

Northwest RiverPartners Response
Fish Passage Center Report
September 13, 2005

There are several issues with the Fish Passage Center (FPC) report that raise serious questions about its accuracy and usefulness. The FPC report is a partial and preliminary analysis that does not scientifically support its conclusions. Some shortcomings of the report are highlighted below.

- The FPC report only addresses a part of the scientific question of how the court-ordered spill affected Snake River Fall chinook survival.
 - The FPC report focused on survival in only the Snake River, ignoring survival through the lower Columbia River.
 - Survival in the lower Columbia River is typically lower due to warmer river temperatures, lower flows and increased predation.
 - The FPC report analyzes survival for only four weeks of the over ten week court-ordered spill program, omitting roughly 65% of the program.
 - The FPC report only analyzes survival of fish migrating in-river, and ignores the 98% survival rate of transported fish.

- The FPC report presents a broad range of uncertainty, from 44 to 103%, for the actual survival rate for Fall Chinook in the Snake River.

- The great majority of salmon had already migrated past the dams in question by the time spill started.
 - According to FPC data on fish passage, over 90% of Snake River fall chinook had already migrated past Lower Granite Dam by the time the court-ordered spill was implemented, this information was not disclosed in the FPC report.
 - The FPC report suggests that about 10% of juvenile Snake River Fall Chinook experienced court-ordered spill at a cost of about \$80 million. However, survival for these fish to below Bonneville Dam was not reported in the FPC report, leaving overall system survival as a significant unknown.