

553-003

JUN 10 2004

TOM POSEY CO.PHONE 503-968-2828 FAX 503-670-7108
Email office@tomposeyco.com

. . manufacturers' representatives

15757 S.W. 74th AVE., SUITE 510, TIGARD, OR 97224

To: Robert Lohn
NOAA-Fisheries

From: Ron Hiller
Posey Company

Date: June 9, 2004

Subject: Columbia River Summer Spill

Dear Mr. Robert Lohn,

My name is Ron Hiller. I live in Lake Oswego and own a business in Tigard Oregon that is dependent upon healthy runs of Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead. Our business employs five people in Oregon and one in Washington. We represent manufacturers of sport fishing tackle one being Luhr Jensen Inc. from Hood River Oregon who employs roughly a couple hundred people.

My business lives and dies on whether the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead runs are healthy enough to support a sport fishing season. That is why I am compelled to write to you today in opposition to the proposal to reduce spill for summer migrants in the Columbia. I've been in the sport fishing business for 25 years and as a result feel a bit more knowledgeable than the average Joe about the true effects of spill or lack of on the success of young Salmon survival. I know that this proposal is not based on science but purely political. When the proposal was first put forward it was suggested that an increase in harvest of suckerfish could make up for the increased mortality of smolt as a result of spill reduction. How do you really think that came across to the well informed?

Now I'm told I should feel better because the latest proposal doesn't kill as many smolt as the original. What gives them the right, and all in the name of reducing my electric bill by pennies. Forget my business that is not the kind of place I want to live in. Please support the average citizens of the Northwest in our support of abundant Salmon populations by telling BPA to spill, not kill.

Sincerely,


Ron Hiller

Cc: NSIA

553-004
JUN 10 2004**TOM POSEY CO.**PHONE 503-968-2828 FAX 503-670-7108
Email office@tomposeyco.com

. . manufacturers' representatives

15757 S.W. 74th AVE., SUITE 510, TIGARD, OR 97224

**To: Brigadier General Wm. Grisoli
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers****From: Ron Hiller
Posey Company****Date: June 9, 2004****Subject: Columbia River Summer Spill**


Dear General Grisoli,

My name is Ron Hiller. I live in Lake Oswego and own a business in Tigard Oregon that is dependent upon healthy runs of Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead. Our business employs five people in Oregon and one in Washington. We represent manufacturers of sport fishing tackle one being Luhr Jensen Inc. from Hood River Oregon who employs roughly a couple hundred people.

My business lives and dies on whether the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead runs are healthy enough to support a sport fishing season. That is way I am compelled to write to you today in opposition to the proposal to reduce spill for summer migrants in the Columbia. I've been in the sport fishing business for 25 years and as a result feel a bit more knowledgeable than the average Joe about the true effects of spill or lack of on the success of young Salmon survival. I know that this proposal is not based on science but purely political. When the proposal was first put forward it was suggested that an increase in harvest of suckerfish could make up for the increased mortality of smolt as a result of spill reduction. How do you really think that came across to the well informed?

Now I'm told I should feel better because the latest proposal doesn't kill as many smolt as the original. What gives them the right, and all in the name of reducing my electric bill by pennies. Forget my business that is not the kind of place I want to live in. Please support the average citizens of the Northwest in our support of abundant Salmon populations by telling BPA to spill, not kill.

Sincerely,


Ron Hiller

Cc: NSIA

553-310
JUN 16 2004

Stephan J. Wright, Administrator
Bonneville Power Administration
905 N.E. 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97208

Dear Sir,

I am writing you concerning the decrease in spills over our Dams in the Columbia system. I cannot imagine why this decrease in spill would even be considered an option. The proof is in the returns.

We get economic benefit from both the Salmon and Steelhead. We are having people from Idaho and Montana coming here to fish now that the Salmon are back. When they do come they spend their money.

Our community is trying to build a sportsman's paradise. We want people to come here and retire. Our town is trying to build for the future. The Sport industry is very valuable to rural communities like ours.

Developing and maintaining the recreational industry is another major step in restoring our environment. BPA needs to come up with a better solution than what they are proposing. At this time the only viable solution is spilling water to improve the down stream migration of fish. This needs to continue or all the work done will be in vain.

Oregonians suffer from the exportation of cheap electric power. This burden must be shared and not at the expense of our development.

PLEASE SPILL AND NOT KILL



Charlie Erickson
PO BOX 1737 Hermiston, OR 97838
Ph: 541-567-7194

553-309
JUN 16 2004

Robert Lohn, Regional Administrator
NOAA-Fisheries
525 N.E. Oregon Street
Portland, OR 97232

Brigadier General Wm. Grisoli
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
220 N.W. 8th Avenue
Portland, OR 97209

Stephan J. Wright, Administrator
Bonneville Power Administration
905 N.E. 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97208

Gentlemen,

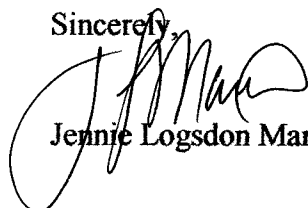
My name is Jennie Logsdon Martin. I own and operate www.ifish.net. I am concerned about the needless killing of fish. I work very hard to get people out on the water, to enjoy fishing. I also encourage people to get involved in saving our salmon. Salmon are Oregon's proud heritage, and I believe they are very important to protect for generations to come. I believe that we are seeing an increase of salmon, only due to good ocean conditions. This is no time to start putting our fish in danger!

I am in strong opposition to your proposal to reduce spill for summer migrants in the Columbia. Spill has proven over the years to be the safest and most effective way to help baby salmon migrate from their natal stream to the ocean. Years where smolts had adequate spill resulted in years of high adult returns. We should not give up what is certain—spill—for uncertain measures and promises, especially given the dismal track record of broken promises.

Summer spill reductions will impact tens of thousands of steelhead and salmon, while saving pennies on my electric bill. Our heritage species, the salmon have already paid a high enough price for hydro development in the Northwest. Surely they should not suffer further harm in order to help the BPA out of the financial mess they continue to find themselves in.

Please support the citizens of the Northwest in our support for abundant salmon populations by telling BPA to spill, not kill.

Sincerely,


Jennie Logsdon Martin

*www.ifish.net
Jennie Logsdon Martin
5131 Gamble
Tillamook, OR 97141*

553-308
JUN 16 2004

Stephan J. Wright, Administrator
Bonneville Power Administration
905 N.E. 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97208

Gentlemen,

My name is Michael McAlpine. I am a resident of Portland Oregon and an lover of the wonderful fishing opportunities currently available on the Columbia. I would say that I am a Salmon/Steelhead hugger.

