

**Bonneville Power Administration
Fish and Wildlife Program FY99 Proposal**

Section 1. General administrative information

**Life History and Genetic Analysis of
Oncorhynchus nerka**

Bonneville project number, if an ongoing project 9009300

Business name of agency, institution or organization requesting funding
University of Idaho

Business acronym (if appropriate)

Proposal contact person or principal investigator:

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Subcontractors.

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|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
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NPPC Program Measure Number(s) which this project addresses.

7.5A.1

NMFS Biological Opinion Number(s) which this project addresses.

NMFS-Hydrosystems Operations Biological Opinion, Endangered Species Act requirements

Other planning document references.

Snake River Salmon Recovery Plan

Subbasin.

Short description.

Provide biological and genetic information on *O. nerka* samples collected throughout the Snake and Columbia River Basins to be used in the overall recovery effort of the Snake River sockeye salmon.

Section 2. Key words

| Mark | Programmatic Categories | Mark | Activities | Mark | Project Types |
|------|-------------------------|------|------------------|------|-----------------------|
| X | Anadromous fish | | Construction | | Watershed |
| | Resident fish | | O & M | X | Biodiversity/genetics |
| | Wildlife | | Production | | Population dynamics |
| | Oceans/estuaries | X | Research | | Ecosystems |
| | Climate | | Monitoring/eval. | | Flow/survival |
| | Other | | Resource mgmt | | Fish disease |
| | | | Planning/admin. | | Supplementation |
| | | | Enforcement | | Wildlife habitat en- |
| | | | Acquisitions | | hancement/restoration |

Other keywords.

DNA, Snake River sockeye salmon, endangered species, stock identification, genetic variation, evolutionary significant units

Section 3. Relationships to other Bonneville projects

| Project # | Project title/description | Nature of relationship |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9107100 | Snake River Sockeye Salmon Habitat (Sho-Ban Tribes) | This project provides genetic information for habitat and resource management. The 9107100 project provides tissue samples for this project. |
| 9107200 | Redfish sockeye Salmon Captive Broodstock (IDFG) | This project provides genetic information on an endangered population. The 9107200 project provides tissue samples for this project. |
| 9204000 | Redfish Lake Sockeye Salmon Captive Broodstock Rearing and Research (NMFS) | This project provides genetic information on an endangered population. The 9204000 project provides tissue samples for this project. |
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Section 4. Objectives, tasks and schedules

Objectives and tasks

| Obj 1,2,3 | Objective | Task a,b,c | Task |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Genetic analysis of outmigrant assemblages | | Continue DNA analyses on tissue samples from outmigrant assemblages (from Redfish, Alturas, and Pettit Lakes) to assess contributions from kokanee and resident sockeye populations on subsequent year classes. |
| 2 | Genetic analysis of Redfish Lake creel surveys | | Continue screening tissue samples from Redfish Lake creel surveys to assess potential harvest of listed, resident sockeye and to establish baseline information on the genetic diversity of kokanee harvested. |
| 3 | Expansion of present mitochondrial database | | Continue to expand the present mitochondrial DNA RFLP database for Redfish Lake and other Columbia River Basin <i>O. nerka</i> populations. |
| 4 | Analysis of captive broodstock progeny | | Continue DNA analyses on tissue samples of captive broodstock progeny for comparison to returning sockeye assemblages and thus, characterize successful outmigrant contributions. |
| 5 | Evaluation of nuclear DNA markers | | Continue to evaluate nuclear DNA markers for their utility in distinguishing populations of <i>O. nerka</i> . |
| 6 | Genetic evaluation of stray <i>O. nerka</i> | | Continue to examine various tissue samples of interest to evaluate the origin of stray <i>O. nerka</i> in the Columbia River Basin. |
| 7 | Genetic analysis of early and late spawning <i>O. nerka</i> | | Continue the analysis of genetic differences and population substructure among early and late spawning <i>O. nerka</i> . |

Objective schedules and costs

| Objective # | Start Date mm/yyyy | End Date mm/yyyy | Cost % |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | 1/1999 | 12/2001 | 15.00% |
| 2 | 1/1999 | 12/2001 | 15.00% |
| 3 | 1/1999 | 12/1999 | 15.00% |
| 4 | 1/1999 | 12/1999 | 15.00% |
| 5 | 1/1999 | 12/2001 | 25.00% |
| 6 | 1/1999 | 12/2001 | 10.00% |
| 7 | 1/1999 | 12/1999 | 5.00% |
| TOTAL | | | 100.00% |

Schedule constraints.

Schedule changes may depend on returning adult Redfish Lake sockeye. Mitochondrial DNA database (#3), captive broodstock analysis (#4), and early/late spawning *O. nerka* (#7) objectives will be completed in 1999.

Completion date.

