

Tom Karier  
Chair  
Washington

Frank L. Cassidy Jr.  
"Larry"  
Washington

Jim Kempton  
Idaho

W. Bill Booth  
Idaho



Joan M. Dukes  
Vice-Chair  
Oregon

Melinda S. Eden  
Oregon

Bruce A. Measure  
Montana

Rhonda Whiting  
Montana

February 21, 2007

Mr. Paul Ward  
Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation  
Fisheries  
4690 Star Route 22  
Toppenish, Washington 98948-0151

Mr. Gary James  
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation  
Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries  
Old Mission Highway  
P.O. Box 638  
Pendleton, Oregon 97801

Mr. Dave B. Johnson  
Nez Perce Tribe  
P.O. Box 365  
Lapwai, Idaho 83540

Mr. Robert Brunoe  
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs  
Fish and Wildlife  
P.O. Box 1289  
Warm Springs, Oregon 97761

Mr. Dan Diggs  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
911 N.E. 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97232

Mr. Peter Dygert  
SFD-Fisheries Management Branch  
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service  
7600 Sand Point Way N.E.  
Seattle, Washington 98115-0070

Mr. Tony Nigro  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish Division  
17330 S.E. Evelyn Street  
Clackamas, Oregon 97015

Mr. Guy Norman  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Office of the Director  
600 Capitol Way N.  
Olympia, Washington 98501

Ms. Sharon Kiefer, Fishery Manager  
Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
600 S. Walnut Street  
Boise, Idaho 83707

Mr. Witt Anderson  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
NPD  
P.O. Box 2870  
Portland, Oregon 97208-3725

Mr. Greg Delwiche  
Vice President EFW  
Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 3621  
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

We are writing to you in regard to the Corps of Engineers' study that measures the relative survival of threatened Snake River fall Chinook of both transported and inriver migrants. The failure to continue this experiment will negatively affect our ability to recover Snake River fall Chinook.

The relative survival of both transported and inriver migrants is a key uncertainty in the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program and an essential piece of information that is needed to inform future policy decisions. The Corps of Engineers' study began last year, and will need several more years of results before it can reach valid conclusions. In the near term, we are asking you to support the implementation of this study and consider reallocating sufficient numbers of surrogate fish so that the study can go forward this year.

In the 2003 amendments to the Program the Council concluded, "Therefore, the Council...will give priority to the funding of research that more accurately measures the effect of improved inriver migration compared to transportation and the comparative rate of adult returns to the spawning grounds of transported and in-river migrants." The Council went on to identify the three highest priorities for juvenile transportation studies. The second action on the list was to, "conduct a transportation study that targets Snake River fall Chinook..." [p. 18] The same study is identified as an important action in the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service's 2000 and 2004 FCRPS Biological Opinions.

The region has made a significant investment in attempts to recover Snake River fall Chinook. In January 2005, the Council recommended improvements to the Lower Granite Dam Adult Trap (#200500200), costing Bonneville \$2.1 million, and in 2006 the Council supported three years of funding for the Pittsburg Landing Fall Chinook Acclimation Project (#199801005) at a cost of another \$2.1 million. Through these efforts, the region is making progress toward the recovery of Snake River fall Chinook. But if this progress is to continue, there exists the very real need to determine under varying river conditions whether transportation or inriver migration is most beneficial to fish survival.

It would be an unfortunate setback to our mutual efforts to recover Snake River fall Chinook if this scientific study is not conducted this year. The Council understands that adequate numbers of surrogate fish for the transport study are not a high enough priority in *U.S. v. Oregon* proceedings supervised by the U.S. District Court of Oregon. But this could be remedied by the participants, and we encourage you to work toward resolving this issue in this and future years.

The Council urges the federal Action Agencies and all of the *U.S. v. Oregon* parties to work hard together to finalize the long-term study design for this evaluation. The Council appreciates the parties' willingness to submit the long-term study design to the ISAB/ISRP for scientific review. This science review should occur this year so that the region can move forward and ensure full implementation of this important study in 2008 and future years.

Please contact this office if the Council can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Karier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" and last name "Karier" clearly distinguishable.

Tom Karier  
Chair