

DRAFT

June 11, 2015

**FILE MEMORANDUM**

**FROM:** Gary Fredricks and Trevor Conder, NOAA Fisheries

**SUBJECT:** Minimum Juvenile Salmon Condition Monitoring

2016 Fish Passage guidance for minimum condition sampling as required by the 2008 Biological Opinion, RPA 53:

To be implemented at each FCRPS project with an operating juvenile bypass system during the juvenile fish passage season when no other more intensive monitoring is occurring (e.g., SMP index monitoring and fish transport monitoring):

1. Sample a target of 100 fish of the predominate species (however, all fish in the sample would be examined). The sample rate should never exceed 10% during periods of low passage.
2. Sample no less than twice per week, with no more than three days between sample days. Increased frequency may be necessary at some dams (to be worked out by an FPOM task group) and during periods when injuries are being noted or suspected (e.g., high debris periods).
3. Sampling should only be conducted during relatively high daily passage periods (typically after dusk). Long term holding and 24 hour sampling is typically not necessary for condition sampling and should be avoided to the extent possible.
4. Fish condition should include, at a minimum, mortality (fresh vs old), descaling (<20% and greater than 20%, as defined by SMP criteria), other injuries such as lacerations, bruises, eye damage (bloody eye, "pop-eye", etc.), fin damage, etc. An effort should be made to determine if the injury is old or new to the extent possible. (GBT?)
5. Within the next twelve hours after sampling, report sample rate, number of fish examined by species, percent and number exhibiting each malady by species and total. Online reports should be posted to the FPOM webpage (if available) and the FPC. All reports should also be sent directly to NOAA Fisheries.