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NATIONAL LABORATORY

State-of-the-Art Acoustic Telemetry for Fish Migration Studies: Current Capabilities and Future Advances

February 18, 2020

Daniel Deng and Stephanie Liss

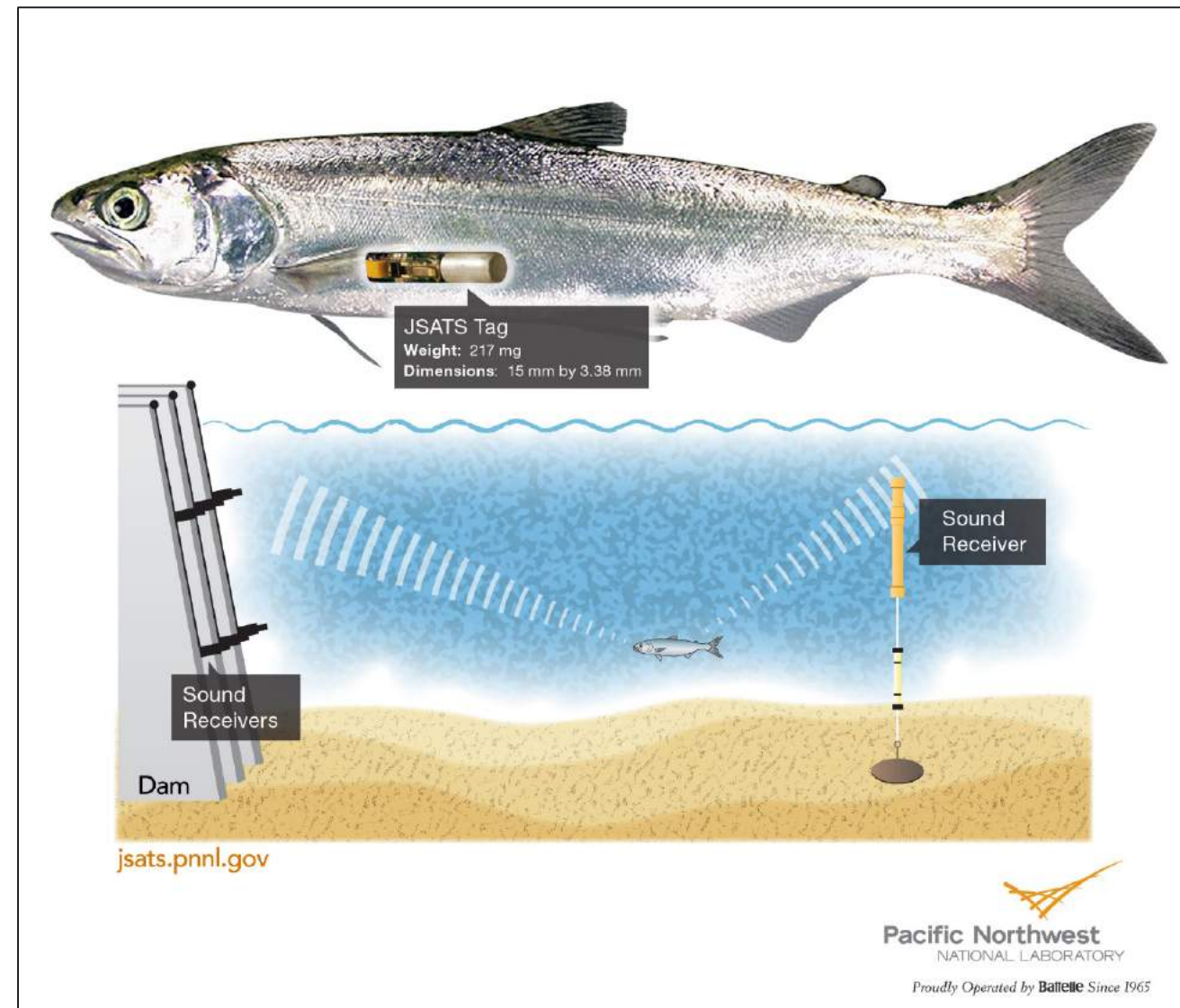
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Acoustic Telemetry Technology for Fish Behavior and Survival

- Sound source transmitting a signal containing information
- A receiver receiving the signal and decoding it to recover the transmitted information
- Encoding strategies
 - amplitude
 - frequency
 - phase of individual pulses
 - time between pulses

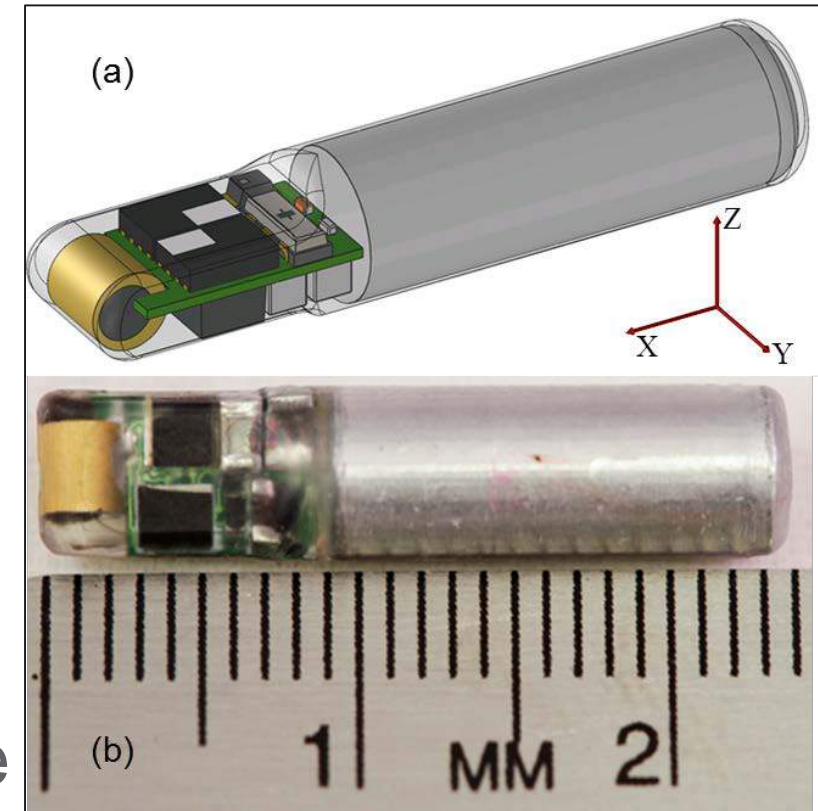


New Trends for Biotelemetry

- **More powerful transmitter**
- Long-lasting transmitter
- **Bio-logging**
- Flexible or stretchable transmitter
- **Cloud-based and real-time system to estimate behavior or survival of tagged aquatic animals**
- **Machine learning to improve 3D tracking accuracy and large data processing**
- **Smaller and lighter transmitter**

Long-Term Juvenile Sturgeon Tag Specifications*

- Dimension: 24.2 mm × 5.0 mm
- Dry Weight: 0.7 g
- Wet Weight: 0.2 g
- Source Level:
 - 161 or 163 dB at zero deg
- Configurable pulse rate interval & tag code
- Optional temperature, alternating, and hibernation mode
- Tag Life: 365 days at 161 dB and 15-s pulse rate interval