I am writing to you today to in opposition to your proposal to reduce spill for summer migrants in the Columbia. Spill has proven over the years to be the safest and most effective way to help baby salmon migrate from their natal stream to the ocean. Years where smolts had adequate spill resulted in years of high adult returns. We should not give up what is certain—spill—for uncertain measures and promises, especially given the dismal track record of broken promises.

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Please support the citizens of the Northwest in our support for abundant salmon populations by telling BPA to spill, not kill.

Sincerely,


Michael McAlpine

1817 NE 54th
Portland OR
97213

ANDERSON
INVESTMENT GROUP
of Wachovia Securities

One S. W. Columbia Street
Suite 1950
Portland, OR 97258

(503) 274-2777
1-877-683-7093
(503) 274-9963 fax

553-307
JUN 16 2004

June 10, 2004

Stephan J. Wright, Administrator
Bonneville Power Administration
905 N.E. 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97208

Dear Mr. Wright:

My name is Andy Anderson. I have lived in Portland Oregon my entire life. I have a business in Portland and most of my family live and work in the region as well. Steelhead and salmon in the Columbia River and its tributaries are of vital importance to my social and cultural life and the economic life of many people in this area.

I am writing to you today to in opposition to your proposal to reduce spill for summer migrants in the Columbia. Spill has proven over the years to be the safest and most effective way to help baby salmon migrate from their natal stream to the ocean. Years where smolts had adequate spill resulted in years of high adult returns. We should not give up what is certain—spill—for uncertain measures and promises, especially given the dismal track record of broken promises.

Summer spill reductions will impact tens of thousands of steelhead and salmon, while saving pennies on my electric bill. Our heritage species, the salmon have already paid a high enough price for hydro development in the Northwest. Surely they should not suffer further harm in order to help the BPA out of the financial mess they continue to find themselves in.

Please support the citizens of the Northwest in our support for abundant salmon populations by telling BPA to spill, not kill.

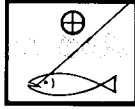
Sincerely,



Andrew C. Anderson
Senior Vice President
Investment Officer

TOM POSEY CO.

PHONE 503-968-2828 FAX 503-670-7108
Email office@tomposeyco.com



15757 S.W. 74th AVE., SUITE 510, TIGARD, OR 97224

553-206
JUN 16 2004

June 10, 2004

Stephan J. Wright, Administrator
Bonneville Power Administration
905 N.E. 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97208

Gentlemen,

My name is Randy Woolsey. I own a company in Tigard Oregon that sells fishing tackle to distributors and dealers throughout the northwest. The future of my employee's and the customers we have depend on recreational salmon fishing in the Columbia River. Our jobs and futures are threatened by the decisions your about to make.

I am writing to you today in opposition to your proposal to reduce spill for summer migrants in the Columbia. Spill has proven over the years to be the safest and most effective way to help baby salmon migrate from their natal stream to the ocean. Years where smolts had adequate spill resulted in years of high adult returns. We should not give up what is certain—spill--for uncertain measures and promises, especially given the dismal track record of broken promises.

Summer spill reductions will impact tens of thousands of steelhead and salmon, while saving pennies on my electric bill. Our heritage species, the salmon have already paid a high enough price for hydro development in the Northwest. Surely they should not suffer further harm in order to help the BPA out of the financial mess they continue to find themselves in.

Please support the citizens of the Northwest in our support for abundant salmon populations by telling BPA to spill, not kill.

Sincerely,

Randy Woolsey
Tom Posey Co.

ROBERT D. VARITZ, P.C.

ATTORNEY AT LAW

Robert D. Varitz*

*Registered to Practice
before the U.S. Patent
and Trademark Office

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PORTLAND, OREGON 97214
U.S.A.

Telephone: (503) 720-1983
Facsimile: (503) 233-7730
EMail: robert@varitz.com
<http://www.varitz.com>

553-305
JUN 16 2004
PATENTS,
TRADEMARKS,
COPYRIGHTS,
AND TECHNOLOGY
LICENSING

June 10, 2004

Stephan J. Wright, Administrator
Bonneville Power Administration
905 N.E. 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97208

Dear Mr. Wright,

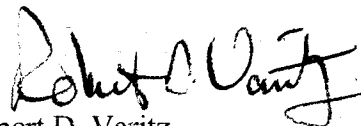
I am a patent and trademark attorney, and an avid sport fisherman.

I am writing to you today to in opposition to BPA's proposal to reduce spill for summer migrating salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River. Water spill to benefit migrating fish has clearly been proven to be the most effective and safe way to help baby salmon migrate from their natal stream to the ocean. Records establish that years where smolts have had adequate spill, the subsequent returning adult population has significantly higher numbers. You should not reduce a certain benefit for fish, *i.e.*, spilling water, for unproven measures and speculative results, particularly because of the failure of similar past attempt to mitigate fish kill.

Summer spill reductions will impact tens of thousands of steelhead and salmon, while saving pennies on my electric bill. Our heritage species, the salmon have already paid a high enough price for hydro development in the Northwest. Surely they should not suffer further harm in order to help the BPA out of the financial mess they continue to find themselves in.

Please support the citizens of the Northwest in our support for abundant salmon populations by spilling water from BPA dams to assist migrating fish.

Very truly yours,



Robert D. Varitz

RDV:bd

559-303

JUN 16 2004

BPA, Communications - DM-7
PO Box 14428
Portland, OR 97293-4428

Sir:

I believe we must protect our
life style, jobs, and fish. To do
this I urge you to implement the
amended summer spill proposal.

I thank you for this common
sense approach.

James Taylor
294 SR 105
Raymond, WA 98577

James Taylor

June 16, 2004

553-302
JUN 16 2004

BPA, Communications-DM-7
P.O. Box 14428
Portland, OR 97293-4428

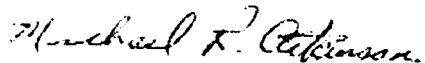
Dear Sirs:

I am writing to you to express my support for the recently amended proposal to adjust summer spill over four Columbia and Snake River dams. This proposal may not go far enough but it is certainly a step in the right direction of saving more fish for less money thus establishing cost-effectiveness as an objective in determining salmon recovery measures. Part of BPA's rate increase in the last few years is due to fish and wildlife costs and with the Northwest's faltering economy, all that can be done to contain costs while adhering to sound science to protect fish runs is very important.

I understand that this summer spill proposal is meant for only one year. I believe that it is critical that this common sense proposal be expanded and reduce spills further in 2005 and beyond.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Michael R. Atkinson
83575 Territorial Highway
Eugene, OR 97405

SS3-798
JUN 16 2004

Douglas S. and Audrey G. Harper

Residence:

945 South Sand Dune Avenue SW
Ocean Shores WA 98569
360-289-9718

E-MAIL: DOUGLAS.S.HARPER@worldnet.att.net

Mailing address:

3912 South 250th Street
Kent WA 98032-4141
253-839-7963

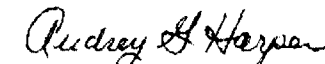
FAX: 253-839-6507

June 15, 2004

BPA, Communications - DM-7
P. O. Box 14428
Portland OR 97293-4428
FAX 503-230-3285

Gentlemen:

We support the amended proposal to adjust summer spills over the 4 Columbia and Snake River dams. We need to balance the need to save the fish, with the need to maintain our economic competitiveness!