2001

Section 5. Budget

FY99 budget by line item

| Item | Note | FY99 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Personnel | 1. M. Powell, Research Scientist 2. Senior Scientific Aide 3. Laboratory Technician | \$64,594 |
| Fringe benefits | @ .282 for #1 and #2, @ .345 for #3 | \$19,117 |
| Supplies, materials, non-expendable property | chemicals, pipet tips, tubes, gloves etc. | \$8,000 |
| Operations & maintenance | equipment service, calibration, UPS shipping, Federal Express, long distance phone charges | \$2,000 |
| Capital acquisitions or improvements (e.g. land, buildings, major equip.) | none | \$0 |
| PIT tags | # of tags: none | \$0 |
| Travel | 1 professional meeting, 12 monthly T.O.C. meetings/1 person. | \$2,650 |
| Indirect costs | on campus cost @ .447% rate | \$43,073 |
| Subcontracts | none | \$0 |
| Other | none | \$0 |

| | | |
|--------------|--|-----------|
| TOTAL | | \$139,434 |
|--------------|--|-----------|

Outyear costs

| Outyear costs | FY2000 | FY01 | FY02 | FY03 |
|----------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total budget | \$70,000 | \$70,000 | | |
| O&M as % of total | 2.80% | 2.80% | | |

Section 6. Abstract

This ongoing project seeks to: (a) comprehensively identify the genetic structure of Redfish Lake *O. nerka* outmigrant-originating populations; (b) provide long term information about the genetic identity of returning anadromous sockeye as this run is restored; (c) define the relatedness of populations of *O. nerka* in Redfish, Stanley, and Snake River lakes and the Columbia Basin lakes; (d) provide information to monitor the change or loss of genetic biodiversity among *O. nerka* populations throughout the Columbia Basin and in particular, Redfish Lake, Idaho. Thus far, a total of 1373 tissue samples from 39 populations have been characterized using mitochondrial DNA analyses. Additionally, several nuclear DNA sequences have also been examined for their utility in delineating *Oncorhynchus nerka* stocks. Presently available genetic markers have been satisfactory in separating beach spawning, resident sockeye from Fishhook Creek kokanee. DNA analyses have also provided evidence demonstrating Fishhook Creek kokanee appear to contribute little if any to the *O. nerka* outmigrants from Redfish Lake. Outmigrant assemblages appear to be primarily composed of progeny from resident sockeye and captively bred smolts released into the lake. Mitochondrial and nuclear DNA analyses have provided additional evidence that beach spawning, resident sockeye are most closely related to anadromous sockeye. Fishhook Creek kokanee are genetically diverse and during spawning are temporally and spatially isolated from the resident sockeye population. A total of 35 composite mitochondrial haplotypes have been observed from populations of *O. nerka* sampled throughout the Columbia River Basin. Mitochondrial genetic data from 1996 and 1997 Redfish Lake creel samples putatively indicate the incidental take of a listed resident sockeye. Most recently, mitochondrial genetic data were used to demonstrate stray sockeye returning to the NMFS Big Beef Creek facility were not of Redfish Lake origin and unlikely to be of Lake Wenatchee origin as well.

Section 7. Project description

a. Technical and/or scientific background.

Sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) utilize lake environments for juvenile rearing and differ in that respect from the other species of Pacific salmon (Burgner, 1991). Unique too is the considerable variation observed in sockeye life history patterns

or strategies. Although primarily anadromous, there are two life history variants of *O. nerka* that do not migrate to the ocean but instead remain in nursery lake systems throughout maturity. The predominant non-anadromous form, called kokanee, are considered to be wholly freshwater-adapted descendents from a common anadromous stock that diverged during recent geological times. Kokanee populations are numerous throughout the Pacific Northwest and exist in lake environments independently of anadromous sockeye runs. The second non-anadromous form of *O. nerka*, referred to as “residual” sockeye, are regarded as progeny of anadromous adults (Ricker 1938). Residual sockeye populations have a sex ratio heavily skewed toward males, do not develop strong secondary sexual characteristics, and occur sympatrically with anadromous sockeye populations.

Redfish Lake in the Sawtooth Basin of Central Idaho is uncommon among sockeye nursery lakes since it supports populations of all three forms of *O. nerka* (Allendorf and Waples 1996). Anadromous sockeye returning to Redfish Lake travel approximately 1500 km from the Pacific Ocean and spawn at an elevation of 2000 m (Waples et al. 1991). Their extraordinary freshwater migration and the high elevation where Redfish Lake sockeye spawn are distinct from other sockeye runs. Anadromous sockeye return to Redfish Lake in October and November and spawn in shallow gravel beach areas principally along the northeast shoreline of the lake. The native kokanee population is both temporally and spatially separated from the anadromous sockeye population during spawning. The kokanee spawn much earlier, in August and September, and in the major tributary to Redfish Lake, Fishhook Creek (Brannon et al., 1991). The residual sockeye population spawns in the same location and at the same time as do the anadromous sockeye. However, the residual sockeye in Redfish Lake are distinguishable from anadromous sockeye by general appearance. Residual sockeye though similar in size to kokanee, are much smaller than anadromous sockeye (15-20 cm vs. 50-60 cm).

