-5 d (Appendix Figures DI5-B33). Tailrace releases were somewhat faster than spillway releases in getting to the dam (median travel time 2.1 vs. 2.9 d, respectively, for daytime releases; 2.4 vs. 2.6 d for nighttime releases) with quite protracted distributions in some cases (the difference in  $90<sup>th</sup>$  percentile passage was 2.1 d for daytime and 0.8 d for nighttime releases; Appendix Table A6).

Tests of mixing at John Day and Bonneville Dams produced 9 and 7 results, respectively (of 25 tests each) with P-values <0.05 (Appendix Tables A7-AS). Passage distributions and lack of mixing were similar to those at McNary Dam. We are unsure of the level and direction of bias in the relative survival estimates that may have occurred due to lack of mixing. However, we did not see any strong trends in survival estimates through time; thus a meaningful biological impact due to lack of mixing was not likely.

The results of Test 2C.2 had P-values < 0.05 in 7 of 26 tests for daytime spillway and tailrace releases, indicating a violation of the assumption that PIT-tag detection history at McNary Dam did not affect detection at downstream sites. Similar to the spring work, these violations were likely caused by detection systems selecting for smaller fish and a positive, albeit weaker, relationship between fish length at tagging and survival probabilities (i.e., larger fish generally have greater survival probabilities; Zabel et a1. in review). Tests for night-released fish had P-values <0.05 in 3 of 25 tests, also indicating a violation of the assumption.

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The results of Test 3.Sr3 had P-values <0.05 in only 2 of 24 calculable tests for daytime and nighttime releases, indicating no violation of the assumption that PIT-tag detection does not affect the probability of subsequent detection or survival.

# Appendix Table *AS.* Tests of homogeneity of McNary Dam passage distributions for groups of PIT -tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released into the spillway and tailrace of Ice Harbor Dam. Shaded cells indicate significant differences in passage timing among tests  $(\alpha = 0.05)$ .



	Daytime releases					Nighttime releases						
Release	Spillway		Tailrace			Spillway		Tailrace				
date	10%	50%	90%	10%	50%	90%	10%	50%	90%	10%	50%	90%
28 June	1.7	2.9	9.1	1.7	2.7	8.7	1.6	3.2	10.5	1.5	2.5	8.9
29 June	1.6	3.5	9.7	1.2	2.0	6.6	1.4	3.4	9.7	1.3	2.6	6.9
30 June	1.8	3.2	9.0	1.6	2.3	6.9	1.5	2.7	6.1	1.2	2.0	5.5
01 July	1.8	3.6	9.7	1.1	2.0	5.3	1.5	2.4	5.1	1.4	1.7	5.2
02 July	1.7	2.8	6.7	1.2	1.9	3.9	1.5	2.3	4.6	1.5	2.0	3.9
03 July	2.0	3.0	6.1	1.3	1.9	5.1	2.0	2.7	4.6	1.8	2.4	3.7
04 July	1.8	3.0	6.3	1.4	2.1	3.8	2.0	2.7	4.6	1.7	2.4	3.7
05 July	2.3	3.6	6.7	1.6	2.3	3.8	2.2	3.1	4.9	1.8	2.6	4.2
06 July	2.0	3.0	5.2	1.7	2.3	3.6	2.1	2.7	4.5	1.9	2.4	3.6
07 July	1.9	2.7	4.7	1.4	1.9	3.1						
08 July	1.8	2.7	4.7	1.4	2.1	3.3	2.1	2.6	4.3	1.9	2.4	3.7
09 July	1.7	2.7	4.9	1.4	1.9	3.3	1.7	2.4	4.2	1.6	2.3	3.8
10 July	1.5	2.2	3.6	1.6	2.5	4.0	1.6	2.2	3.4	1.7	2.4	4.4
Overall	1.8	2.9	6.0	1.4	2.1	3.9	1.8	2.6	4.9	1.6	2.4	4.1

Appendix Table A6. Travel time (days) distribution for groups of PIT-tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released into the spillway and tailrace of Ice Harbor Dam and detected at McNary Dam, 2002.

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## Appendix Table A7. Tests of homogeneity of John Day Dam passage distributions for groups of PIT-tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released into the spillway and tailrace of Ice Harbor Dam. Shaded cells indicate significant differences in passage timing among tests  $(\alpha = 0.05)$ .



Appendix Table A8. Tests of homogeneity of Bonneville Dam passage distributions for groups of PIT-tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released into the spillway and tailrace of Ice Harbor Dam. Shaded cells indicate significant differences in passage timing among tests  $(\alpha = 0.05)$ .