Douglas S. Harper
Audrey G. Harper

cc: Governor Gary Locke, Office of the Governor of Washington State
FAX 360-753-4110

SS3-249
JUN 14 2004

Kuehn, Ginny - DM-7

From: tysonjerald@hotmail.com
Sent: Sunday, June 13, 2004 4:04 PM
To: BPA Public Involvement
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

Tyson Jerald
Columbia Research
tysonjerald@hotmail.com
(509) 679-0384
211 San Remo Ln
Chelan Wa 98816

Please review attached files regarding comments on Amended Summer Spill Proposal. These attachments have also been submitted via fax.

This comment includes an attachment!

JUN 14 2004

Bonneville Power Administration
Box 14428
Portland OR 97923-4428

Dear Sir or Madam:

I have reviewed your amended modified summer spill regime and all appendices. I would like to specifically comment on the proposed Northern Pikeminnow Management Program.

I have worked as a Biologist directly with Northern Pikeminnow Research and Predator Control Programs for the last 12 years. My work has been focused in the mid-Columbia region with local PUD's and focused on Pikeminnow population projects in the immediate tailrace of mid-Columbia hydroelectric projects (Priest Rapids Dam, Wanapum Dam, and Wells Dam).

During the analysis of our research projects we have determined that predation by these fish on migrating juvenile salmonids can be extremely high in the immediate tailrace Boat Restricted Zones (BRZ's) of the hydroelectric projects. We have implemented an effective site specific fishery in the BRZ's that has effectively reduced predation in these areas.

The site specific fishery in the BRZ's has 3 main benefits over our reservoir fisheries.

1. Data from our length/weight comparisons shows that average length/weight of fish captured in the BRZ's was up to 28% greater than average length/weight of fish captured in the reservoirs (see attached Table #1 BRZ vs. Reservoir length comparisons). It is assumed that these larger fish play a greater role in predation activities than smaller fish that are captured throughout the reservoir.
2. Our stomach content analysis data indicates that predation rates are much higher in the immediate tailrace BRZ's than in reservoir areas. We have observed a 16% higher incidence of smolt within pikeminnow stomachs in tailrace areas when compared to reservoir areas (see attached Table # Salmonids recorded during stomach analysis (BRZ vs. Reservoir).
3. As juvenile salmonids pass through turbines and spillways they may become disoriented or stunned. At that point within the migration the fish are particularly susceptible to predation. Large pikeminnow congregate in the turbine outwash and spill areas to intensively feed on the disoriented prey. This may be the point at which outbound smolt are the most vulnerable to predation by northern

pikeminnow. The removal of these large, highly piscivorous pikeminnow from the BRZ's has played a major role in our effort to reduce pikeminnow predation in the mid-Columbia.

Although the 2004 amended spill regime plan does cover predation in the reservoir with the sport reward program, there are no proposals to address the problem of predation within the immediate tailrace BRZ's of the lower Columbia River hydroelectric projects. Anglers from the sport reward program are prohibited from fishing within the BRZ areas and therefore no pikeminnow predator control will take place in the BRZ's under the current proposal.

Conducting pikeminnow removal activities within the tailrace BRZ's of the lower Columbia projects is crucial in increasing survival rates of juvenile salmonids. Especially in the event that BPA implements the 2004 amended modified summer spill regime. If fish are passed through the turbines instead of over the spill gates it is probable that a higher degree of disorientation will result. Therefore predation rates by pikeminnow directly below the turbine outwash areas will increase. An effective pikeminnow predator control program in the immediate tailrace BRZ's would dramatically reduce predation in these areas.

By conducting a BRZ fishery Bonneville Power Administration could obtain benefits in several ways consisting of:

1. Initiating a BRZ fishery in 2004 would help mitigate for the effects of the proposed 2004 amended modified summer spill regime.
2. A BRZ fishery implemented in 2004 could provide data and catch statistics for future fisheries that would provide mitigation for future reduced spill regimes. Ultimately, if the BRZ fishery was implemented BPA could use the fishery to mitigate for reduced spill plans in the future.
3. Conducting the 2004 fishery would help allow BPA justify passing juvenile salmonids through the turbines. By initiating the fishery, salmonids passing through the turbines would now be protected from predators in the direct turbine outwash allowing for the fish safe passage through the tailrace area.
4. From a financial aspect, a tailrace BRZ fishery is a cost effective option (relative to other mitigation measures) and could be implemented with low overhead..

I have tried to make my comments short and as to the point as possible regarding the amended modified summer spill regime plan. It is my belief that initiating a pikeminnow predator control program in the tailrace BRZ's of the lower Columbia hydroelectric projects would benefit both our anadromous fish resources as well as hydroelectric interests. Please feel free to contact me via cell phone at (509) 679-0384 should you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Tyson Jerald

**Table #1
BRZ vs Reservoir Length Comparisons**

Year	Location	Average Male Length (mm)	Average Female Length
2003	Wanapum Dam Tailrace BRZ	366	459
2003	Wanapum Reservoir	282	332
2003	Wells Dam Tailrace BRZ	337	439
2003	Wells Reservoir	279	338

In 2003 Wanapum Dam Tailrace BRZ Male Pikeminnow were 85 mm larger than Wanapum Reservoir Fish (23% Larger)

In 2003 Wanapum Dam Tailrace BRZ Female Pikeminnow were 127 mm larger than Wanapum Reservoir fish (28% Larger)

In 2003 Wells Dam Tailrace BRZ Male Pikeminnow were 58 mm larger than Wells Reservoir fish (17% Larger)

In 2003 Wells Dam Tailrace BRZ Female Pikeminnow were 101 mm larger than Wells Reservoir fish (24% Larger)

**Table 2
Salmonids recorded during stomach analysis (BRZ vs. Reservoir)**

Year	Location	% Smolt encountered during stomach content analysis
2003	Wanapum Dam Tailrace BRZ	21%
2003	Wanapum Reservoir	5%
2003	Wells Dam Tailrace BRZ	17%
2003	Wells Reservoir	3%

During pikeminnow stomach content analysis in 2003 salmonids were identified 16% more often in the Wells BRZ than in Wells Reservoir

During stomach content analysis in 2003 salmonids were identified 14% more often in the Wells BRZ than in Wells Reservoir.

