

# PSC Format Version 5.0 Agency Data Migration Guide

**Version 5.0 Change Date:** April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

All data migration should happen in accordance with PSC Format Version 5.0 of the Specifications and Definitions for the Exchange of Coded Wire Tag Data for the North American Pacific Coast – accessible at the RMPC website: <https://www.rmpec.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Specification-V5.0-20260330.pdf>.

Important Update Notes:	
Database Version	All data will be standardized to Version 5.0 after the Change Date
Data Downloads	All datasets will be provided in Version 5.0 format after the Change Date
Existing Data	Updated to V5.0 by RMPC. Resubmission is not required except in special cases. Migration guidance applies to updates or new data submissions.
Version 4.2 Submissions	Still accepted after Chage Date. Automatically converted to Version 5.0 by the RMPC data load process.
Version 4.1 Submissions	<b>No longer accepted after the Change Date.</b>

Please carefully review the Version 5.0 Data Specification and the approved list of changes for V5.0 which can be found on the RMPC website: [https://www.rmpec.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/May2025\\_RMISV5.0\\_ApprovedChangesList.pdf](https://www.rmpec.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/May2025_RMISV5.0_ApprovedChangesList.pdf).

The changes listed in this migration guide include breaking physical format changes (breaking changes) that are required to report V5.0 data after the Change Date.

Please contact the RMPC if you have any questions at: [rmpec.admin@psmfc.org](mailto:rmpec.admin@psmfc.org). Supporting documents and additional information can be found at <https://www.rmpec.org/>.



## V5.0 Changes by Data Category

Release Data				
Request #34: Removal of Coordinator Code				
Field	Required	Breaking Change	CSV Field Position	Values
Removes coordinator	N/A	<b>Yes</b>	Shifts Release data numbering up starting with moving tag_code_or_release_id to <b>Field #6</b>	The value list for this field is now informally called ' <b>untagged prefix</b> ' and is listed in the validation text for tag_code_or_release_id.
<p><b>Summary of Changes:</b> Removes Filed #6 coordinator from Releases data shifting subsequent CSV numbering up by one.</p>				
Request #9: Addition of Release Stock Origin				
Field	Required Field	Breaking Change	CSV Field Position	Values
Adds broodstock_origin_type	<b>Yes</b>  <b>Default = 'U'</b> for existing records	No	<b>Field #21</b> between release_stage and rearing_type	'H' = Hatchery Origin Parents 'W' = Wild Origin Parents 'M' = Mixed Origin Parents 'N' = Natural Origin Parents 'C' = Captive-Brood Parents 'O' = Other Broodstock origin (see comments for details) 'U' = Unknown (unavailable from release agency) <b>If 'O' then comments are required</b>
<p><b>Summary of Changes:</b> Adds Field #12 broodstock_origin_type to Release data shifting subsequent CSV numbering down by one.</p>				



Recovery Data				
Request #12: Addition of Unresolved Reasons				
Field	Required Field	Breaking Change	CSV Field Position	Values
Adds unresolved_reasons	Conditionally required if tag_status = '7'  Default Value = '0' when required	Data Submission = No  Data Retrieval = Potentially due to CSV field order	<b>Field # 29</b> between tag_status and tag_code	'0' = Not Specified '1' = Unresolved Tagcode (i.e. no release exists) '2' = Mismatched Species (i.e. difference between release and recovery) '3' = Unreasonable Age: <b>Species:</b> '1' Chinook (9+1) 10 '2' Coho (5+1) 6 '3' Steelhead (10+1) 11 '4' Sockeye (8+1) 9 '5' Chum (7+1) 8 '6' Pink (3+1) 4 '7' Masu (3+1) 4 '8' Cutthroat (10+1) 11 '9' Atlantic Salmon (13+1) 14 '4' = Multiple Uses of Tagcode (reused tagcode) '5' = Destroyed Tag Release '9' = Multiple reasons <b>Field is required if Tag Status (Field 28) = '7'</b> <b>Field must be blank if Tag Status (Field 28) &lt;&gt; '7'</b>
<b>Summary of Changes:</b> Adds Field #29 unresolved_reason to Recovery data shifting subsequent CSV numbering down by one.				
Request #42: Recovery ID Expansion				
Field	Required Field	Breaking Change	CSV Field Position	Values
Optionally increase recovery_id length	No	No	<b>Field #6</b> between sampling_agency and species	N/A <b>Agencies should not change existing IDs</b>
<b>Summary of Changes:</b> Recovery_id character length optionally increased to 36 characters. Agencies should not change existing IDs (Recovery ID <10 character allowed only from April 2026 on).				



