



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife

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March 6, 2008

Darrell Tufly
Umpqua Fishermen's Association
P.O. Box 2083
Roseburg, Oregon 97470

Dear Mr. Tufly:

Thank you for your patience with the ongoing review of the Umpqua Fishermen's Association (UFA) STEP propagation program by ODFW Fish Division staff. We are striving to ensure consistency among all STEP programs statewide, and that all conservation concerns are addressed while maximizing the fishery benefits of these programs.

Your Fish Propagation Project Application of April 24, 2007 to release 300,000 fall Chinook salmon presmolts has been conditionally approved by ODFW Fish Division staff. As you know, applications to release more than 100,000 fish must be approved by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission. Staff from the ODFW Umpqua Fish District and Fish Division will assist the UFA in preparing materials for the Commission presentation. We will submit a Commission agenda request for the April 18, 2008 Commission meeting, which will be held in Salem.

Conditions of Approval:

- 1) Beginning with your 2008 release, we request that a 75% external mark rate be applied. Due to heightened conservation concerns for coastal fall Chinook salmon and limited survey information for the Umpqua basin, ODFW will require increased marking and monitoring of the Umpqua basin STEP propagation programs. Given that it will take several years for the full benefits of increased marking to be realized, we have concluded being proactive is the best path. Currently, 85% of ODFW releases have external fin marks, while about 39% of the STEP releases are marked coast-wide.
- 2) UFA fish are to be marked by removing the adipose fin. Fish released by the Gardiner-Reedsport-Winchester Bay STEP in the lower Umpqua basin will be marked with a combination adipose clip and left maxillary removal to differentiate them from UFA fish.



- 3) We request that UFA volunteers provide support for increased monitoring and evaluation. ODFW District staff, primarily the STEP biologist, will coordinate this effort, but we anticipate a need to use volunteers to the greatest extent possible. Monitoring will include (a) spawning ground surveys to determine population trends and distribution of hatchery fish in the major spawning tributaries of the lower basin, and (b) creel surveys to determine the contribution of UFA fish to harvest.
- 4) To maintain consistency with other STEP programs and increase confidence in monitoring efforts, unfed fry or other surplus juvenile fish should not be released into the Umpqua (or any other) river basin. However, they may be used for educational purposes or be released into a standing water body (with no connection to a stream basin) provided the appropriate ODFW Fish Transport Permit is obtained.
- 5) All project eggs and fish belong to the State of Oregon and may only be used, released, transported, distributed, sold or otherwise disposed of as designated by the Department. Persons other than Department staff possessing or transporting project eggs and/or fish must have in their possession written authorization from the Department to do so.
- 6) The project sponsor will obtain the following relevant authorization for project activities:
 - (a) Permits, licenses and insurance certificates as required from local, state, or federal agencies or governing bodies;
 - (b) Agreements from individual landowners on whose property the project will be located, allowing access to the project by project sponsor, the Department, and its representatives (*note: we already have these on file for your project*).
- 7) The Department may revoke its approval of the STEP project if it determines:
 - (a) The project has exceeded the scope of the approved project proposal;
 - (b) There has been a violation of any term or condition imposed on the project by the Department;
 - (c) Continued operation of the project may adversely affect fish populations in or below the project site;
 - (d) The rules or policies that govern STEP are changed; or
 - (e) There are not sufficient moneys available to fund the Department's continued involvement in the project.

The revocation of a project's approval shall automatically invalidate any Department permits issued for such project as of the date of revocation and may result in confiscating (reclaiming) by the Department of any fish or eggs used in the project.

Revocation of the approval for a project is in addition to and not in lieu of other penalties provided by law.


- 8) District staff and the project sponsor will designate emergency contacts and make the contact information available at the project site, and to the Department and project volunteers.

We acknowledge that the new conditions (1-4) will make for additional work in your program; however, they will help insure the public continues to have access to these fish in the future.

Attached is a copy of the signed STEP Fish Propagation Project Application. **Please sign and date where indicated on page 4, and return the letter to me.** We will make a copy for your records. If you have any questions regarding these documents or the conditions under which your project was approved, please do not hesitate to contact me or Greg Huchko, your area STEP Biologist in Roseburg.

With Commission approval, your project will be renewed for five years (from date of approval). Thank you for your group's contributions to STEP, and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Friesen
STEP Coordinator, Fish Division

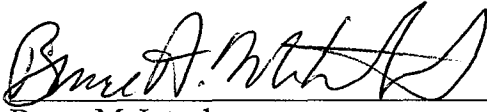
(503) 947-6232

c: file

L. Jackson
G. Huchko

**PROJECT AGREEMENT FOR UMPQUA FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION STEP
PROJECT**

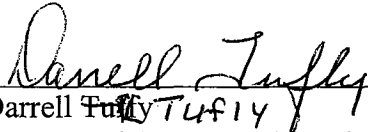
Department:



Bruce McIntosh
Assistant Fish Division Administrator

Date 2/15/08

Project Sponsor:



Darrell Tufly
Umpqua Fishermen's Association

Date 3/13/08