S.53-196

JUN 14 2004

Kuehn, Ginny - DM-7

From: sirquaz@gte.net
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2004 11:23 AM
To: BPA Public Involvement
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

Deanna Emig

sirquaz@gte.net

2410 NW Rolling Green Dr. #34
Corvallis OR 97330
Please read attached letter.

This comment includes an attachment!

Gentlemen:

JUN 14 2004

My name is Deanna Emig. I am a Marine Deputy Sheriff with Linn County. I am also an avid fisherwoman and native Oregonian. Most importantly, I am a steward and as a steward it is my job to protect this invaluable resource any way that I can. Salmon are important to me because they are our heritage. Our great state was built on the salmon industry and they continue to be of economic importance for thousands of Oregonians who depend upon these fish to support themselves and their families.

I am writing to you today in opposition to your proposal to reduce spill for summer migrants in the Columbia. Spill has proven over and over again to be the safest and most effective way to help baby salmon migrate down the Columbia. In the 1930s and 1940s, the citizens of the Northwest were assured that the salmon runs would receive mitigation efforts that would be necessary to protect the resource. Spill is one of those mitigation efforts. Summer spill reductions will impact tens of thousands of salmon and steelhead not just this year but for several years to come. Salmon have already paid a high enough price for our actions and they shouldn't have to endure it any longer. It is time to step up to the plate and make good on those promises that have so far remained broken.

Sincerely,

Deanna M. Emig

Flying Pencil Publications



33126 SW Callahan Road, Scappoose, Oregon 97056
Telephone 503-543-7171 FAX 503-543-7172
maddysheehan@centurytel.net

553-067
JUN 14 2004

June 11, 2004

Robert Lohn, Regional Administrator
NOAA-Fisheries
525 N.E. Oregon Street
Portland, OR 97232

Brigadier General Wm. Grisoli
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
220 N.W. 8th Avenue
Portland, OR 97209

Stephan J. Wright, Administrator
Bonneville Power Administration
905 N.E. 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97208

Gentlemen:

I am the author of the book *Fishing in Oregon*, a guide to sportfishing waters, now in its ninth edition. More than a quarter-million anglers have relied on me to describe Oregon's sportfishing opportunities, and to help them understand the changes that have taken place in our fisheries over the years. I know how important fishing is to my readers—a solace in times of trouble, a supplement in times of economic need. As for myself, Oregon's fish have provided my livelihood for twenty years.

In appreciation of the role our fishery resources have played in my life, I began working on fish restoration locally, despite my reservations that anything we do in our little watershed on the lower Columbia could possibly make up for the damage wrought by management of the river. Nevertheless, I resolved to do my part to implement the Oregon Plan. I helped form a watershed council, volunteering my time and encouraging others to volunteer theirs to assess local habitat needs and work for improvement. We have removed fish-blocking culverts, installed fish ladders, restored riparian areas, testified at hearings, and educated citizens—including county and local governments—about what fish need.

All along I have been acutely aware that our efforts were just "a drop in the bucket." But I also appreciated that the primary benefit of our work might actually be educating the citizenry about fish and their needs. As a result of my work and that of others like

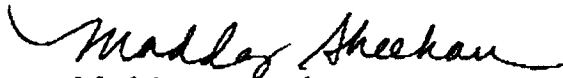
me, I do believe the citizens of Oregon are beginning to get the message—that fish need water, cool clean water. I'd like to suggest to you that us folks may now be too well informed to be fooled by your latest proposal—to substitute "mitigation" for the water your own scientific advisors have told you is essential to sustaining healthy runs of salmon and steelhead.

I am writing to you today to express my opposition to your proposal to reduce spill for summer migrating fish in the Columbia. The mitigations you have proposed cannot possibly offset the loss due to warm water and slow current. It is time for you to do the right thing—for fish and for the people of the Northwest who have told you loud and clear that we care about our fisheries. The fate of Enron suggests that the most recent era of unbridled greed may be coming to an end, and so should your support of it. It's time for you to recognize your obligation to the future and to respond appropriately.

It's a smaller world, and we are beginning to understand how it works—and who's to blame when it doesn't. We are not as easily fooled by mere gestures as we once were—nor are we lulled by the present abundance of salmon and steelhead. We know it's the ocean's natural cycle and not anything you (or we) have done that has brought this brief hiatus in the downward spiral of the resource we have treasured.

I'm proud to join other fishing businesses and fishing families in urging you to listen to the scientists, and to support salmon and steelhead this summer by spilling, not killing.

Sincerely yours,



Madelynne Sheehan

Author of *Fishing in Oregon*

**OMIC****PRESIDENT**Jim Denham
Wah Chang**SECRETARY/TREASURER**Dale MacHaffie
ESCO**MEMBER COMPANIES**

The Boeing Company

ESCO Corporation

Gunderson, Inc.

Northwest Aluminum Co.

Northwest Pipe Company

Oregon Steel Mills, Inc.

Schnitzer Steel Products

Wah Chang

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mark W. Nelson

OREGON METALS INDUSTRY COUNCILP.O. Box 12945
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(503) 363-7084 • (503) 371-2471 Fax
pacounsel@aol.com
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JUN 16 2004

June 11, 2004

D. Robert Lohn
Northwest Regional Administrator
NOAA-Fisheries
7600 Sand Point Way, NE
Seattle, WA 98115-0070

RE: Amended Summer Spill Proposal

Dear Mr. Lohn:

I am writing on behalf of the member companies of the Oregon Metals Industry Council (OMIC) to comment on the amended summer spill proposal that is before you. We have worked very closely with the Coalition for Smart Salmon Recovery on this important issue.

The new proposal is a step in the right direction, and OMIC supports its adoption and implementation. We do not, however, believe that the proposal goes far enough.

The most positive elements of the amended proposal from our perspective are that this approach will save more fish for less money and that it incorporates a cost-effectiveness standard into the determination process for salmon recovery methods.

The weakness of the proposal is that it simply still contains too much waste. We frankly feel that there is sound scientific data that leads to the conclusion that the summer spill should be entirely eliminated. If this were to be done in the future, the economies of the affected states would benefit from the resulting impact on energy rates. We will look forward to continuing this discussion with you and the other decision makers and stakeholders in the future.

Thank you for considering OMIC's position on this issue.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Nelson
Executive DirectorCc: Brigadier General William T. Grisoli
Steven J. Wright
Governor Ted Kulongoski

**OMIC****PRESIDENT**

Jim Denham
Wah Chang

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Dale MacHaffie
ESCO

MEMBER COMPANIES

The Boeing Company

ESCO Corporation

Gunderson, Inc.

Northwest Aluminum Co.

Northwest Pipe Company

Oregon Steel Mills, Inc.