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## **APPENDIX B:**

#### Ice Harbor Dam Operations



Appendix Figure B1. Spill operations at Ice Harbor Dam during the hatchery yearling and subyearling spillway passage survival study, 2002.



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Appendix Table B2. Ice Harbor Dam operations and discharge conditions during nighttime releases of PIT-and radio-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon, 2002 (operations data were not available for 03 May).

Release Day	Release Spillbay				Spillway Powerhouse	Total Discharge	Tailwater Elevation	Water	$\ddot{\phantom{a}}$
	<b>Bay</b>	Gate	kcfs	(kcfs)	(kcfs)	(kcfs)	(f <sub>t</sub> )	Temperature (C)	
06 May	$\overline{7}$	4.0	6.8	59.9	0.0	59.9	342.2	10.7	
08 May	$\overline{2}$	3.8	6.5	48.6	0.0	48.6	341.2	10.6	
09 May	$\overline{\mathbf{4}}$	4.9	8.3	72.6	0.0	72.6	342.8	10.7	
11 May	6	3.8	6.5	59.0	0.0	59.0	341.8	11.2	
12 May	10	2.0	3.5	50.1	0.0	50.1	341.3	11.4	
14 May	$\mathbf{1}$	2.0	3.5	69.8	0.0	69.8	342.9	11.8	
15 May	8	5.1	8.6	75.5	0.0	75.5	342.9	11.7	
17 May	$\overline{\mathbf{3}}$	5.0	8.5	75.0	0.0	75.0	342.9	11.7	
18 May	5	6.1	10.2	90.6	0.0	90.6	344.2	11.8	
20 May	$\overline{7}$	7.1	12.0	101.9	10.1	112.0	346.1	11.6	
21 May	9	7.0	11.8	101.7	0.0	101.7	345.1	11.6	
23 May	$\overline{2}$	7.1	11.9	101.6	0.0	101.6	345.0	12.2	
24 May	4	7.0	11.8	97.3	4.4	101.7	345.7	12.4	
29 May	6	7.0	11.7	101.8	3.3	105.1	345.8	11.9	
30 May	8	7.0	11.8	102.1	32.1	134.2	347.8	11.7	
01 June	10	2.0	3.4	114.1	24.0	138.1	348.2	12.7	
02 June	$\mathbf{1}$	2.0	3.4	97.5	31.6	129.1	347.5	13.2	7
04 June	9	8.0	13.5	119.0	0.0	119.0	346.7	13.8	

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## Appendix Table B3. Ice Harbor Dam operations and discharge conditions during daytime releases of PIT-tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon, 2002.



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Appendix Table B4. Ice Harbor Dam operations and discharge conditions during nighttime releases of PIT-tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon, 2002.

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### **APPENDIX C:**

Correlations of Relative Spillway Passage Survival vs. Environmental Conditions at Time of Release



Appendix Figure C1. Estimated relative spillway survival by total dam discharge at time of release for PIT -tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released at Ice Harbor Dam, 2002 ( $P = 0.011$ )



Appendix Figure C2. Estimated relative spillway survival by spill volume (presented as a percent of total dam discharge) at time of release for PIT-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released at Ice Harbor Dam. 2002 ( $P = 0.337$ ).



Appendix Figure C3. Estimated relative spillway survival by tailwater elevation (presented as feet above mean sea level) at time of release for PIT-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released at Ice Harbor Dam, 2002 ( $P = 0.011$ ).



Appendix Figure C4. Estimated relative spillway survival by release date for PIT-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released at Ice Harbor Dam, 2002 ( $P = 0.019$ ).



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Appendix Figure C5. Estimated relative spillway survival by average fork length (mm) at tagging for PIT -tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released at Ice Harbor Dam, 2002 ( $P = 0.049$ ).



Appendix Figure C6. Estimated relative spillway survival by average water temperature (°C) at release for PIT-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released at Ice Harbor Dam, 2002 ( $P = 0.112$ ).

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Appendix Figure C7. Estimated relative spillway survival by total dam discharge at time of release for radio-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released at Ice Harbor Dam,  $2002 (P = 0.027)$ .



Appendix Figure C8. Estimated relative spillway survival by spill volume (presented as a percent of total dam discharge) at time of release for radio-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released at Ice Harbor Dam, 2002 ( $P = 0.585$ ).



Appendix Figure C9. Estimated relative spillway survival by tailwater elevation (presented as feet above mean sea level) at time of release for radio-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released at Ice Harbor Dam, 2002 ( $P = 0.047$ ).