Catch Sample Data				
Request #16: Catch/Sample Period Ranges				
Field	Required Field	Breaking Change	CSV Field Position	Values
Adds pool_id	No  Default = blank	No	<b>Field # 13</b> between last_period and fishery	N/A
<b>Summary of Changes:</b> Adds Field #13 pool_id to Catch Sample data shifting subsequent CSV numbering down by one.				

Location Data				
Request #19: Update Location Code Format				
Field	Required Field	Breaking Change	CSV Field Position	Values
<b>Location Data:</b> location_code  <b>Release Data:</b> release_location_code, hatchery_location_code, stock_location_code  <b>Recovery Data:</b> recovery_location_code  <b>Catch Sample Data:</b> catch_location_code	<b>Location Data:</b> Yes  <b>Release Data:</b> No  <b>Recovery Data:</b> Yes  <b>Catch Sample Data:</b> Yes	Yes	<b>Location Data:</b> <b>Field #5</b> between reporting_agency and location_type  <b>Release Data:</b> <b>Fields #17, 18, 19</b> between last_release_date and release_stage  <b>Recovery Data:</b> <b>Field #17</b> between estimation_level and sampling_site  <b>Catch Sample Data:</b> <b>Field #17</b> between estimation_level and detection_method	<b>23</b> – character code used to identify hatchery, release location, recovery site, catch area, or stock Coding based on hierarchical scheme to give multiple levels of resolution. All location codes are standardized within a given State or Province, and coordinated by the State/Province <b>Location codes must not contain spaces and must be imbedded with “^”</b> <b>Must be unique within a given location_type</b> <b>Trailing carets or white space should not be included</b>  Please see all definitions and rules about this code in Ch. 5 of the V5.0 specification.



**Summary of Changes:** Location\_code fields will no longer allow embedded spaces. Replace embedded spaces with “^” carets. Location\_code field length optionally expanded from 19 to 23 characters.

**This change impacts all location\_code fields in the database.**

New Lookup Code Values		
Request #	Impacted Field(s)	New Code Values
Request #18	Catch Sample Data <b>Field #19 sample_type</b>	<p><b>‘3’</b> = Voluntary recoveries from an unsampled fishery. Awareness approximations may be possible yielding non-zero number_cwt_estimated; otherwise number_cwt_estimated should be absent. (e.g., Hoh River freshwater sport fishery)</p> <p><b>‘8’</b> = Known catch from a fishery with no sampling. Number CWT Estimated must be zero and there are no known recoveries</p>
Request #46	Recovery Data <b>Field #15 adclip_selective_fishery</b>	<b>‘U’</b> = Unaligned selective fishery (can be used when regulations do not match the sample strata or cannot be determined)
Request #56	Release Data <b>Field #24 release_strategy</b>	<p><b>‘NP’</b> = Net pen (may be specified here and/or using location code(s))</p> <p><b>‘BG’</b> = Barge (ex: imprinting river-water circulation barge)</p>



# Agency Checklist

- Update *format\_version* from 4.2 to 5.0.
- Update CSV generation tools for adjusted field positions.
- Validate sample files against V5.0 specification.

## Release Data

- Remove *coordinator* field.
- Add *broodstock\_origin\_type* field with default 'U' value.
- Update location code formatting.

## Recovery Data

- Optionally increase *recovery\_id* to 36 characters.
- Add *unresolved\_reasons* field with default value of '0' = Not Specified where *tag\_status* = '7'.
- Update location code formatting.

## Catch Sample Data

- Optionally add *pool\_id* field with default blank.
- Update location code formatting.

## Location Data

- Update location code formatting.