Schnitzer Steel Products

Wah Chang

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mark W. Nelson

OREGON METALS INDUSTRY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 12945
Salem, OR 97309
(503) 363-7084 • (503) 371-2471 Fax
pacounsel@aol.com
www.oregonmetalsindustryCouncil.org

553-065
JUN 14 2004

June 11, 2004

Brigadier General William T. Grisoli
Commander and Division Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 2870
Portland, OR 97208-2870

RE: Amended Summer Spill Proposal

Dear Brigadier General Grisoli:

I am writing on behalf of the member companies of the Oregon Metals Industry Council (OMIC) to comment on the amended summer spill proposal that is before you. We have worked very closely with the Coalition for Smart Salmon Recovery on this important issue.

The new proposal is a step in the right direction, and OMIC supports its adoption and implementation. We do not, however, believe that the proposal goes far enough.

The most positive elements of the amended proposal from our perspective are that this approach will save more fish for less money and that it incorporates a cost-effectiveness standard into the determination process for salmon recovery methods.

The weakness of the proposal is that it simply still contains too much waste. We frankly feel that there is sound scientific data that leads to the conclusion that the summer spill should be entirely eliminated. If this were to be done in the future, the economies of the affected states would benefit from the resulting impact on energy rates. We will look forward to continuing this discussion with you and the other decision makers and stakeholders in the future.

Thank you for considering OMIC's position on this issue.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Nelson
Executive Director

Cc: D. Robert Lohn
Steven J. Wright
Governor Ted Kulongoski



OMIC



OREGON METALS INDUSTRY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 12945
Salem, OR 97309
(503) 363-7084 • (503) 371-2471 Fax
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553-064
JUN 14 2004

June 11, 2004

Steven J. Wright
Administrator
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, OR 97208-3621

RE: Amended Summer Spill Proposal

Dear Mr. Wright:

I am writing on behalf of the member companies of the Oregon Metals Industry Council (OMIC) to comment on the amended summer spill proposal that is before you. We have worked very closely with the Coalition for Smart Salmon Recovery on this important issue.

The new proposal is a step in the right direction, and OMIC supports its adoption and implementation. We do not, however, believe that the proposal goes far enough.

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Thank you for considering OMIC's position on this issue.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Nelson
Executive Director

Cc: Brigadier General William T. Grisoli
D. Robert Lohn
Governor Ted Kulongoski

PRESIDENT

Jim Denham
Wah Chang

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Dale MacHaffie
ESCO

MEMBER COMPANIES

The Boeing Company

ESCO Corporation

Gunderson, Inc.

Northwest Aluminum Co.

Northwest Pipe Company

Oregon Steel Mills, Inc.

Schnitzer Steel Products

Wah Chang

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mark W. Nelson

Bill Linden

From: Public Affairs Counsel [pacounsel@pacounsel.org]
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2004 11:26 AM
To: Bill Linden
Subject: FW: Summer Spill Talking Points

From: Shauna McReynolds [mailto:shauna@pnucc.org]
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2004 11:21 AM
To: Vanselow, Glenn; Tracy Yount; Stallard, Christine; Speer, Jack; Scott, Shane; Saven, John; Rohr, Dennis; Ringwood, Irene; Purdom, Roger; Price, Karen; Prescott, John; Piedmont, Joe; Peterson, Denise; O'Connor, Tom; Nelson, Mark; Munro, Andrew; McGrath, Joe; Marshall, Steven; Love, Matthew; Litchfield, Jim; Klein, Steve; Kanner, Marty; Jones, Linda; Henry, Libby; Hayes, Robert; Hardy, Randall; Grow, Luanna; Freeman, Robin; Flicker, Sandra; Evans, Jack; Eldrige, Steve; Early, Michael; Driggs, Sarah; Culbertson, Tim; Corwin, Scott; Case, Nichole; Carr, Geoff; Canon, Kenneth; Barbour, Gary; Banister, Kevin; Aldrich, Al; Agnew, Rick; Bob Fondren; Dick Helgeson; Johnson, Steve
Cc: Ryckman, Jean; Debbie Harris; Jenkins, Ed; Anne Fennessy; Paul Bergman
Subject: Summer Spill Talking Points

Hi All -

It is time to submit written comments on the federal agencies' amended spill proposal. They will be accepting comments through this Monday, June 14th, see below. There is also the Regional Executives meeting on Monday the 14th from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Portland Airport Embassy Suites. There will be an opportunity to provide brief oral comments. Even though we have a revised proposal, it's not a done deal. Those opposed to summer spill reductions will no doubt be on their soapboxes with their doom and gloom message, making it even more important that we make it known we support the proposal. It is a step in the right direction - It provides more fish for less money!

The main audience for our comments remains the same, the federal executives; Steve Wright, General Grisoli and Bob Lohn and the four Northwest governors. We need all of them on board to make this a reality. It would be helpful if you would send a copy of your comments to your governor as well. Attached are talking points for you to consider as you develop your comments. Thanks!

From the www.salmonrecovery.gov website:

Comments on the Amended Summer Spill Proposal will be accepted through June 14, 2004. When sending in comments, please refer to the following title: Amended Summer Spill Proposal. You can mail your comments to BPA, Communications - DM-7, P.O. Box 14428, Portland, OR 97293-4428; fax them to 503-230-3285; or submit your comment on-line at: www.bpa.gov/comment.



Coalition for

Smart Salmon Recovery

Federal Agencies' Amended Summer Spill Proposal Talking Points

- This proposal is a step in the right direction and while it doesn't go far enough, we support it. It will put more salmon back in the river and more people back to work. This proposal:
 - Meets the objective of saving more fish for less money.
 - Establishes cost-effectiveness as a key objective in determining salmon recovery measures.
 - Recognizes that there are better ways to protect summer migrants than unnecessarily wasting water that could be used to produce electricity.
- The federal agencies should be applauded for finding ways to provide relief to the region's ratepayers at no harm to fish. BPA's power rates have risen by nearly 50% since 2001, contributing to the struggles of the Northwest economy.
- This proposal still contains too much waste and is a significant missed opportunity to provide an additional boost to the Northwest economy. There is scientific support for eliminating summer spill entirely. We are urging the federal agencies to expand this program in the coming years. The Northwest citizens who finance these fish programs rightfully expect accountability and results.
- The proposal has been subject to extensive scientific scrutiny. The federal agencies are relying on NOAA Fisheries' analysis, which was designed to err on the side of the fish. The analysis was very conservative in estimating the benefits of the new programs, and assumed maximum impacts from reducing spill.
- There is no credible scientific proof that the lack of spill in 2001 relates to the lower than expected adult returns observed this spring. Data shows that one and two year-old fish from 2001 returned in record numbers. Ocean conditions are likely playing a key role in this year's adult returns, which are still significantly higher than the ten-year average.