*Available for licensing; patented

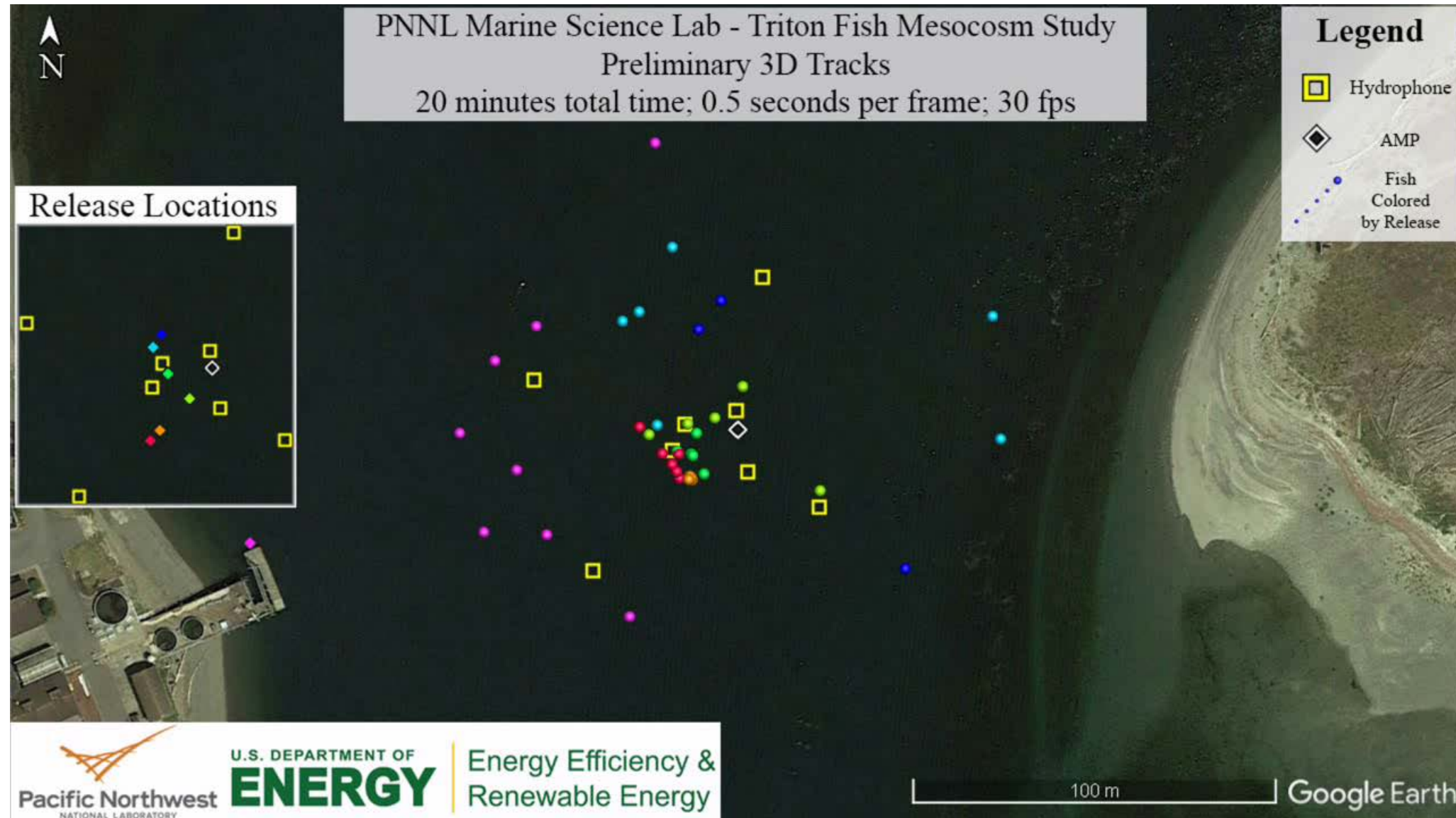
Lu, J. et al. 2016. A small long-life acoustic transmitter for studying the behavior of aquatic animals. Review of Scientific Instruments, 87(11), 114902.

Sturgeon Tag Applications

- Small juvenile (< 1 year old) sturgeon
- Long term monitoring for adult fish such as adult lamprey and salmon
- Noisy environment such as immediate tailrace due to higher source level
- Mobile tracking due to longer detection range
- Marine environment



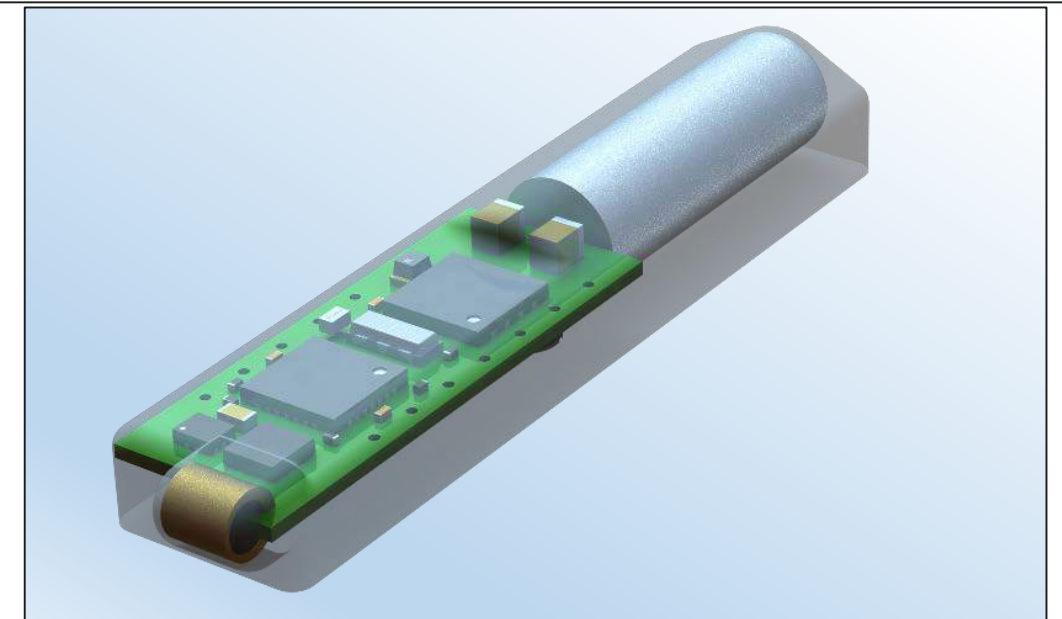
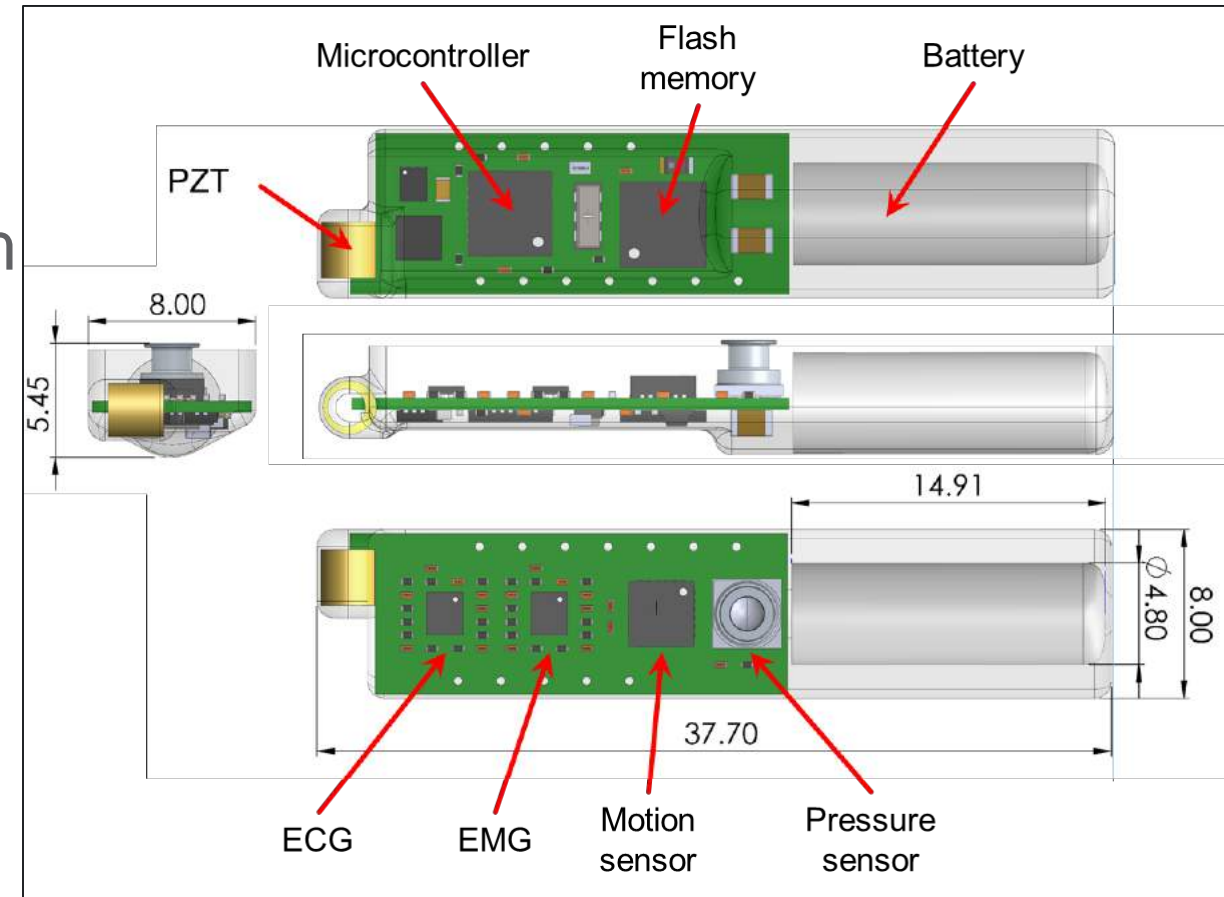
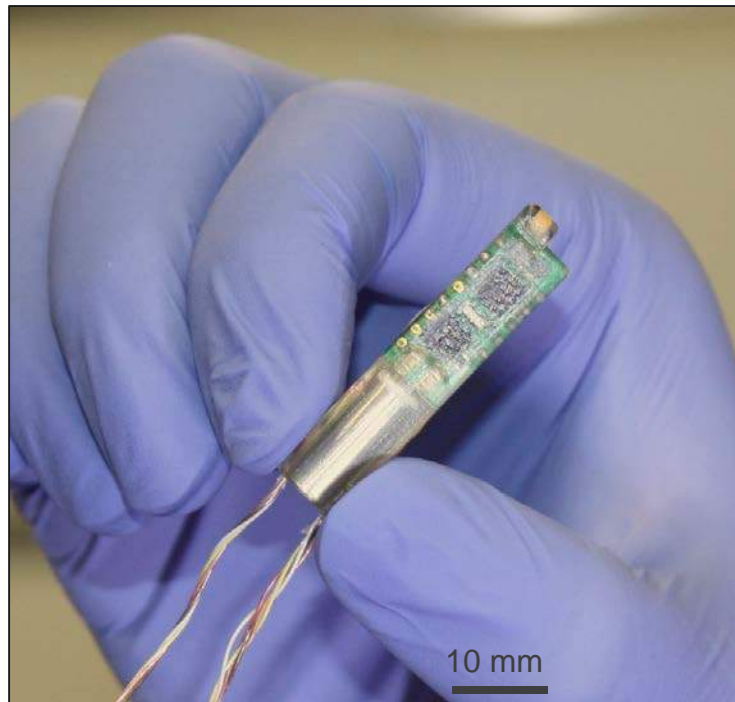
Application of Sturgeon Tag: Triton Fish Mesocosm Study in Sequim Bay*



