

Title: 2003 Juvenile Coho Migration and Radio Tracking Study

Author: Todd Newsome

In 2003, adult returns rebounded from a drought depressed return of 500 adults to 2222 adult coho. A total of 109 coho redds were located in 2003. Approximately, 71 radio tags were inserted into adult coho using the gastric insertion technique. Tagging was done at the Prosser Dam right bank steep pass denil were, nearly, 40% of the adult coho run use the ladder on average. Approximately, 29% of radio tagged coho were detected in the Naches River. Two radio tagged coho were detected near the Easton acclimation site. This was the first time that coho have been found homing back to this acclimation site.

A total of 704,000 juvenile coho were acclimated in the Yakima River during the 2003 out migration year. The Holmes acclimation site is a new site, with the first releases in 2003. Survival of juvenile coho out the Naches River was higher than the Upper Yakima. Within the Naches River, the Willard and Yakima stocks from the Stiles acclimation site produced higher survival than Lost Creek acclimation. In the Upper Yakima River, survival from the Willard stock in the new Holmes acclimation site was higher than Easton acclimation site. The Yakima stock could not be evaluated. Overall survival from the Naches averaged 23% from both acclimation sites. The Upper Yakima River survival averaged 7%. Though the Chandler juvenile passage indicated only 14,500 fish passing in 2003, pit tag survival indicated a much higher number (116,000). This inconsistency may be partly explained by an unfortunate shut down of the juvenile facility.