Comments on the Amended Summer Spill Proposal will be accepted through June 14, 2004. When sending in comments, please refer to the following title: Amended Summer Spill Proposal. You can mail your comments to BPA, Communications - DM-7, P.O. Box 14428, Portland, OR 97293-4428; fax them to 503-230-3285; or submit your comment on-line at: www.bpa.gov/comment.

Bonneville Power Administration

<http://www.bpa.gov>

BPA Home ▾ BPA News ▾ 2004 ▾ **Amended summer spill proposal to help**

PR 55 04

**BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

TUESDAY, June 8, 2004

Contact: Mike Hansen | , BPA (503)-230-5131
Homer Perkins, Corps (503) 808-3710

Amended summer spill proposal to help

Northwest rate payers and maintain fish benefits

PORTLAND, Ore. - After several weeks of reviewing public input and extensive negotiations with regional stakeholders, the Bonneville Power Administration and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers today released an amended proposal to adjust summer spill at four Columbia and Snake river dams. The agencies seek comments from regional stakeholders to help determine whether to proceed with the plan.

The amended proposal, which includes a new biological impact analysis and additional actions (offsets) designed to fully mitigate the impact on fish, maintains biological protections for salmon and steelhead while reducing overall costs. The proposal calls for more summer spill than an earlier alternative released on March 30.

"We believe this proposal would result in the survival of at least as many fish as the full summer spill program while reducing costs to Northwest electric ratepayers by approximately \$20 million to \$31 million," said BPA Administrator Steve Wright. "If implemented, this action would reduce BPA wholesale power rates by 1 to 2 percent below what they would otherwise be."

Under the current planning regime, summer spill continues through August 31. Under the amended proposal, summer spill would be reduced during August after most of the migration has occurred and few juvenile salmon are passing the dams. The amended proposal calls for ending current spill operations at Ice Harbor and John Day dams on August 22 and at Bonneville and The Dalles dams at the end of July.

The proposal being released today reduces spill by about 39 percent compared to the March 30 proposed reduction of 55 percent. The current proposal is expected to save Northwest ratepayers \$20 million to \$31 million this year. The amount of power generated by this change is approximately 1,000 average megawatts for the month of August, nearly enough power to run a city the size of Seattle for 30 days.

Instead of a three-year pilot program called for in the initial proposal, the amended proposal now calls for a one-year reduction in 2004 summer spill. Similar spill operations will be sought for 2005 and 2006, but the associated biological offsets being considered will require additional development and negotiation.

The proposal includes elements to provide biologically sound mitigation for salmon and steelhead listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and to maintain protection for nonlisted juvenile salmon. The 2004 proposed biological offsets for ESA-listed fish provide for enhancing flow in the lower Snake River via an arrangement with Idaho Power Company that calls for an additional 100,000 acre-feet of water to be released from Brownlee reservoir from July 7 to 28 above operations previously planned at Brownlee this year.

The 2004 proposed biological offsets for non-ESA listed natural and hatchery fish include enhancing the northern pikeminnow predator control program, limiting flow fluctuations at Hanford Reach to provide better rearing conditions for fall chinook and funding additional actions to rear 200,000 hatchery sub-yearling fall chinook to the yearling stage. Also, funding would be made available for habitat and hatchery actions that will provide benefits in future years to populations affected in 2004.

The total cost of the offsets for both listed and nonlisted fish is estimated to be approximately \$10 million. The Corps and BPA are seeking input from tribes and states on what actions are highest priority and how to implement them.

"We have thoroughly considered the input received on our March 30 initial proposal and believe this modified plan is a reasonable and sound means to meet biological objectives more efficiently," said Brigadier General William Grisoli, commander, Northwestern Division, Corps of Engineers. "We now look forward to discussion with tribes, states and other regional stakeholders and getting feedback on the merits of the proposal."

The amended summer spill proposal will be discussed by federal agencies, state and local governments, tribes and other regional stakeholders at a public meeting scheduled for June 14 in Portland, Ore. The public meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites Portland Airport, 7900 NE 82nd Ave., Portland, Ore., from 1 to 4 p.m. After the regional discussion, a final proposal will be sent to NOAA Fisheries approximately a week later. After the proposal is finalized, NOAA Fisheries will respond with a findings letter, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will then issue a final decision near the end of June.

Spill is one component of a large program of actions under a federal Columbia Basin fish recovery strategy. Water is spilled as one of several means to help juvenile fish safely migrate past the dams. Water that might otherwise go through turbines to produce power is routed over the spillways instead, carrying fish with it. Juvenile fish also pass through bypass systems built into the dams, and many are collected upstream from the dams where spill would be reduced and then barged downriver to below Bonneville Dam under a federal juvenile fish transport program.

The 1,000 megawatts of additional hydropower generation that would result from the reduced spill in August would displace other generation, most likely fossil-fuel-fired generation within the West Coast electric power supply system, thereby reducing air pollutants. BPA estimates that this displacement will result in approximately 18 tons less sulfur dioxide emissions and 424 tons less nitrogen oxide emissions.

For additional information on the public process and the summer spill proposal, please go to the following Web site: www.salmonrecovery.gov/implementation.shtml. You will also find the public comments on the proposal as well as the governors' and the congressional delegation's letters.

Submitted for distribution on *06-08-2004 at 12:32 PM*

Bonneville Power Administration, 905 N.E. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232
Mailing Address: Media Relations - DM7, P.O. Box 3621, Portland, OR 97208-3621
Phone: (503)230-5131 **FAX:** (503) 230-5884 **Web Site:** <http://www.bpa.gov>

If you believe information on this site is missing or in error, please [Submit that comment here](#).

NOTICE: This site is owned and operated by the Bonneville Power Administration, United States Department of Energy. Use of this system is monitored by Security personnel. Anyone using this system consents to **MONITORING** of this use by system or security personnel.

Page last modified on Thursday April 29, 2004.

Bill Linden

From: Public Affairs Counsel [pacounsel@pacounsel.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 08, 2004 12:26 PM
To: Bill Linden
Subject: FW: Summer Spill Proposal