Staines et al. 2019. "Using acoustic telemetry for high resolution sablefish movement informing potential interactions with a tidal turbine." In Proceedings of OCEANS 2019 Seattle.

Lab-on-Fish Layout

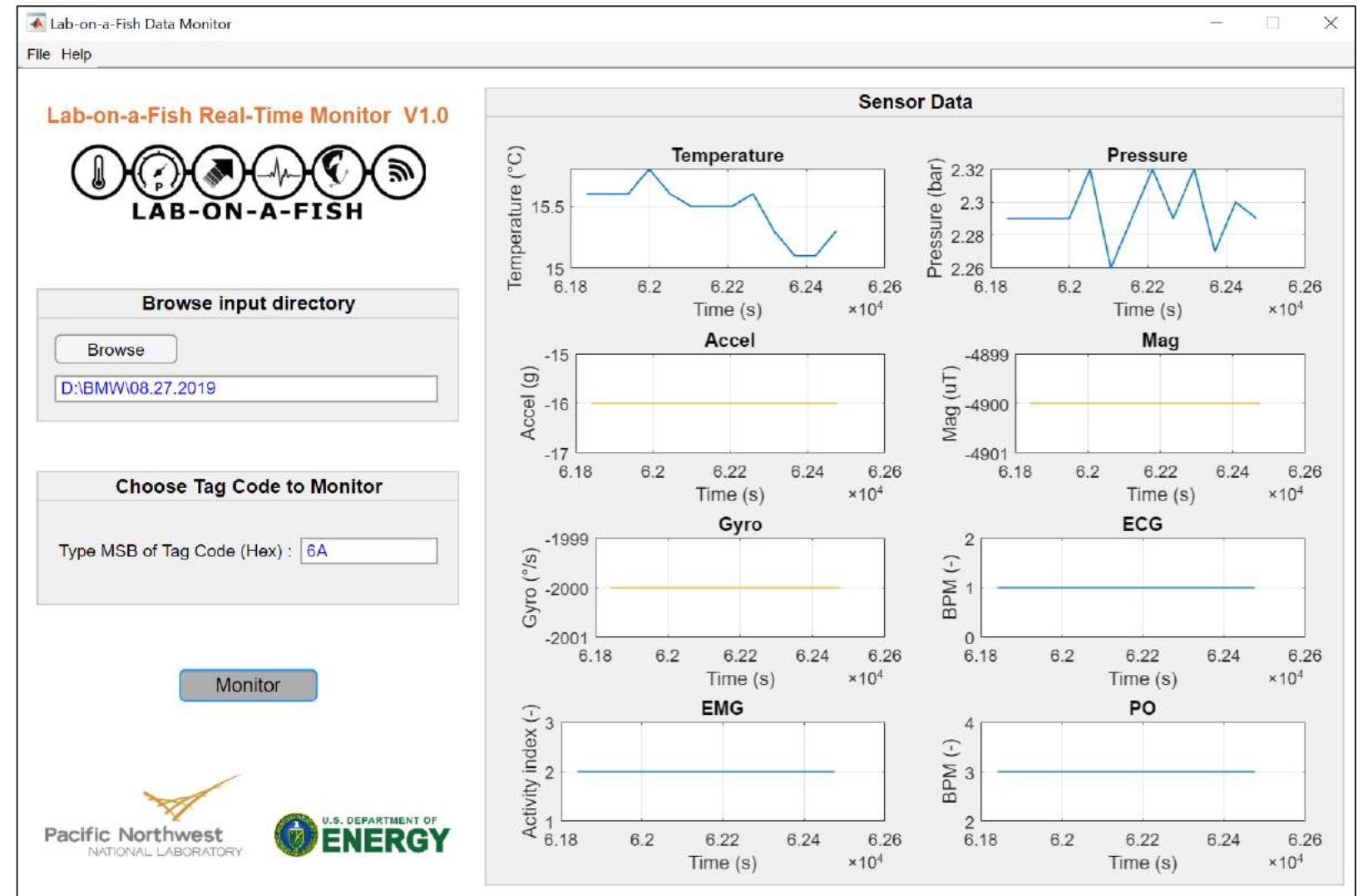
- Full Dimension: 5.5 mm × 8.0 mm × 37.7 mm
- Dry Weight: 2.4 g
- Wet Weight: 0.8 g
- Volume: 1608 mm³
- PNNL-developed micro-battery



*Available for licensing; patent pending

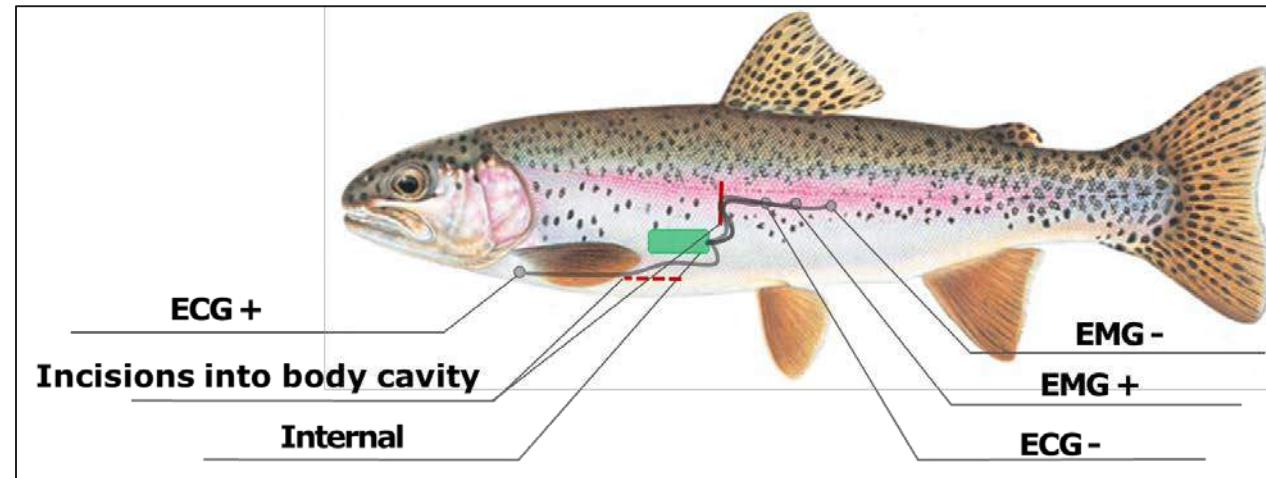
Bio-Logging: Lab-on-a-Fish

- Physiological
 - Electrocardiogram (ECG)
 - Electromyogram (EMG)
 - Pulse oximetry
- Environmental
 - Magnetic field
 - Temperature
 - Pressure
- Physical
 - Gyration
 - Acceleration