Historical accounts of Redfish Lake *O. nerka* differ from contemporary observations. Evermann (1895) reported large “redfish” spawning in Fishhook Creek during August in 1887-1889 and 1893, indicating the historical sockeye population returned much earlier than the current anadromous stock and that they used Fishhook Creek to spawn in instead of the current beach spawning areas in Redfish Lake. Temporal differences in spawning between the historical sockeye population and the contemporary sockeye population are most likely due to temperature differences between the cooler inlet stream and the warmer shallow beach areas in the lake. Likewise, the present kokanee population that use Fishhook Creek also spawn earlier than current beach spawning populations of anadromous and residual sockeye.

Sockeye returning to Redfish Lake are the only remaining anadromous run of *O. nerka* in the Snake River Basin and have thus been referred to as Snake River sockeye. Present day returns to Redfish Lake are all but non-existent. Since 1991, only 15 anadromous sockeye have returned to Redfish Lake. As a result, this unique population of sockeye was designated an evolutionarily significant unit (ESU) and was listed as a federally endangered species in November 1991(57 FR 213: 1992). The small, residual sockeye population in Redfish Lake was also given protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) because they are considered to be, at least in part, progeny of listed,

returning adults. The sympatric kokanee population in Redfish Lake was excluded from the ESA listing.

From its inception, a primary concern of the Snake River sockeye recovery program has been the clarification of genetic relationships between sympatric populations of *O. nerka* in Redfish Lake. Waples et al. (1997) completed a genetic study of the lake using allozymes. This remaining population of sockeye salmon in the Snake river is considered unique in that their genetics and life history patterns are divergent, to a sufficient degree, from other stocks of sockeye salmon. However, the recovery of this sockeye population to sustainable levels requires genetic monitoring because long term survival will be influenced not only by the restoration and preservation of their habitat but, also by their ability to genetically contend with their historically stochastic environment. This project is essential to all recovery strategies concerned with the maintenance of genetic variation and diversity within this species. Thus, this project directly addresses concerns outlined by the FWP.

b. Proposal objectives.

The following objectives are directed at resolving the origins and genetic relationships of existing stocks of *O. nerka* in the Columbia Basin with the goals of determining what level of divergence exists between populations and what genetic contributions are made by anadromous and resident populations to reciprocal migratory forms. The ongoing analysis and proposed future work will be used to test the following hypotheses:

- 1) Anadromous, Redfish Lake sockeye salmon are a distinct population of *O. nerka* and represent an evolutionarily significant unit (ESU) recognized under the Endangered Species Act and are following an independent evolutionary trajectory as evidenced by reduced gene flow relative to a sympatric kokanee population.

- 2) Beach spawning, resident sockeye are an intermediate form between anadromous sockeye and kokanee but, most closely resemble anadromous sockeye in a taxonomic sense leading to their inclusion in the Redfish Lake ESU.

- 3) The sympatric kokanee population present in Redfish Lake is not significantly contributing to the numbers of outmigrating anadromous sockeye and thus the Redfish Lake ESU. Populations of *O. nerka* within the Columbia and Snake River basins form genetically distinct stocks due to their high degree of philopatry and thus may give rise to additional situations where a sockeye populations become reduced in number and have to be considered for protection under the ESA.

Alternative Rationale:

Alternative approaches to accomplishing this projects objectives arise in the form of alternative approaches to the gathering and analysis of genetic data. The particular methods used in this project have been selected based upon their informativeness, reproducibility, cost effectiveness, and productivity.

Study Plan:

This ongoing investigation is separated into two areas of related interest; **(a)** identification of genetic similarities and differences among populations of *O. nerka* in Redfish Lake with emphasis on ESA listed populations, **(b)** genetic analysis of anadromous and non-anadromous populations of *O. nerka* in the Columbia River Basin.

Objectives:

The Objectives of the 1999 study are to:

1. Continue DNA analyses on tissue samples from outmigrant assemblages (from Redfish, Alturas, and Pettit Lakes) to assess contributions from kokanee and resident sockeye populations on subsequent year classes. These genetic studies will include the use of mitochondrial DNA RFLP analyses we have previously employed.
2. Continue screening tissue samples from Redfish Lake creel surveys to assess potential harvest of listed, resident sockeye and to establish baseline information on the genetic diversity of kokanee harvested.
3. Continue to expand the present mitochondrial DNA RFLP database for Redfish Lake and other Columbia River Basin *O. nerka* populations.
4. Continue DNA analyses on tissue samples of captive broodstock progeny for comparison to returning sockeye assemblages and thus, characterize successful outmigrant contributions.
5. Continue to evaluate nuclear DNA markers for their utility in distinguishing populations of *O. nerka*.
6. Continue to examine various tissue samples of interest to evaluate the origin of stray *O. nerka* in the Columbia River Basin.
7. Continue the analysis of genetic differences and population substructure among early and late spawning *O. nerka*.

