**DRAFT**  December 16, 2015

**FILE MEMORANDUM**

**FROM:** Gary Fredricks and Trevor Conder, NOAA Fisheries

**SUBJECT:** NOAA’s Generic Minimum Juvenile Salmon Condition Monitoring Requirements

2016 Fish Passage guidance for minimum condition sampling as required by the 2008 Biological Opinion, RPA 53:

To be implemented at each FCRPS project with an operating juvenile bypass system during the juvenile fish passage season when no other more intensive monitoring is occurring (e.g., Smolt Monitoring Program (SMP) index monitoring and fish transport monitoring):

1. Sample goal should be 100 fish of each of the predominate species of salmonids on each sample day however, all fish collected during the sample would be examined and recorded. The sample rate should never exceed 10% during periods of low passage.
2. Sample no less than twice per week, with no more than three days between sample days. Increased frequency may be necessary at some dams (to be worked out by FPOM) and during periods when injuries are being noted or suspected (e.g., high debris periods).
3. Sampling should only be conducted during relatively high daily passage periods (typically after dusk). Long term holding and 24 hour sampling is typically not necessary for condition sampling and should be avoided to the extent possible.
4. Fish condition reporting should follow the standardized SMP protocol for descriptive categories as outlined in the current season Condition Sampling Protocol. Currently this is section II. Detailed Description of Salmonid Condition Sampling for SMP (http://www.fpc.org/documents/metadata/ConditionSamplingProtocol\_2015.pdf ).
5. GBT monitoring is separate from minimum condition monitoring per RPA 53 and must be followed according to TDG waiver requirements.
6. Sampling results should be posted within the next twelve hours after sampling. These should include, at a minimum; sample rate, number of fish examined by species, percent and number exhibiting each malady by species and total. We would prefer that the data be provided to the Fish Passage Center (preferably using the FPC32.net data entry program or current equivalent) for posting on the FPC website. If this option is not available for some reason, online reports should be posted to the FPOM webpage. If these online sites are not available, reports should be emailed directly to the current NOAA Fisheries FPOM members.