*Available for licensing; patent pending

Lab-on-a-Fish Tagging Protocols

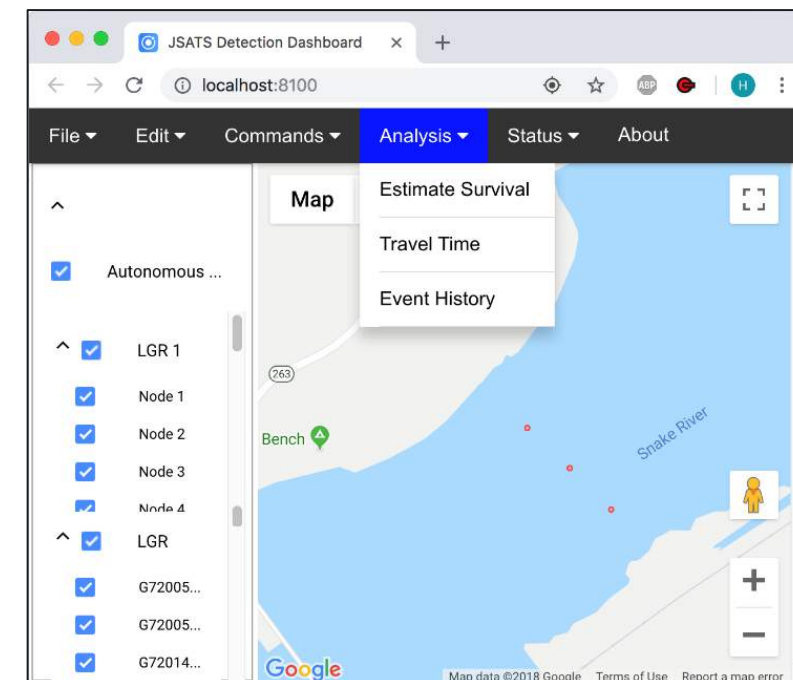
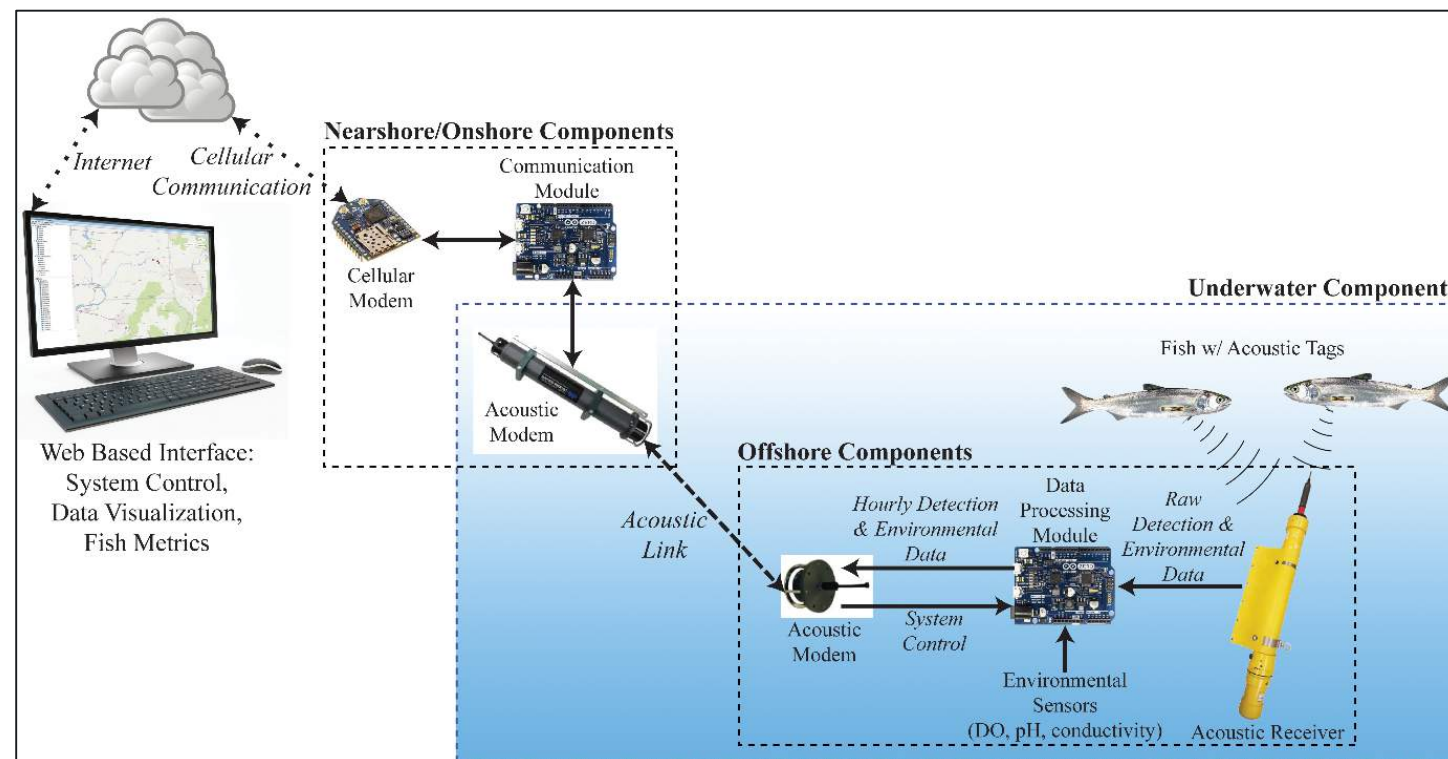


- Vertical incision into the body cavity for the main tag
- A second incision along the abdominal midline for ECG+
- ECG- and EMG+/- were embedded subdermally



A Cloud-Based Autonomous Acoustic Receiver for Monitoring Real-Time Fish Survival

- Remote and real-time data acquisition
- Remote health monitoring of acoustic receivers
- Remote monitoring of environmental conditions
- User-friendly and real-time info on fish survival metrics