Objectives 1 and 4: Monitoring Redfish Outmigrants and Returns

One of the objectives of any recovery plan should address the long term stability of the listed population(s), in this case Redfish Lake anadromous and resident sockeye salmon. The primary task of this ongoing project is to monitor the genetic diversity of anadromous adults returning to Redfish Lake to spawn and the concomitant diversity of outmigrating sockeye smolts. The reduced numbers of these fish have increased the probability that minor stochastic events and random genetic drift may reduce or eliminate genetic diversity within the listed populations. Captive propagation of Redfish Lake sockeye is well underway and we have used mtDNA RFLP analysis to identify maternal lineages of sockeye in the past. This genetic information has aided broodstock managers in making genetic crosses and will play an increasingly important role in future decisions

regarding crosses and “safety net” broodstock programs. It is also important to identify likely sources of genetic variation from other closely related populations in the event out breeding becomes necessary in the captive breeding program.

Objective 2: Monitoring Redfish Lake Creel Samples

In 1996-97, tissue samples from 49 individual *O. nerka* obtained during creel surveys were analyzed using mtDNA RFLP analysis. Seven of 8 composite haplotypes observed among the creel samples were shared with composite haplotypes found among Fishhook Creek kokanee. The remaining haplotype, designated H07, has not been observed in Fishhook Creek kokanee (N=81) but, has been identified in beach spawning sockeye (N=22). This indicates the incidental take of a listed resident sockeye and points out the need for continued genetic monitoring of creel surveys from Redfish Lake. Furthermore, 2 of the 8 composite haplotypes observed in the creel samples are also shared among both Fishhook Creek kokanee as well as resident sockeye. We are unable to distinguish resident sockeye from kokanee that share these two haplotypes. Thus, there is a possibility that additional resident sockeye were taken during the kokanee season. Greater resolution in our genetic analyses is needed to confirm this possibility and will only be accomplished through the development of discriminatory nuclear DNA markers.

Objective 3: Expanding Confidence of the Present mtDNA Database

Our goal has been to increase sample numbers from each population under study to ≥ 60 in order to enlarge statistical confidence using mtDNA RFLP analysis. Currently, we have reached that goal with several populations under study and have prioritized this work on others. In 1997, trawl samples from Redfish Lake were examined using mtDNA RFLP analysis. Within the samples studied (N= 78), 5 composite haplotypes were observed that have not been observed in any other population. If Redfish Lake trawl samples are primarily composed of Fishhook Creek kokanee, this brings the total number of uncommon haplotypes in that population to 9. This conclusion points out the need for continued sampling of Redfish Lake *O. nerka* and the possibility that the H07 composite haplotype observed among the creel samples may be present in Fishhook Creek kokanee in very low abundance. Within the Sawtooth Basin, Alturas Lake shares several composite haplotypes with Redfish Lake populations including 6 that have only been observed between the two locations. Sample sizes of Alturas Lake outmigrants will also be increased.

Objective 5: Nuclear DNA Marker Development

The development of a suite of polymorphic nuclear markers is essential to the continued success of any genetic monitoring program for Redfish Lake listed populations. Genetic diversity among captive *O. nerka* broodstock must be further characterized with greater resolution. Thus far, this project has successfully used mtDNA RFLP analysis to identify different maternal lineages of *O. nerka* in Redfish Lake populations and recommend possible management strategies but, in most every case, greater discriminatory power would enhance management decisions.

Objective 6: Identifying Stray O. nerka

During 1996 and 1997 anadromous sockeye were sampled at locations unusual for returns. These locations included the outlet for the NMFS facility at Big Beef Creek, the Lochsa River, and the Pelton Dam fish trap on the Deschutes River. Genetic analysis on these fish revealed the sockeye returning to Big Beef Creek were not of Redfish Lake captive broodstock origin and unlikely to be of Wenatchee Lake broodstock origin, as was originally presumed. The female sockeye sampled from the Lochsa River had a composite haplotype common to most sockeye populations but absent from Redfish Lake anadromous and resident sockeye populations. The sockeye returning to the Pelton Dam fish trap were observed to contain a composite haplotype that has not appeared in samples from other populations. Straying among salmonids is a natural phenomenon. Unfortunately, the origin(s) of the “stray” sockeye remain unknown. The fish returning to Big Beef Creek and the Lochsa River have composite haplotypes common to many anadromous populations. The resolution of our current mitochondrial markers is insufficient to pinpoint where the fish originated. We will continue to provide timely, genetic information on “stray” sockeye to other agencies involved in the Snake River sockeye recovery effort. We also intend to use nuclear markers we are currently developing to enhance the resolution of our analyses.