From: Shauna McReynolds [mailto:shauna@pnucc.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 08, 2004 12:01 PM
To: Gabriel, Kay; Vanselow, Glenn; Tracy Yount; Stallard, Christine; Speer, Jack; Scott, Shane; Saven, John; Rohr, Dennis; Ringwood, Irene; Purdom, Roger; Price, Karen; Piedmont, Joe; Peterson, Denise; O'Connor, Tom; Nelson, Mark; Munro, Andrew; McGrath, Joe; Marshall, Steven; Love, Matthew; Litchfield, Jim; Klein, Steve; Kanner, Marty; Jones, Linda; Henry, Libby; Hayes, Robert; Hardy, Randall; Grow, Luanna; Freeman, Robin; Flicker, Sandra; Evans, Jack; Eldrige, Steve; Early, Michael; Driggs, Sarah; Culbertson, Tim; Corwin, Scott; Case, Nichole; Carr, Geoff; Canon, Kenneth; Barbour, Gary; Banister, Kevin; Aldrich, Al; Agnew, Rick; Prescott, John; Wilcox, Brett; Stromberg, Jim; Sanders, Jim; Nadal, Joe; Miller, Jim; Miller, Gerald; Lobdell, Jim; Harris, Kimberly; Corcoran, Pat; Brattebo, Scott; Berggren, Randy; Hoff, David; Ashby, Pat; Hansen, Ed; Lynch, Kevin; Robinson, Dennis; Stauffer, Mark; Sugden, Ken; Williams, Lyn
Cc: Dick Helgeson; Johnson, Steve; Corwin, Scott; Banister, Kevin; Scott, Shane; Litchfield, Jim; Corum, Lee; Paul Bergman; Adams, Dick
Subject: Summer Spill Proposal

Hi All - It is finally here. Go to the following link <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/BPAnews/2004/NewsRelease.cfm?ReleaseNo=500> for BPA's press release regarding the amended spill proposal. I will be sending the Coalition for Smart Salmon Recovery press release (with talking points) to you shortly.

In general, our response is that the proposal could have gone much further. However, It is going in the right direction in looking at cost-effectiveness and the savings that we do get will be a benefit to the region. They were very cautious in their analysis and very much erred on the side of fish. Even with their conservative estimates fish benefit substantially from this proposal.

In the meantime, note that the public meeting to share our oral comments with the Regional Executives is scheduled for Monday June 14th from 1-4 p.m. in PORTLAND, Oregon at the Portland Airport Embassy Suites.

Shauna



Coalition for
Smart Salmon Recovery

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 8, 2004

Contact:
Shauna McReynolds 503-294-1255
www.smartsalmonrecovery.org

News Release

Coalition for Smart Salmon Recovery says today's spill proposal "doesn't go far enough"

(PORTLAND) "This proposal doesn't go far enough. The Administration and federal agencies missed another opportunity, based on good science, to help salmon and help our economy," said Shauna McReynolds, spokesperson for the Coalition for Smart Salmon Recovery.

The federal government announced today its modified proposal for "summer spill" reductions on four dams on the Snake and lower Columbia rivers.

"While we are disappointed, this is a step in the right direction and should be the start of a complete review of all our spending decisions regarding salmon recovery," said McReynolds. "Our coalition intends to stay focused on cost-effective salmon efforts."

Currently, BPA spends \$77 million on summer spill during July and August to save 24 threatened Fall Chinook. That works out to more than \$3 million per fish.

The Coalition has urged federal agencies to eliminate summer spill in both July and August, and implement two proven alternatives that would save up to 50,000 more fish annually and \$75 million a year.

The Coalition for Smart Salmon Recovery is a partnership of farmers, employers, utility customers, and public power providers in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana.

Page 1 of 2



Coalition for
Smart Salmon Recovery

Background

- There is no credible scientific proof that the lack of spill in 2001 relates to the lower than expected adult returns observed this year. State harvest managers downgraded the spring run and are at a loss to explain what happened.
- The proposal is a step in the right direction because it establishes cost-effectiveness as an objective in determining salmon recovery measures.
- The federal agencies are relying on NOAA's analysis, which has been conservative in estimating the benefits to salmon and has maximized the impacts of spill.
- The proposal to reduce spill is partially in response to calls from regional elected officials to find more cost-effective ways to recover salmon.
- This proposal does not go far enough. It still contains too much waste and missed opportunity to provide an additional boost to the Northwest economy.

Page 2 of 2

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, June 08, 2004 Office:

CONTACT: Jessica Gleason
202-225-5816
After-Hours: 202-225-4466

Hastings Calls Spill Proposal "Weak Tea", Says New BiOp Needed

Congressman Cites BPA: Summer Spill May Cost NW \$88 Million in 2004

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Doc Hastings made the following statement on the amended spill proposal issued today by the Army Corps, BPA and NOAA Fisheries. Hastings' district includes three of the four dams affected by summer spill (Ice Harbor Dam, John Day Dam, and the Dalles Dam) and stretches nearly to the fourth (Bonneville Dam).

"This is very weak tea. It provides some relief to our region, but at the end of the day Northwest residents are still left footing the bill of a million dollars or more per fish.

Science, the Northwest's economy and common sense demand a complete end to summer spill, not just meager modifications.

Our economy will benefit by \$20-31 million in lower power rates from this proposal. However, it's impossible to justify a mandate that, in an average year, costs Northwest families and job-creating businesses \$77 million in lost power for the benefit of 24 endangered fish.

Under today's proposal, BPA calculates that summer spill that would continue unchanged in 2004 would cost between \$66 million to \$88 million. That's \$88 million that could go to lowering power rates in the Northwest.

Blame lies at the feet of the BiOp's overly-prescriptive list of 199 federal mandates. Summer spill is Exhibit A in why the current BiOp needs to be replaced.

The BiOp's summer spill mandate requires the region to pay millions for each endangered fish protected. Today's proposal would continue this policy in July, and the changes proposed for August still amount to a million dollars or more for each endangered fish.

Clearly, a great deal more needs to be done to stop the costly, wasteful summer spill mandate - and to write a new BiOp that focuses on flexibility, results and the latest science."

*Today's proposal calculates the additional power generated in 2004 will equal \$33-44 million. After offsets, the benefit to the region is \$20-31 million. Using the same analysis, the cost of summer spill that will continue under the plan is \$66-88 million. That means with no change at all to the BiOp, as some are proposing, that the cost in 2004 would be \$99-132 million based on current market prices and runoff forecasts. In an average year, BiOp spill in July and August costs \$77 million.



Coalition for Smart Salmon Recovery

Coalition Home

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- > [Power Generation](#)
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About the Coalition

The Coalition for Smart Salmon Recovery is a partnership of agriculture - employers, utility customers, and businesses. The partnership was formed to improve salmon restoration efforts in the Pacific Northwest. The Coalition believes that limited resources require salmon recovery efforts to be cost effective, and that responsible salmon recovery policies will result in increased salmon runs *and* increased economic opportunity for the region. For a list of Coalition Members, [click here](#).

The Coalition will serve as a communications hub, and provide a centralized resource for information, research and opinion on responsible river operation and salmon recovery efforts. Content will demonstrate that there are smarter ways to realize positive salmon outcomes in a cost effective way.

The Coalition will act as a voice for regional citizens in appropriate and responsible river operations management.

The first issue being addressed by the Coalition is the need to eliminate "summer spill".