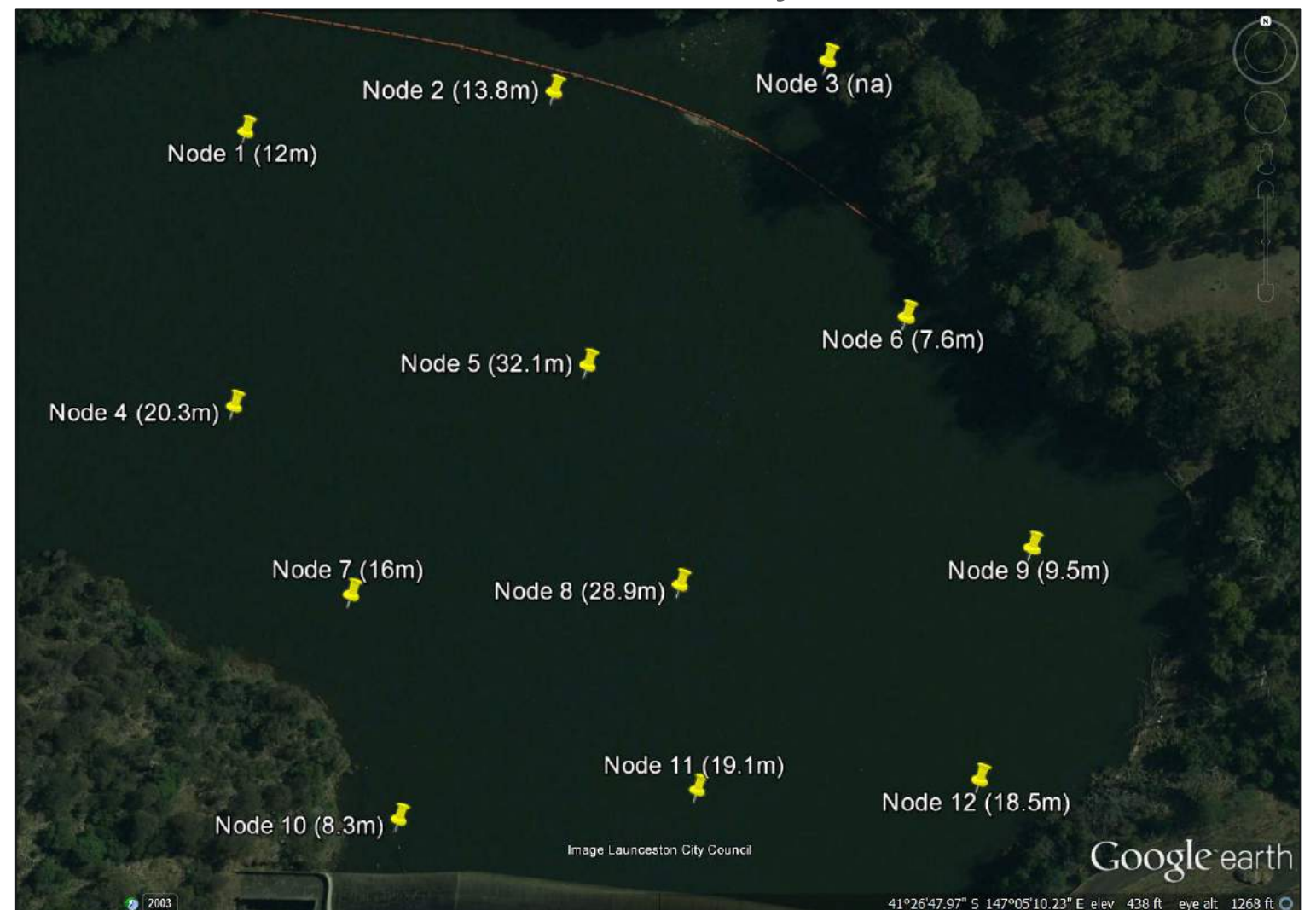
Yang et al. 2019. "Design and implementation of a real-time underwater acoustic telemetry system for fish behavior study and environmental sensing." In Proceedings of OCEANS 2019 Seattle.

3D Tracking using Autonomous Receivers

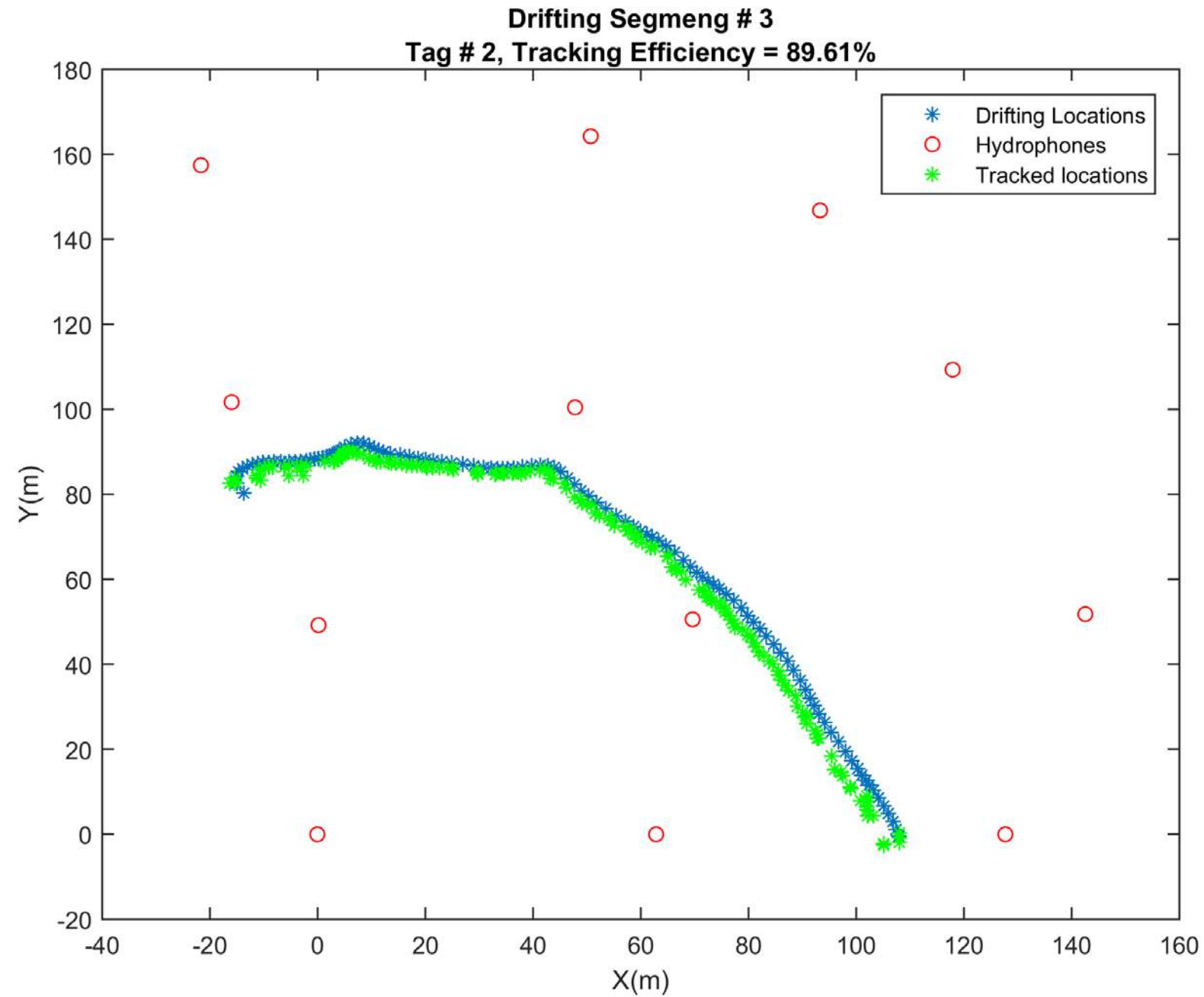
- Trevallyn Dam forebay at Tasmania, Australia
- Twelve JSATS autonomous receivers were deployed
- Feasible due to advances in underwater sensor network synchronization and 3D tracking algorithm



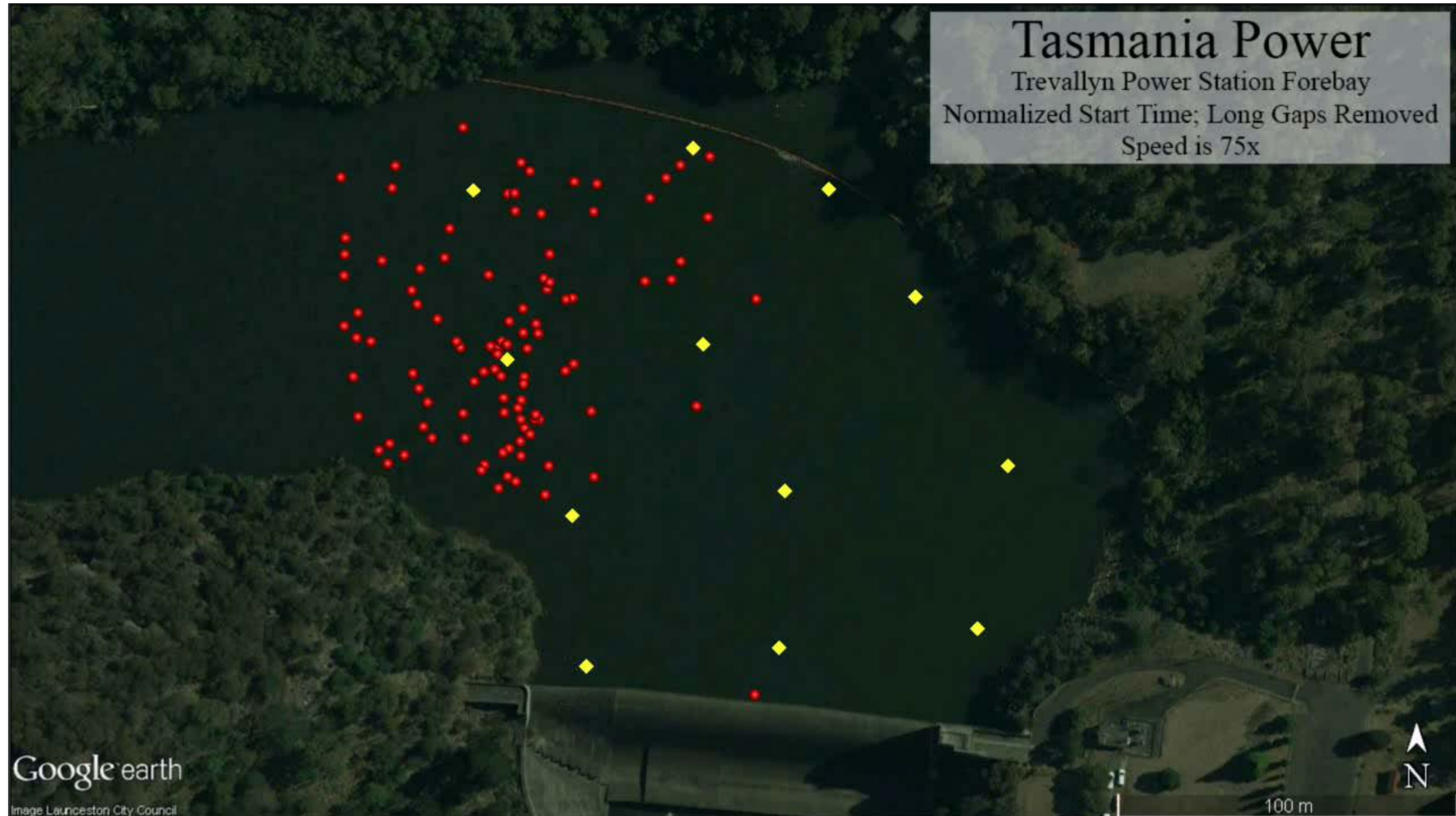
Courtesy of David Ikedife of Hydro Tasmania



