## Genetic Tagging \& Monitoring of Fisheries



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## Primary Research Areas

1) Genetic tagging and monitoring of fisheries -stock specific abundance, harvest, and run-timing to assist fisheries management
2) Genetic effects of hatchery practices

- better understand how hatchery reform can be implemented to reduce genetic impacts on wild populations

3) Genetic adaptation to local environments - investigate local adaptation and the genetic basis for traits (e.g., thermal adaptation)

# 1) Genetic tagging and monitoring of fisheries in the Columbia River 



## Major Decline in Total Chinook catch in the Columbia River system



Anderson (1998) Sustainable Fisheries Conference Proceedings

## Genetic program to estimate composition of salmon runs during upstream migration



## Goal:

Allow managers to shape fishing seasons to target abundant populations while also protecting the weakest populations

## Genetic Monitoring Programs

-Estimate stock composition of salmon fisheries

Commercial


Sport


Tribal


Bonneville Dam




## Genetic Tools for Monitoring

1) Genetic Stock Identification (GSI):

- Method in use for 30+ years in fisheries
- Baseline of population genetic data
- Identify the most likely origin of fish

2) Parentage Based Tagging (PBT):

- New technique based on parentage analyses
- Genotype all hatchery broodstock (parents)

- Allows identification of hatchery offspring by DNA
-Data obtained similar to CWT but with greatly improved tagging rate ( $-95-100 \%$ vs. $5-10 \%$ )
- No juveniles have to be handled or injected with physical tags


## GSI - Baseline of Reference Populations



Baselines described in Hess et al. 2011 Mol. Ecol. Res.; Matala et al. 2011 TAFS

## Parentage Based Tagging (PBT)

## Genetic "tags" based on DNA



- Genetic tagging of hatchery broodstock can identify hatchery offspring produced
- Passive mark (no handling of juveniles)
- Eliminates issues with tag loss, tag detection, handling mortality
- Non-lethal sample to recover tag from offspring
-Nearly $100 \%$ tagging rate of hatchery fish -Dramatic increase in the number of tags recovered (improved estimates of stock composition)

Snake River Basin PBT


- Sample all hatchery broodstock
-5,000 steelhead/yr
-9,000 Chinook salmon/yr
- Genetically "tag" ~20 million smolts/yr
- All hatcheries record spawn dates and sex (many provide lengths and spawn cross)

Steele et al. in review, CJFAS

## Goal 2012-ongoing: Chinook salmon, PBT hatcheries



Lyons Ferry Nez Percé
Marion Doain Prosse
Earsong

-Potential to include wild stocks in PBT approach if wild parents can be sampled at weirs

## Spring/Summer Chinook

|  | Spawn Year |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
| Broodstock sampled | 10,836 | 8,849 | 8,290 | 8,466 |
| Genotyped | 10,630 | 8,493 | 8,235 | 8,324 |
| "Tagging" Rate of Offspring | $96.2 \%$ | $92.1 \%$ | $98.7 \%$ | $98.3 \%$ |
| Smolts Produced * | $\sim 18.96 \mathrm{mil}$ | $\sim 15.49 \mathrm{mil}$ | $\sim 14.51 \mathrm{mil}$ | $\sim 14.82 \mathrm{mil}$ |
| Smolts "Tagged" | $\sim 18.25 \mathrm{mil}$ | $\sim 14.26 \mathrm{mil}$ | $\sim 14.32 \mathrm{mil}$ | $\sim 14.56$ |

* Assuming 3,500 smolts produced per broodstock pair


## Sampling PBT-tagged offspring



## Fishery application:

## Origin and age of harvest fishery?



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## Bonneville Dam:

-Weekly sampling April - October
-Stock specific return timing


## Example application: Origin and age of harvest fishery?



## Lower Granite Dam: -Weekly sampling June - October -Stock specific return timing



## Juvenile Monitoring

- Run-of-river Chinook smolts
- Collected at Bonneville and Lower Granite dams
- Both adipose intact and ad-clipped (hatchery) fish
- Small non-lethal tissue clip for SNP markers for PBT \& GSI
- Relate stock survival and abundance to migration patterns from other physical tags (i.e. PIT tags)


Rechiscky et al. in prep


## Genetic Tagging \& Monitoring

- Adult return timing by stock (dams)
- What stocks are most abundant in the river over the course of their migration seasons
- Stock specific harvest information
- Highly relevant for allocation agreements between lower and upriver partners
- Juvenile stock monitoring
- Non-lethal sampling, provides stock abundance information for out-migrating juveniles
- Can link stock info to migration data (i.e. PIT tags)


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