Objective 7: Analysis of Early and Late Spawning Population Substructure

We are continuing our analysis of genetic differences between early and late spawning sympatric populations of kokanee. Gene flow may be reduced between these temporally isolated subpopulations. Differences in composite haplotype frequency or differences in observed composite haplotypes may indirectly reveal reduced gene flow in these populations. In Redfish Lake, an early spawning population of kokanee in Fishhook Creek (N=42) has been characterized with 2 composite haplotypes that have not been observed in other populations of *O. nerka* thus far examined (N=1373). These 2 uncommon haplotypes have also been observed in the Redfish Lake creel surveys (N=49). Late spawning Fishhook Creek kokanee also contain 2 composite haplotypes that have only been observed in that subpopulation but, these 2 uncommon haplotypes have not been observed in the Redfish Lake creel surveys. Creel samples from Redfish Lake also appear to be most similar to early spawning Fishhook Creek kokanee when composite haplotype frequencies are compared.

c. Rationale and significance to Regional Programs.

Since the Snake River sockeye listed under the endangered Species Act are anadromous, their protection and recovery fall under the jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service. The broodstock program is conducted by the National Marine Fisheries Service (program # 9204000) and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (program # 9107200). Our objectives are commensurate with the responsibilities and objectives of the fore mentioned agencies as well as those of the Sho-Ban Tribe (program # 9107100). Thus far this has led to a successful, cooperative, interdisciplinary effort toward the conservation of this endangered species. Our objectives are directed at resolving the origins and phylogeographic relationships of existing *O. nerka* stocks in the

Columbia Basin. Additionally, we wish to determine what level of gene flow exists between populations and what genetic contributions are made by anadromous and resident populations to reciprocal migratory forms. The results of this research will influence management decisions regarding the uniqueness of various sockeye stocks and their designation as evolutionary significant units (ESU). This work has far reaching implications regarding the Endangered Species Act as well as future conservation efforts for non-endangered populations of trout and salmon.

d. Project history

Activities have included rearing Redfish Lake kokanee to examine inter-year temperature unit variability for egg incubation and behaviorally for downstream migration volitionally out of circular tanks. Primarily work has focused on defining a technique and regions of DNA base sequences useful for separating the life history forms of *O. nerka* in Redfish Lake. Costs have included renovation of experimental wet laboratory facilities, equipment for genetic laboratory, salaries and supplies. Benefits are that regions useful for diagnostic purposes have been identified for the anadromous versus non-anadromous components of Redfish Lake *O. nerka* and a wet lab that can be used for small scale incubation and rearing projects. Isolation of a single locus probe which could distinguish the "a" allele seen primarily in Redfish Lake kokanee. Behaviorally, Fishhook Creek kokanee do not appear to migrate downstream in significant numbers under experimental conditions. Characterization of outmigrant individuals from Redfish Lake based on the single locus probe. Evolutionary relationship structure based on mitochondrial DNA. The mtDNA information appears to resemble the information collected from the nuclear single locus probe suggesting that the mtDNA information accurately reflects gene flow among the subgroups.

Three forms of *O. nerka* exist in Redfish Lake: anadromous sockeye, "resident beach spawning," and resident kokanee. Anadromous sockeye and "residual" sockeye spawn on the historical beach spawning site in October and November, respectively, while the resident kokanee spawn in Fishhook Creek during August and September. Life history characteristics of the three forms were assessed with some differences in development rate of eggs and number of gill rakers counts. DNA analysis included assessment of other *O. nerka* stocks in the Salmon/Snake River system, the Upper Columbia River and outside the Columbia River system. Development of DNA nuclear markers or probes is still underway that might readily segregate the three forms. Preliminary results indicate three forms closely related, but may be sufficiently different to be considered three separate stocks. Development of the single locus probe made it possible to isolate three alleles (A, B, and C) in Redfish Lake. The A allele is absent in sockeye and beach spawners, but present in kokanee. A possible conclusion is that kokanee population is not contributing many outmigrants. Mitochondrial DNA data have defined all outmigrants examined fall into 5 of 11 possible haplotypes. Data were used to evaluate crosses made with gametes obtained from the captive broodstock program. This

allowed genotypes AC, AB, and AA fish from being part of the broodstock. These fish are excluded because they have the A allele which indicates kokanee origin.

Reports/Publications: Genetic Analysis of *Oncorhynchus Nerka* - Annual Progress Reports FY 1991, FY 1992, Genetic Analysis of *O. Nerka*: Life History and Genetic Analysis of Redfish Lake *O. Nerka*, Completion Report FY 1993-1994. Monthly Progress Reports 1991 to 12/1998 and Stanley Basin Sockeye Technical Oversight Committee Meeting Notes 1993-12/1998.

e. Methods.