Tracking Results: Drifting Target

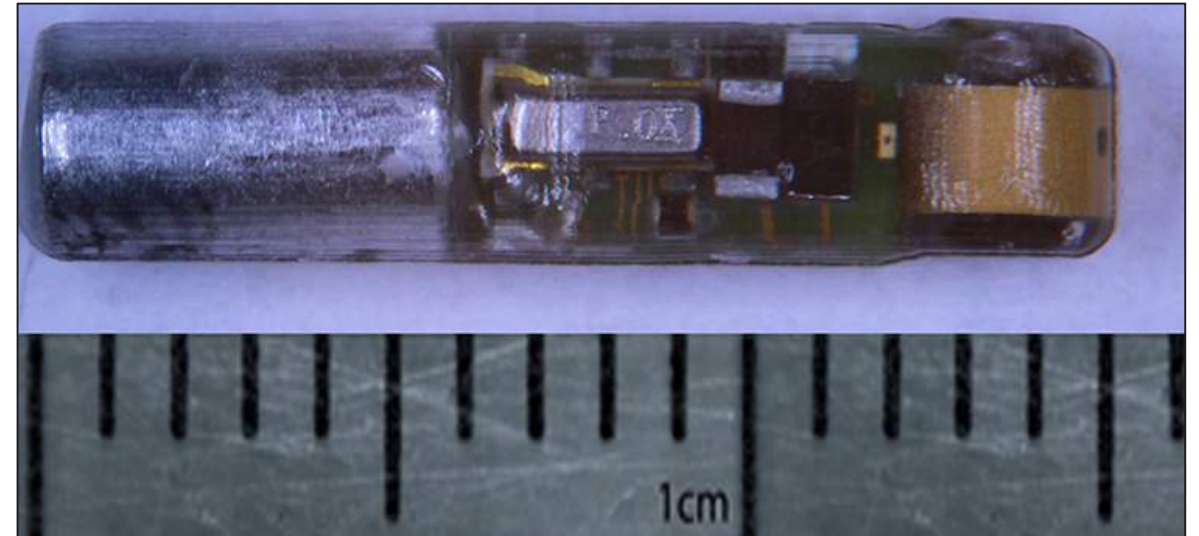


3D Tracking Results

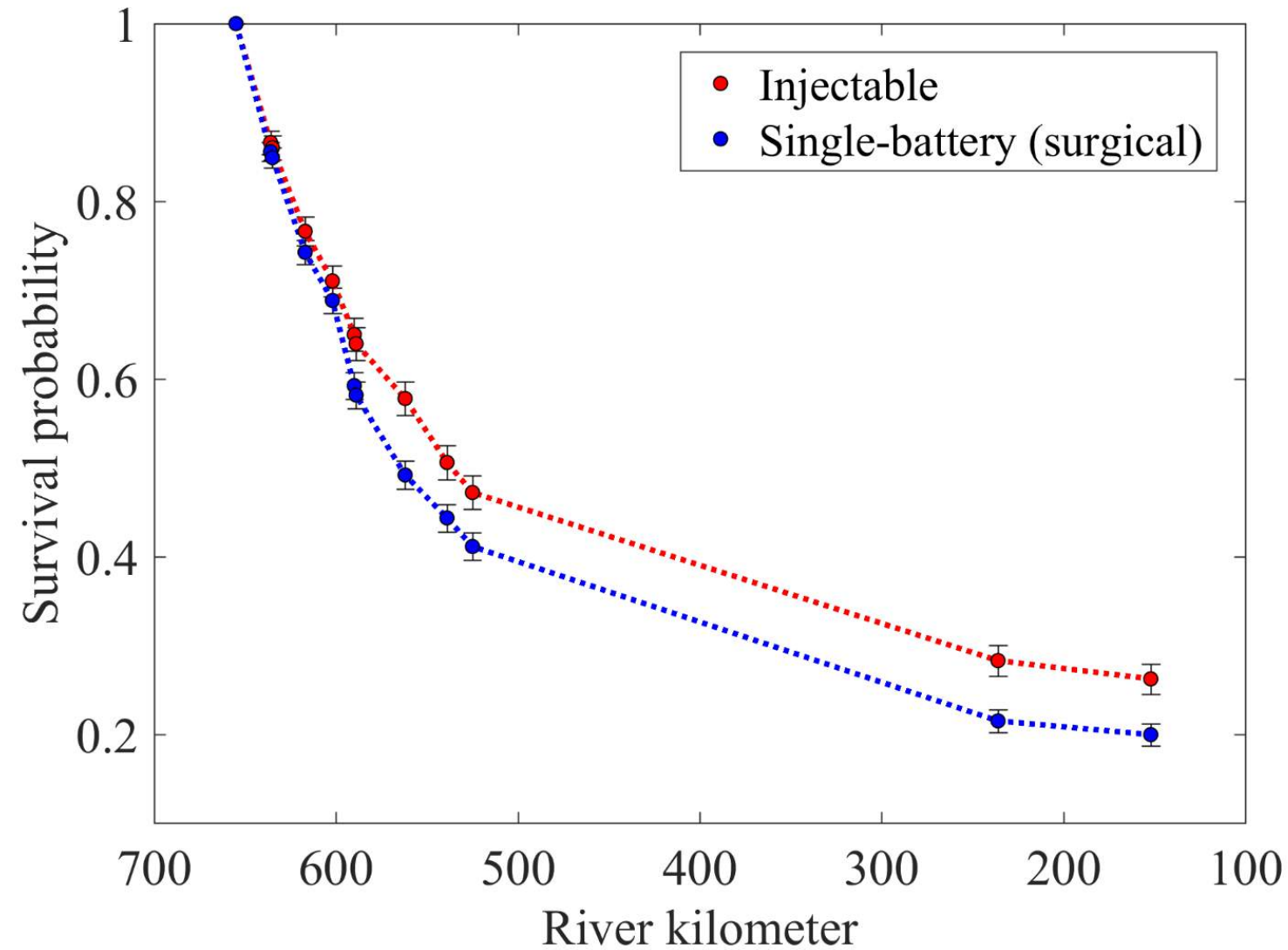


Injectable Acoustic Transmitter

- Implantation by injection instead of surgery, leading to significant cost reduction in use and training
- Significantly reduced handling of fish
- Dimension: 15 mm × 3.3 mm
- Dry Weight: 0.2 g
- Wet Weight: 0.1 g
- Source Level:
 - 156 dB at zero deg
 - 155 dB average -90 to 90 deg
- Configurable pulse rate interval and tag code
- Optional temperature, alternating tag codes, and hibernation mode
- Tag life: > 120 days at 3-s pulse rate interval from prototype testing (Commercially available version has reduced tag life due to sponsors' need)



