

Stuart Ellis

HABITAT COMMITTEE PROPOSED ACTION FORM

HC Sponsor: Mr. Stuart Ellis

Title of Issue: Columbia River Hydrosystem Summer Spill

Deadline (if any): Late April

Proposed Action: Request the Council Submit a letter to NMFS in opposition of summer spill

Addressed To: Mr. Bob Lohn, Regional Administrator, NMFS

Description of Issue: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has proposed reducing or eliminating its program of summer spill at the Federal Hydropower projects on the Columbia River. This will have negative effects on Council-managed species.

Description of Regional Significance: There will be fishery effects throughout much of the Council management area due declining abundance due to increased juvenile mortality.

Potential Adverse Impacts to EFH?

Yes

No

For Which Species? Various Columbia River Salmon

Potential Benefits of Proposed Action: May assist NMFS in opposing BPA's proposed action.

PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

CHAIRMAN
Donald Hansen

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Donald O. McIsaac

Telephone: 503-820-2280
Toll Free: 866-806-7204
Fax: 503-820-2299
www.pcouncil.org

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[Address]

Dear Mr. Lohn:

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to eliminate its program of providing summer spill at the Columbia River Federal Hydropower Projects. This program was included in the reasonable and prudent alternatives (RPAs) for the 2000 Biological Opinion (BiOp). Spill has been shown to provide higher juvenile survival than other passage routes. While BPA has claimed minimal impacts due to spill reduction, an analysis prepared for the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority has suggested the no-spill option will result in a system-wide loss of ~~38,000 to 95,000~~ ^{a signif. #} adult chinook as compared to the BiOp spill program (Bouwes 2004).* BPA has suggested that additional mortality due to spill reduction can be offset by further harvest reductions and other mitigation actions.

With the constraints ^{significant again} facing ocean fisheries in 2004 due to the need to minimize impacts to Snake River fall chinook, the Council ~~finds~~ ^{must express grave concern} the potential relaxation of current BiOp standards ~~to be~~ unacceptable.

^{until the remand @ has been updated.}
The Pacific Fishery Management Council urges the National Marine Fisheries Service to take actions necessary to prevent the cessation of the summer spill program.

Sincerely,

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Donald K. Hansen
Chairman

*Nick Bouwes, Eco Logical Research, "Review of the Bonneville Power Administration's Analysis of the Biological Impacts of Alternative Summer Spill Operations," prepared for Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Authority, 2004.