Two DNA sources have been used to study genetic differentiation within and among *O. nerka* populations in this project, mitochondrial DNA and nuclear DNA. Restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) analysis of mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) has been primarily used because of its cost effectiveness and relatively straightforward application. The reason for using nuclear DNA markers in this project has been to compliment the existing mitochondrial DNA database and add to the confidence and precision of our present conclusions. Nuclear DNA markers potentially offer a much higher level of resolution regarding genetic variation and differentiation. Using genetic data from two separate sources, such as mitochondrial and nuclear DNA, also strengthen the results of each and reduce potential bias in conclusions drawn from using only one data set. It should be noted that an assumption has been made regarding the long term survival of Snake River sockeye and their genetic adaptability. We have assumed, until proven otherwise, that sufficient genetic variation exists within the anadromous, beach spawning, and/or sympatric kokanee population to address that organism's natural environmental challenges to survival. The level of genetic variation needed, changes with the organism under study and with the stability of its environment. Some organisms thrive under conditions of little genetic diversity, but others do not. Consequently, their risk of extinction can be very high. At this point, the level of genetic variation needed in the Snake River sockeye population for good probability of long term survival is unknown. Unfortunately, it is also uncertain whether a sufficient level of genetic variation still exists. The genetic analyses undertaken in this project will help to facilitate an answer to both those questions. A critical assumption to each hypothesis is that the samples analyzed for each population are representative and unbiased. The chance that this problem will occur can be minimized by increasing the number of individuals tested from each population. At present, we are continuing to expand the data base to include where possible, 60 individuals from each population under study. Statistically, the distribution of mitochondrial haplotypes found among each population will then fall within 95% confidence limits for haplotypes that are not considered "rare." (i.e. with a sample size of 60, there is a 95% chance of observing every haplotype in a population

that occurs with 5% or greater frequency). There are no known risks associated with non-destructive sampling and genetic analysis of *O. nerka* populations. Genetic Data from this project will be analyzed using several commonly used statistical programs for this purpose. They include, NTSYS, PHYLIP, PAUP, Sigma STAT, DNAsize, Sigma Scan and several others. The outcomes will be evaluated by project staff as well as members of the Technical Oversight Committee and NMFS.

1.0 - Mitochondrial DNA Analyses

We employ the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to amplify four separate gene regions of mitochondrial DNA, Cytochrome b, NADH dehydrogenase subunit 1, NADH dehydrogenase subunit 2, and NADH dehydrogenase subunits 5/6. These sequences of DNA code for proteins active in the oxidative-phosphorylation pathway, carried out within the mitochondrial matrix. The DNA found in mitochondria is circular in conformation, small (approximately 16,000 base pairs in size), maternally inherited, and non-recombinatory. Mitochondrial DNA exhibits a relatively rapid rate of nucleotide change or evolution (when compared to nuclear gene sequences). For these reasons, mtDNA has been widely applied in studies of population genetics and phylogeography. Tissue samples from each *O. nerka* were stored separately in 70% ethanol or lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 200 mM NaCl, 50 mM EDTA, 1% Sodium dodecyl sulfate, 0.2% Dithiothreitol) until DNA was extracted using methods modified from Sambrook et al. (1989) and Dowling et al. (1990). The polymerase chain reaction (PCR) was used to amplify sequences (Figure 2) from each DNA sample using nucleotide primers specific for the mitochondrial Cytochrome b and NADH dehydrogenase subunit 1, 2, and 5/6 gene regions (LGL Ecological Genetics). Amplified mtDNA gene regions were digested using 13 Type II restriction endonucleases (Table 2). The resulting mtDNA fragments were separated by electrophoresis using agarose or polyacrylamide gels. Gels were stained with ethidium bromide and restriction fragment patterns visualized using UV light. Photographs of each gel were converted into computer image files using a ScanMan scanner and ScanMan 2.0 software (Logitech). Restriction fragment length polymorphisms (RFLPs) observed among samples were measured using SigmaScan Pro 2.0 (Jandel Scientific 1995), then given alphabetical designations as simple haplotypes. Fragment sizes of each RFLP from each gene region were estimated by comparison to a size standard, pUC-19 marker (Bio-Synthesis). Alphabetical designations from RFLPs of each mitochondrial gene region were combined into composite haplotypes. An estimate of the number of nucleotide substitutions per site (p) for each RFLP was calculated via the Nei (1987) method using REAP 4.0 (Restriction Enzyme Analysis Package) (McElroy et al., 1991) then used to generate a matrix comparing p values (distance) between all pairs of identified composite haplotypes. The KITSCH program in PHYLIP 3.5 (Felsenstein 1993) which assumes independence and equal rates of divergence was used to generate an distance dendrogram via the least-squares method of Fitch and Margoliash

(1967) to illustrate the estimated evolutionary relationships and distance among the identified composite haplotypes.

2.0 - Nuclear DNA Analyses

This project has examined several types of nuclear DNA markers for their utility in delineating *O. nerka* populations. Our current research in this area includes the use of 20 DNA primers constructed from a cloned, partial genomic library of *O. nerka* (courtesy of Dr. Kim Scribner). These nuclear primers are used to PCR amplify microsatellite sequences variable in size and sequence among and within populations. We are also using PCR to amplify two separate nuclear gene regions, p53 and growth hormone II. Primers for these two regions were obtained from Drs. Linda Park and Paul Moran of NMFS and were originally designed for use with chinook salmon. These two nuclear gene sequences exhibit restriction fragment length polymorphisms when different *O. nerka* populations are compared. We are currently modifying three additional sets of primers from nuclear gene sequences for use with this study. A third area of investigation involves amplified fragment length polymorphisms (AFLPs) and uses nuclear DNA primers to amplify 100-200 loci in a single PCR reaction. This method is potentially more cost effective than some other methods and provides a greater probability of detecting polymorphisms with limited sample sizes.

f. Facilities and equipment.