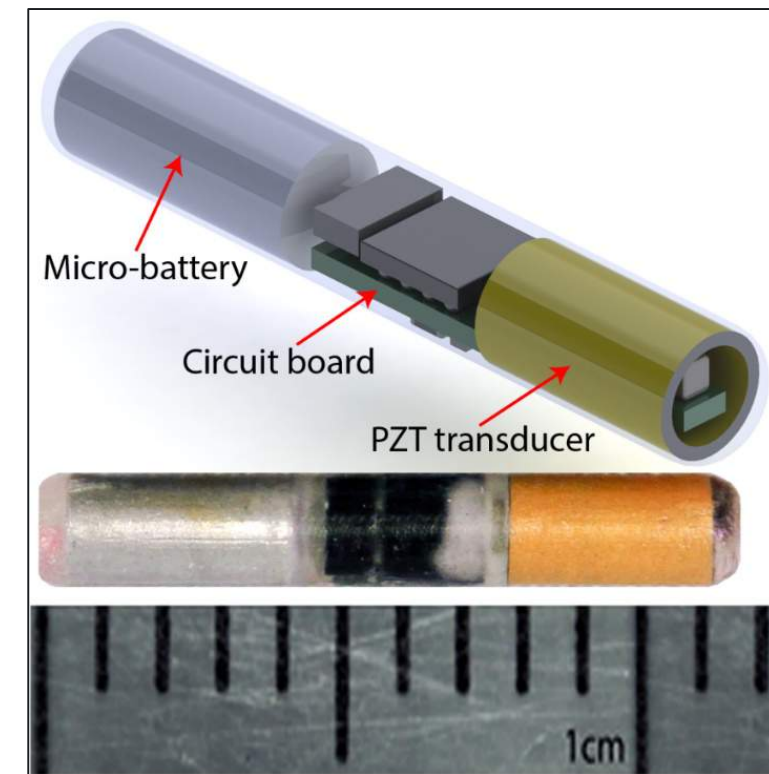
Survival Rate Comparison of Juvenile Chinook Salmon Using Injectable and Surgical Acoustic Transmitters



Deng ZD et al. 2017. "Comparing the survival rate of juvenile Chinook salmon migrating through hydropower systems using injectable and surgical acoustic transmitters." *Scientific Reports* 7:42999. doi:10.1038/srep42999

First Generation Juvenile Lamprey/Eel Acoustic Transmitter*

- Dimension: 12.0 mm × 2.0 mm
- Dry Weight: 0.08 g
- Wet Weight: 0.04 g
- Source Level: 148 dB
- Configurable pulse rate interval and tag code
- Optional temperature, alternating code, and hibernation mode
- Tag life: ~30 days at 5-s pulse rate interval
- Demonstrated feasibility in lab and field conditions



*Available for licensing; patented

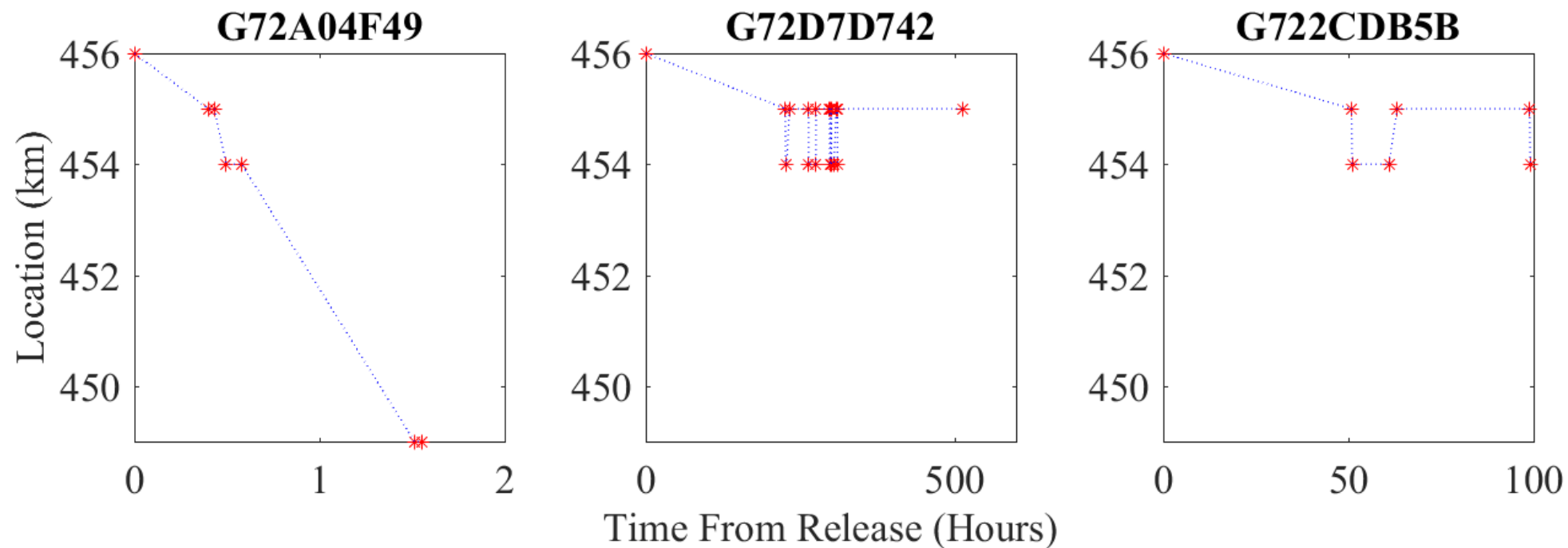
Pilot Field Trial with Juvenile Lamprey: Array Design

- A total of 41 JSATS autonomous receivers were deployed between McNary Dam and John Day Dam
 - 7 nodes at river km 449
 - 26 nodes at river km 454
 - 8 nodes at river km 455
- 100 tagged fish were released approximately 1 km upstream of the array at rkm 455 at three lateral locations across the river



Pilot Field Trial with Juvenile Lamprey: Detection Summary

- Array at rkm 455
 - 98 out of 100 fish detected: Two tagged fish were never detected on any node
- Array at rkm 454
 - 98 out of 98 fish detected (100%)
- Array at rkm 449
 - 96 out of 98 fish detected: Two fish went back and forth between the 1st and 2nd array but never reached the 3rd array (shown below w/ a typical fish for comparison)



Next Frontiers

- Smaller, lighter, more powerful transmitter
- Long-lasting transmitter: self-powered platform
- Bio-logging sensors
- Flexible or stretchable sensors
- Cloud-based and real-time system to estimate behavior or survival of tagged aquatic animals
- Machine learning / deep learning for fish passage and hydro operations
- Only way to achieve these goals is multi-disciplinary approach and close collaboration between stakeholders nationally and internationally

Lamprey/Eel Acoustic Transmitter (ELAT): Previous Lab and Field Studies

Fisheries Research 195 (2017) 52–58

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

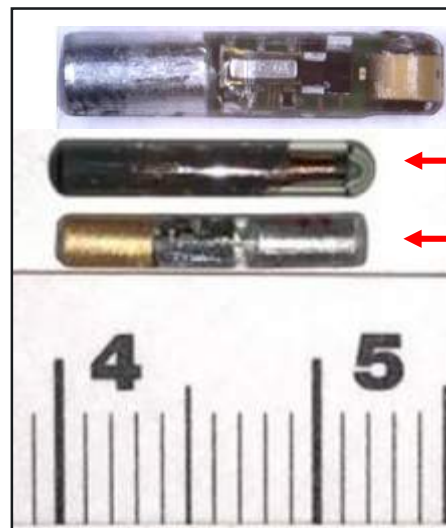
Fisheries Research

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/fishres

Retention and effects of miniature transmitters in juvenile American eels

Robert P. Mueller^{a,*}, Jill Janak^a, Stephanie A. Liss^b, Richard S. Brown^a, Zhiqun Deng^c, Ryan A. Harnish^a

^a Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Ecology Group, Richland, WA 99352, United States
^b Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Environmental Assessment Group, Richland, WA 99352, United States
^c Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Hydrology Group, Richland, WA 99352, United States



