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North American Journal of Fisheries Management
Attention Journals Manager

Dear Journals Manager:

This letter accompanies a manuscript titled "Identifying optimal translocation policies given factors associated with adult spring-run Chinook Salmon translocation mortality ." Spring Chinook Salmon are transported in trucks upstream of barrier dams in Willamette River Tributaries as part of fish conservation efforts. Fish mortalities occurring during these translocation efforts minimizes the utility of the effort, especially since natural origin fish are targeted for these outplanting efforts. This paper evaluates factors associated with transport mortality for Spring Chinook Salmon. We then used the results of the analysis to identify optimal transport densities that minimized agency resources and mortality risk. We discuss potential paths to mediate mortality and an adaptive management framework that can be used to learn about mortality factors while improving optimal management strategies. This is one of the first studies to our knowledge that provides a quantitative assessment of transportation mortality in conservation fisheries, a practice we believe will continue into the future. Please consider this manuscript for publication in *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*.

Neither the manuscript nor the data are under consideration for publication elsewhere. Steve Lindley (NOAA; Director, Fisheries Ecology Division, Southeast Fisheries Science Center) has read and commented on earlier versions of the manuscripts as part of USGS FSP review. All coauthors participated fully in and accept responsibility for this work. All coauthors agree with the submission of this manuscript for publication in *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*, and to our knowledge have no conflicts of interest. Contact information for co-authors is as follows:

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We greatly appreciate your consideration of this manuscript for publication. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need more information.

Sincerely,

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