The Aquaculture Research Institute (ARI) at the University of Idaho directed by Dr. E. Brannon, maintains a fisheries genetics laboratory. This facility has two full time lab technicians, a full time research scientist (Dr. M. Powell), a half time doctoral research assistant, and contains all the equipment necessary to collect, generate, and analyze molecular genetic data necessary for the ongoing project. This includes all laboratory equipment, data analysis software, office, and clerical support. The University of Idaho's Hagerman Fish Culture Experiment Station (HFCES), with funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF EPSCoR # EPS-9632684), created the Salmonid and Freshwater Fish Research Laboratory. This laboratory is primarily a molecular genetics facility and in conjunction with the ARI fisheries genetics laboratory has completed preliminary examinations of mitochondrial DNA among sockeye. Genetic analyses are divided between the two facilities to expedite the completion of this project. The majority of the nuclear DNA analysis is conducted at the HFCES Salmonid and Freshwater Fish Research Laboratory. The remaining mitochondrial DNA analysis is performed at the ARI genetics facility.

No field equipment costs or tissue collection is necessary during this project. All tissue samples required have already been collected by coordinating agencies (ODFW, WDFW, IDFG, and SBT) or are listed for ongoing collection this year (1998) and in the future, under their current budgets.

The University of Idaho's Aquaculture Research Institute, specifically the fisheries genetics lab, provides a central clearinghouse for systematic and comprehensive evaluation to establish useful and necessary population genetic data for the benefit of all managers, agencies, and tribes. Currently the Aquaculture Research Institute at the

University of Idaho has collected, under the auspices of this project, over 3400 tissue samples of *O. nerka* comprising 32 separate populations throughout the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia.

g. References.

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Section 8. Relationships to other projects

The project provides genetic information to fisheries and resource managers to aid in the restoration and recovery of sockeye and kokanee populations in the Columbia River Basin. This project will result in a comprehensive data base and genetic profile from which the immediate and long term genetic risks to Snake River sockeye as well as other populations or stocks of sockeye within the Columbia River Basin can be addressed. The present target population is listed as a federally endangered species. Several of the other *O. nerka* stocks examined in this study are in decline and may be potential candidates for future listing.

Section 9. Key personnel

| Name | Employer | Title | FTE/hours |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Ernest L. Brannon | Univ. of Idaho | Project Coordinator | 0 |
| Madison S. Powell | Univ. of Idaho | Research Scientist | 0.5/2080 |

Duties for this project and qualifications for the proposed work:

All of the key personnel involved in this project have previously worked with and are currently contracted for this ongoing project. Dr. Brannon has previously published on genetic variaton in Snake River scokeye salmon (Brannon et al., 1994). Drs. Powell and Brannon are also supported with funding from an NSF grant to Snake river sockeye salmon until June 1998. All the procedures to be used in this project are either currently being employed (mitochondrial RFLP variation and sequence variation) or will be employed (microsatellite analysis etc.) by the termination of the NSF contract. Dr. Powell and contracted laboratory personnel conduct the laboratory work. Drs. Brannon and Powell analyze the data generated and interpret the results as they apply to sockeye salmon management and conservation.

Curriculum vitae for key personnel follow:

MADISON S. POWELL

Education:

Ph.D., 1995, Texas Tech University

M.S., 1990, University of Idaho

B.S., 1985, University of Idaho

Current employer: University of Idaho, Hagerman Fish Culture Experiment Station

3059 F National Fish Hatchery Road, Hagerman, ID 83332, (208) 837-9096

FAX: (208) 837-6047, email mpowell@northrim.net

Current Responsibilities: Research scientist; supervise fisheries genetics laboratories and lab personnel at the Aquaculture Research Institute and the Hagerman Fish Culture Experiment Station.

Previous employment:

| | |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1997-present | Research Scientist, Hagerman Fish Culture Experiment Station, University of Idaho, Hagerman, Idaho |
| 1996-1997 | Research Scientist, Aquaculture Research Institute, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho |
| 1995-1996 | Postdoctoral Fellow, Aquaculture Research Institute, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho |
| 1995 | Ph.D., Zoology, Texas Tech University |
| 1990 | M.S., Zoology, University of Idaho |
| 1985 | B.S., Zoology/Biology, University of Idaho |

Technical experience:

DNA and RNA isolation, molecular cloning, genomic libraries, DNA fingerprinting, automated sequencing, PCR amplification, RFLP analysis, RAPD analysis, *in vitro* transcription, fluorescence *in situ* hybridization, karyotyping, cell and tissue culture, nucleotide and protein electrophoresis, liquid chromatography, HPLC analysis, small animal surgery, field collection, and identification.

