



# CWTIT (Coded Wire Tag Implementation Team)

## Report on Canadian Projects and Bilateral Issues

**Presentation to Regional Mark Committee**

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# History

- Canada – started in 2009 (6M spent to date) vs. US – started in 2010 (4.5M)
- Canada – funds provided by DFO, CWTIT committee representatives are primarily DFO vs. USA – RFP process
- How \$ spent Canada (PSC tech report 25)
  - 5.5M tagging (~40%) / sampling (~60%) ;
  - .5M (data mgmt & reporting)
- NMT involvement – free tags for indicator programs, improvements in eqt (T-wands)
- Presentation – Dave Willis – increased tagging; optional – Philips River, Atnarko River



# Future – 2013 Projects

- Marking 345K
- Escapement sampling 175K
- Staffing – fishery sampling support/improvements 325K
- Increased costs for recoveries 200K
- Sampling improvements 375K
- Archive project 20K
- Equipment (wands) 60K



# Future – 2013 Projects

Table 2. Year of incremental tag application and anticipated tag recovery by age. Y-Yes, NA-Not Available until future return years.

Fiscal Year	Tag Application	Tag Recovery by Age			
		2	3	4	5
2009/10	Y				
2010/11	Y				
2011/12	Y	Y			
<b>2012/13</b>	Y	Y	Y		
2013/14	Planned	NA	NA	NA	
2014/15		NA	NA	NA	NA
2015/16		NA	NA	NA	NA
2016/17			NA	NA	NA
2017/18				NA	NA
2018/19					NA



# Developing Issues

- US – delays in timing and availability of funds - US grant process, federal appropriations and budgeting process time.
- Inflation – costs for personnel, transportation, freight, equipment, etc.
- 5 years of 1.5M / agency was insufficient to make needed, lasting improvements to the CWT program just for Chinook.
- Improvements also needed for Coho and in systemic programs that affect multiple species (e.g., estimation, sampling, and reporting of catches and escapements, separation of hatchery and wild components, methods to assess impacts of mass marking and mark selective fishing).
- Future reductions in funding - Management agencies of both US and Canada are experiencing substantial pressures for fiscal austerity. (eg. US – loss of Anadromous Fish Act grants, Bonneville Power Administrations review, Canada – federal funding cuts to DFO )





# Long Term Issues - 1

- CWTs remain the only tool that can provide the information needed for coast wide fishery management and assessment.
- CWTs provide stock and age specific identification without error, i.e., the tag code is from a specific hatchery or wild stock from a specific year class and provide the established mechanisms for coastwide data sharing and broadly accepted methods for statistical analysis.
- Other tools have been used for various management or stock assessment objectives, primarily for region-specific applications, but these other tools do not provide the tools necessary to implement the PST and they are more costly.





# Long Term Issues - 2

- The CWTIT program is scheduled to sunset in 2013/2014 for Canada and in 2014/2015 for the U.S.
- A means to continue funding is needed for these improvements to be maintained.
- Projects such as indicator stock programs, tagging levels, sampling and recovery of tags, and data reporting require sustained commitment of funding and staff resources.
- Funding from other sources, such as the Endowment Funds, which could provide funding to support CWT-related improvements is uncertain due to variability in investment performance and the need to provide funding to support other PSC initiatives, like the Sentinel Stocks Program.





# References

- PSC Technical Report 25 – An Action Plan in Response to Coded Wire Tag (CWT) Expert Panel Recommendations, Mar 2008
- Coded Wire Tag (CWT) Improvement Funding Recommendations, Feb 12, 2013
- Bilateral CWTIT Report January 2013, prepared by the bilateral CWTIT January 15, 2013