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Appendix Figure C10. Estimated relative spillway survival by release date for radio-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released at Ice Harbor Dam, 2002 ( $P = 0.001$ ).



Appendix Figure Cll. Estimated relative spillway survival by average fork length (mm) at tagging for radio-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released at Ice Harbor Dam, 2002 ( $P = 0.236$ ).



Appendix Figure Cl2. Estimated relative spillway survival by average water temperature (°C) at release for radio-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released at Ice Harbor Dam, 2002 ( $P = 0.003$ ).



Appendix Figure C13. Estimated relative spillway survival by total dam discharge at time of release for PIT-tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released at Ice Harbor Dam, 2002 ( $P = 0.239$ ).



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Appendix Figure C14. Estimated relative spillway survival by total spill volume at time of release for PIT-tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released at Ice Harbor Dam, 2002 ( $P = 0.604$ ).



Appendix Figure CIS. Estimated relative spillway survival by tailwater elevation (presented at mean feet above sea level) at time of release for PIT -tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released at Ice Harbor Dam, 2002 ( $P = 0.275$ ).



Appendix Figure C16. Estimated relative spillway survival by release date for PIT -tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released at Ice Harbor Dam, 2002 ( $P = 0.661$ ).



Appendix Figure C17. Estimated relative spillway survival by average fork length (mm) at tagging for PIT-tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released at Ice Harbor Dam, 2002 ( $P = 0.302$ ).



Appendix Figure C18. Estimated relative spillway survival by average water temperature  $(C)$  at release for PIT-tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released at Ice Harbor Dam, 2002 ( $P = 0.487$ ).

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## APPENDIX D:

# McNary Dam Passage Distributions for Release Groups with Significantly Different Passage Timing



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Appendix Figure Dl. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released during nighttime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 08 May 2002.



Appendix Figure D2. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released during daytime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 09 May 2002.



Appendix Figure D3. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released during nighttime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 09 May 2002.



Appendix Figure D4. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released during daytime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 11 May 2002.



Appendix Figure D5. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released during daytime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 12 May 2002.



Appendix Figure D6. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT -tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released during nighttime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 12 May 2002.

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Appendix Figure D7 . Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released during daytime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 14 May 2002.



Appendix Figure D8. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released during daytime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 18 May 2002.



Appendix Figure D9. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released during daytime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 20 May 2002.



Appendix Figure DIO. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released during daytime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 23 May 2002.

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Appendix Figure Dll. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released during nighttime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 23 May 2002.



Appendix Figure D12. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmen released during daytime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 24 May 2002.



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Appendix Figure D13. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT-tagged hatchery<br>yearling chindok salmon released during nightime openations at Ice Harbor Dam on 29 May 2002.



Appendix Figure D14. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT-tagged hatchery yearling chinook salmon released during daytime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 01 June 2002.



Appendix Figure D15. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT-tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released during daytime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 29 June 2002.



Appendix Figure 016. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT-tagged hatchery , subyearling chinook salmon released during nighttime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 30 June 2002.



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Appendix Figure 017. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT-tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released during daytime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 01 July 2002.



Appendix Figure D18. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT-tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released during nighttime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 01 July 2002.



Appendix Figure D19. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT-tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released during daytime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 02 July 2002.



Appendix Figure D20. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT-tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released during nighttime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 02 July 2002.



Appendix Figure D21. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT-tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released during daytime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 03 July 2002.



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Appendix Figure D22. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT-tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released during nighttime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 03 July 2002.



Appendix Figure D23. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT-tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released during daytime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 04 July 2002.



Appendix Figure D24. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT -tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released during nighttime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 04 July 2002.



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Appendix Figure D25. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT-tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released during daytime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 05 July 2002.



Appendix Figure D26. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT-tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released during nighttime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 05 July 2002,



Appendix Figure D27. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT -tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released during daytime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 06 July 2002.



Appendix Figure D28. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT -tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released during nighttime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 06 July 2002.



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Appendix Figure D29. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT-tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released during daytime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 07 July 2002.



Appendix Figure D30. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT-tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released during daytime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 08 July 2002.



Appendix Figure D31. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT-tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released during nighttime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 08 July 2002.



Appendix Figure D32. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT -tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released during daytime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 09 July 2002.



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Appendix Figure D33. Passage distribution at McNary Dam for PIT-tagged hatchery subyearling chinook salmon released during nighttime operations at Ice Harbor Dam on 10 July 2002.