Five publication closely related to this project:

Powell, M.S. G.H. Thorgaard, R.L. Williams, B.A. Robison, J.C. Faler, and E.L. Brannon. Genetic analysis of sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) in Redfish Lake. Annual Completion Report, U.S. Dept. of Energy, Bonneville Power Administration, Portland. In preparation.

Powell, M.S. and J.C. Faler. Genetic differentiation among early and late spawning populations of kokanee salmon. In preparation. *Can. J. Fish and Aquat. Sci.*

Anders, P., and M. Powell. Karyotypic analysis of an endangered and geographically isolated population of white sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*), In preparation. *Genetica*

Paragamian, V.L., M.S. Powell, J.C. Faler, and S. Snelson. (accepted for publication) Mitochondrial DNA analysis of burbot *Lota lota* stocks in the Kootenai River Basin of British Columbia, Montana, and Idaho. *Trans. Amer. Fish. Soc.*

Baker, R.J., A.D. Simmons, M.S. Powell, J.L. Longmire, and R.D. Bradley. 1996. Utility of a satellite DNA sequence as a genetic marker in a hybrid zone of pocket gophers (Genus *Geomys*). pp25-34. In: Contributions in Mammalogy: A memorial volume honoring J. Knox Jones Jr. (H.H Genoways and R.J. Baker eds.) Museum of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas.

ERNEST L. BRANNON

Education:

Ph.D., 1973, Fisheries, University of Washington

B.S., 1959, Fisheries, University of Washington

Current Employer/Responsibilities:

Director, Aquaculture Research Institute, University of Idaho

State Aquaculture Extension Specialists

Professor of Fish and Wildlife Resources

Professor of Animal and Veterinary Sciences

Professional experience:

- 1988-present: Director, Aquaculture Institute, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho
- 1984-1988: Professor, School of Fisheries, College of Ocean and Fisheries Sciences, University of Washington, Seattle
- 1974-1983: Director, Finfish Aquaculture Program, College of Fisheries, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington
- 1973-1975: Assistant Professor, College of Fisheries, University of Washington, Seattle
- 1971-1972: Chief Biologist, International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission (IPSFC), New Westminster, B.C., Canada
- 1969-1971: Supervisor, Sockeye Management Research, IPSFC, New Westminster, B.C., Canada
- 1959-1969: Research Biologist, Fisheries Management, Artificial Propagation, Spawning Channel Development and Fish Culture, IPSFC, New Westminster, B.C., Canada
- 1953-1959: Field Management, IPSFC, New Westminster, B.C., Canada

Five publications closely related to the proposed project

- Powell, M.S. G.H. Thorgaard, R.L. Williams, B.A. Robison, J.C. Faler, and E.L. Brannon. Genetic analysis of sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) in Redfish Lake. Annual Completion Report, U.S. Dept. of Energy, Bonneville Power Administration, Portland. In preparation.
- Cummings, S.A., E.L. Brannon, K.J. Adams, and G.H. Thorgaard. 1997. Genetic Analysis to Establish Captive Breeding Priorities for Endangered Snake River Sockeye Salmon. *Conservation Biology* 11(3):662-669.
- Brannon, E.L. and A.W. Maki. 1996. The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill: Analysis of Impacts on the Prince William Sound Pink Salmon. *Reviews in Fisheries Science* 4(4):289-337.
- Thorgaard, G.H., P. Spruell, S.A. Cummings, A.S. Peek, and E.L. Brannon. 1995. Mixed DNA fingerprint analysis differentiates sockeye salmon populations. *Pages 295-303 in* J.L. Nielsen and D.A. Powers, editors. *Evolution and the aquatic ecosystem: Defining unique units in population conservation. Proceedings of the American Fisheries Society symposium 17 (May 23-25, 1994, Monterey, CA).*
- Brannon, E. and A. Setter. 1992. Movements of white sturgeon in Lake Roosevelt (1988-1991). Final Report, Contract # DE-BI79-89BP7298, Project # 89-44, to the US Department of Energy, Bonneville Power Administration, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Portland, OR. 35 pp.

Section 10. Information/technology transfer

Information generated by this project will be published as peer-reviewed publications and BPA annual reports. Information will also be updated and presented at future Stanley Basin Technical Oversight Committee meetings, American Fisheries Society conferences, and BPA project summary conferences. It is critically important for sockeye salmon management in the Pacific Northwest that information from this project be distributed so that the implications of the results and conclusions can be thoroughly discussed and reviewed. This project does not involve nor, does it contain funding for public relations activities. However, this project is funded at a major land-grant university within the region and at a research center that is substantially involved in extension and outreach services. These conditions predicate a certain degree of “visibility” for BPA involvement and concern for the region’s efforts to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife. Public awareness is also increased by participation of project staff in regional and national scientific meetings and publication in both peer reviewed and non-peer reviewed literature.