

Northwest River Partners Statement
On
Fish Passage Center Preliminary Analysis of September 13, 2005

Recently, the Fish Passage Center (FPC) issued a preliminary analysis of in-river survival rates of Snake River fall Chinook from court-ordered spill at federal dams this summer. It must be pointed out that the FPC work is very preliminary and has not been thoroughly analyzed or peer-reviewed. The data behind the report has not been provided.

The FPC report is an incomplete look at the issue of spill and salmon survival through the hydrosystem this summer. For example, the report only looks at survival in the Snake River, ignoring the Columbia River. It does not compare in-river salmon survival to survival of transported salmon which is at the heart of the scientific debate. It also only covers the first four weeks of the spill leaving out the last ten Weeks. Survival in the late summer timeframe is typically far lower as a result of high temperatures and predation. That these late summer effects have been ignored suggests a selective use of the data.

Unfortunately, the report's results, incomplete as they are, have been provided to the press and media in the region and are being portrayed as evidence that the spill program is working. This approach does a grave disservice to the people who support and care about the protection of salmon, including Northwest River Partners members. This issue merits an approach that is thoughtful, scientifically rigorous and is based on a complete set of data and facts.

Northwest River Partners supports restoration of the region's salmon resources based on the best possible science and in ways that optimize the investment this region is making. This preliminary, incomplete report does not promote good science or objective findings and should not be taken as credible evidence to support an \$80 million spill program.