"Summer spill" is the practice of flushing juvenile salmon through a spillway in Columbia and Snake River dams -- to prevent the fish from going through the dams' turbines. Because spill diverts water that could have been used to produce electricity, this practice is extraordinarily costly. Moreover, the survival rate for salmon that are spilled can be similar to the survival rate of fish that travel via turbine passage. Recent studies by the Bonneville Power Administration, NOAA Fisheries and the Army Corps of Engineers have indicated that "summer spill" benefits only 24 listed fish, provides marginal benefits to healthy runs of non-threatened fish, and has an average annual cost to ratepayers of almost \$80 million.

These same federal agencies have outlined alternatives to 'summer spill' that would increase adult salmon returns by 50,000 – 60,000 fish at a cost of approximately \$1-2 million.

Please consider joining this diverse coalition to help support sensible salmon recovery. Your participation with the Coalition for Smart Salmon Recovery shows your support for the common-sense solutions that will keep the Northwest vital and competitive into the future.



Coalition for

Smart Salmon Recovery

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The Facts About Summer Spill

What is spill?

Spill began in the mid-1990s with the intent to help juvenile salmon migrate to the ocean by sending them through an opening in the dam rather than through the dam's turbines. But while the name "summer spill" sounds benign, the experience is not. Operators open an underwater "gate" in the dam, pulling fish 30 to 50 feet down through the opening, and propelling them into the turbulent water another 20 to 50 feet below. This experience can cause fish to suffer from gas bubble disease, similar to "the bends," and often leaves them disoriented and injured, making them vulnerable to predators. "Summer spill" occurs during July and August at Ice Harbor dam on the Snake River; and John Day, The Dalles and Bonneville dams on the Lower Columbia River.

How many fish does it help?

Not many, because 90% of the juvenile chinook are barged around the dams, leaving very few in the river to benefit. One ESA protected stock, Snake River fall chinook, migrates during this time, but these fish actually receive very little protection from summer spill as they, too, are safely transported downstream. What does spill cost? Because "summer spill" redirects water that would otherwise be used to produce electricity, it is the most expensive mitigation method used by federal river managers. Recent studies confirm that "summer spill" is expected to cost ratepayers about \$77 million annually, while saving only 24 adult endangered fall chinook salmon. It's the most expensive single fish passage strategy. Spill also benefits 19,000 non-listed fish (5% of last year's 384,000 returning adults). Those non-listed fish, which are commercially harvested, are returning in record numbers. The \$77 million cost breaks down to \$3 million for each endangered fish and \$4,000 for each non-listed fish.

Who performed the spill analyses?

The federal agencies, led by BPA, developed the latest set of studies examining the effectiveness of spill (Presented to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council), updated February 11, 2004). Their work was informed by the ongoing effort of NOAA Fisheries, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and others that, year after year, study fish passage in the Columbia-Snake river system. Similar conclusions can be drawn from past analyses. Bruce Suzumoto, Northwest Power and Conservation Council staff, presented "*Fish and Energy Impacts Resulting from Reductions in Summer Bypass Spill*," to the Council in July 2003 when the efficacy of summer spill was raised (www.nwccouncil.org/news\2203_07\spill\slide1.htm). Then, during the power crisis of 2000-01, Jim Ruff, NOAA Fisheries, presented a draft analysis "NMFS 2001 Summer Spill Survival Analysis." (June 13, 2001).

Who decides, and when?

The decision to modify summer spill will be made in June by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, but NOAA Fisheries and BPA have significant input on how federal dams are operated on the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

Federal Executives comment:

A memorandum by the Regional Federal Executives of BPA, NOAA-

Fisheries and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dated August 26, 2003, says that the "summer spill" regime "...appears to be excessively costly relative to the biological benefit provided." The executives declare that their goal is to "...have a method in place by next year to help ensure that biological benefits are met in the most cost effective manner available." The agency heads concluded that they "...have a responsibility to the region to devise an approach that is less costly while maintaining the ability to achieve the biological objectives for salmon and steelhead, and will work with all interested parties in the region to accomplish this objective."

Proposed alternatives

Working cooperatively with Council staff, state fish managers, tribes and utility representatives, BPA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and NOAA-Fisheries have identified several alternatives to "summer spill" that would provide the same or better biological benefit at a lower cost. Two of those alternatives would provide greater protection to salmon at much lower cost.

1. **Expand the Northern pikeminnow "management" program.**
Northern pikeminnow are significant predators of juvenile salmon migrating to the ocean. BPA currently funds a program that pays a bounty to anglers who catch them. Increasing the harvest of these predators by 1%-2% will increase the number of fall chinook returning to the Columbia River by 500 to 8,000 adult fall chinook salmon in the first year at an estimated cost of \$500,000 to \$1 million.
2. **Expand a fall chinook protection program in the Hanford Reach.** This new springtime protection program manages water levels to ensure that juvenile salmon will not become stranded. It is estimated that expanding this program will protect millions of fall chinook salmon fry, resulting in an estimated additional 50,000 adult fall chinook salmon returning to the Columbia River each year at an annual cost of less than \$1 million.

BPA markets electricity to customers throughout the Northwest. About 80% of BPA's generating capacity comes from federal dams on the Columbia and Snake River systems. BPA currently spends \$600 million a year on fish recovery, up from \$150 million in 1991. Over the last 25 years, BPA has spent more than \$6 billion on fish recovery.

Alternatives to "summer spill" can save ratepayers more than \$75 million while increasing the number of adult fall chinook salmon returning to the Columbia River each year.

K THOMAS SHIPLEY, JR
700 SW 67TH PLACE • PORTLAND, OR 97225-6147

553-012

JUN 10 2004

June 10, 2004

Administrator Stephan J. Wright
905 N.E. 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97208

Dear Stephan:

I have lived in Oregon all of my life, and am an avid Sports fisherman. My father provided a lot of the cement that went into building your dams. I am pretty sure he would not have done that if he had known at the time the devastating impact those dams have had on our Salmon.

I am writing to you today to in opposition to your proposal to reduce spill for summer migrants in the Columbia. Spill has proven over the years to be the safest and most effective way to help baby salmon migrate from their natal stream to the ocean. Years where smolts had adequate spill resulted in years of high adult returns. We should not give up what is certain—spill--for uncertain measures and promises, especially given the dismal track record of broken promises.

Summer spill reductions will impact tens of thousands of steelhead and salmon, while saving pennies on my electric bill. Our heritage species, the salmon have already paid a high enough price for hydro development in the Northwest. Surely they should not suffer further harm in order to help the BPA out of the financial mess they continue to find themselves in.

I urge you to support healthy salmon populations by telling BPA to spill more water.

“Spill don’t Kill”

Sincerely,



553-313
JUN 16 2004

6-14-04

Dear B. P. A

I think the amended
summer spill proposal is an excellent
idea, it would lower power rates, and
save the fish, while keeping businesses
competitive and people employed.

It should be extended several
more years.

Sincerely

Dale C. Tall

656th Hwy. 20

Bend, OR 97701