← 15.0 mm Injectable AT
 ← 12.5 mm PIT tag
 ← 12.0 mm ELAT

ENVIRONMENT AUTHOR PRODUCED

Implantation of a New Micro Acoustic Tag in Juvenile Pacific Lamprey and American Eel
 Robert Mueller¹, Stephanie Liss¹, Z. Daniel Deng¹
¹Earth Systems Science Division, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

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ENVIRONMENT

Protocols and Methods for Implantation of a New Micro Acoustic Tag in Juvenile Pacific Lamprey and American Eel

Robert Mueller, Stephanie Liss, and Z. Daniel Deng

Earth Systems Science Division,
 Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
 October 2018

Pilot Field Trial of the Juvenile Lamprey/Eel Tag and RME Plan to Guide Future Juvenile Pacific Lamprey Acoustic Telemetry Studies

February 2018

ZD Deng PS Titzler
 RP Mueller J Lu
 JJ Martinez T Fu
 H Li JS Cable
 KA Deters JM Hubbard
 AH Colotelo

PNNL-27295

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 Prepared for the U.S. Department of Energy under Contract DE-AC05-76RL01830

ELAT Implantation in Juvenile Chinook Salmon

- Fischer et al. 2019
 - ELAT pilot lab study
 - ✓ Survival
 - ✓ Tag Retention
 - ✓ Growth
 - Results
 - ✓ 90% survival after 30 days
 - 62 mm fork length
 - 2.4–2.8 grams
 - 4.1% tag burden
 - ✓ Smallest survived fish: 54 mm (1.8 grams; 4.9% tag burden)
 - Recommendation: a follow-up tag effects lab study
 - ✓ Greater number of fish at smaller sizes
 - ✓ Evaluate additional tag effects metrics



North American Journal of Fisheries Management

Management Brief

How Small Can We Go? Evaluating Survival, Tag Retention, and Growth of Juvenile Chinook Salmon Implanted with a New Acoustic Microtag

Eric S. Fischer ✉, Shannon E. Blackburn, Stephanie A. Liss, James S. Hughes, Huidong Li, Zhiqun Daniel Deng

First published: 06 November 2019 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/nafm.10367>



Volume 39, Issue 6
December 2019
Pages 1329-1336

Recommendation: Follow-up Tag Effects Lab Study

- Differences between the two studies

Tag Effects Metric	Fischer et al. 2019	
	Sample Size	Size Range (mm fork length)
Survival, tag retention, growth	97	52–99

54 mm = smallest survived fish

Recommendation: Follow-up Tag Effects Lab Study

- Differences between the two studies

Tag Effects Metric	Fischer et al. 2019		New Study	
	Sample Size	Size Range (mm fork length)	Sample Size	Size Range (mm fork length)
Survival, tag retention, growth	97	52–99	519	36–99

Recommendation: Follow-up Tag Effects Lab Study

- Differences between the two studies

Tag Effects Metric	Fischer et al. 2019		New Study	
	Sample Size	Size Range (mm fork length)	Sample Size	Size Range (mm fork length)
Survival, tag retention, growth	97	52–99	519	36–99
Swimming performance	–	–	241	40–99

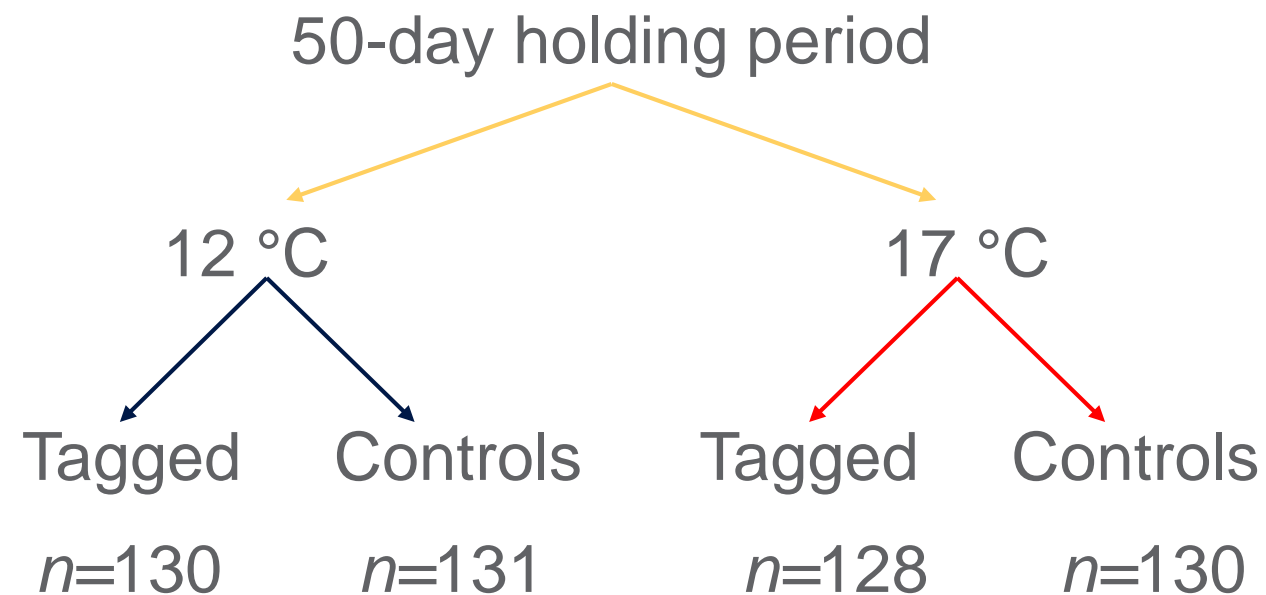
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Survival, tag retention, growth	97	52–99	519	36–99
Swimming performance	–	–	241	40–99
Total	97	52–99	760	36–99

What is the Minimum Size for Chinook Salmon that Can be Tagged with the ELAT?

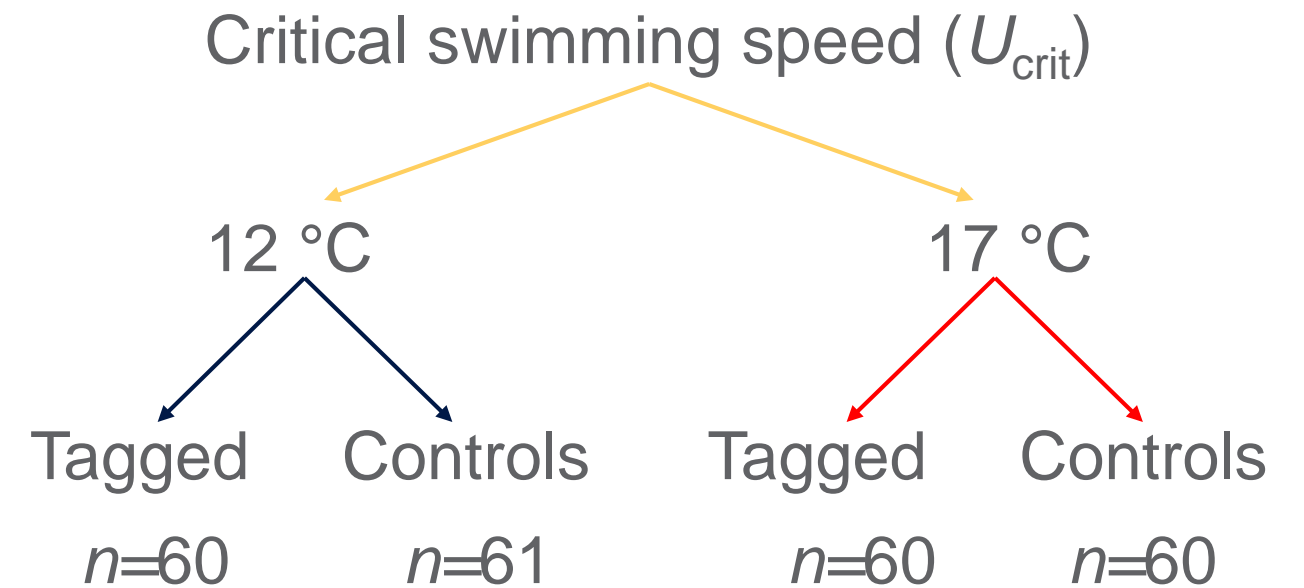
Survival, tag retention, growth study



N = 519

36–99 mm FL = size range of study fish

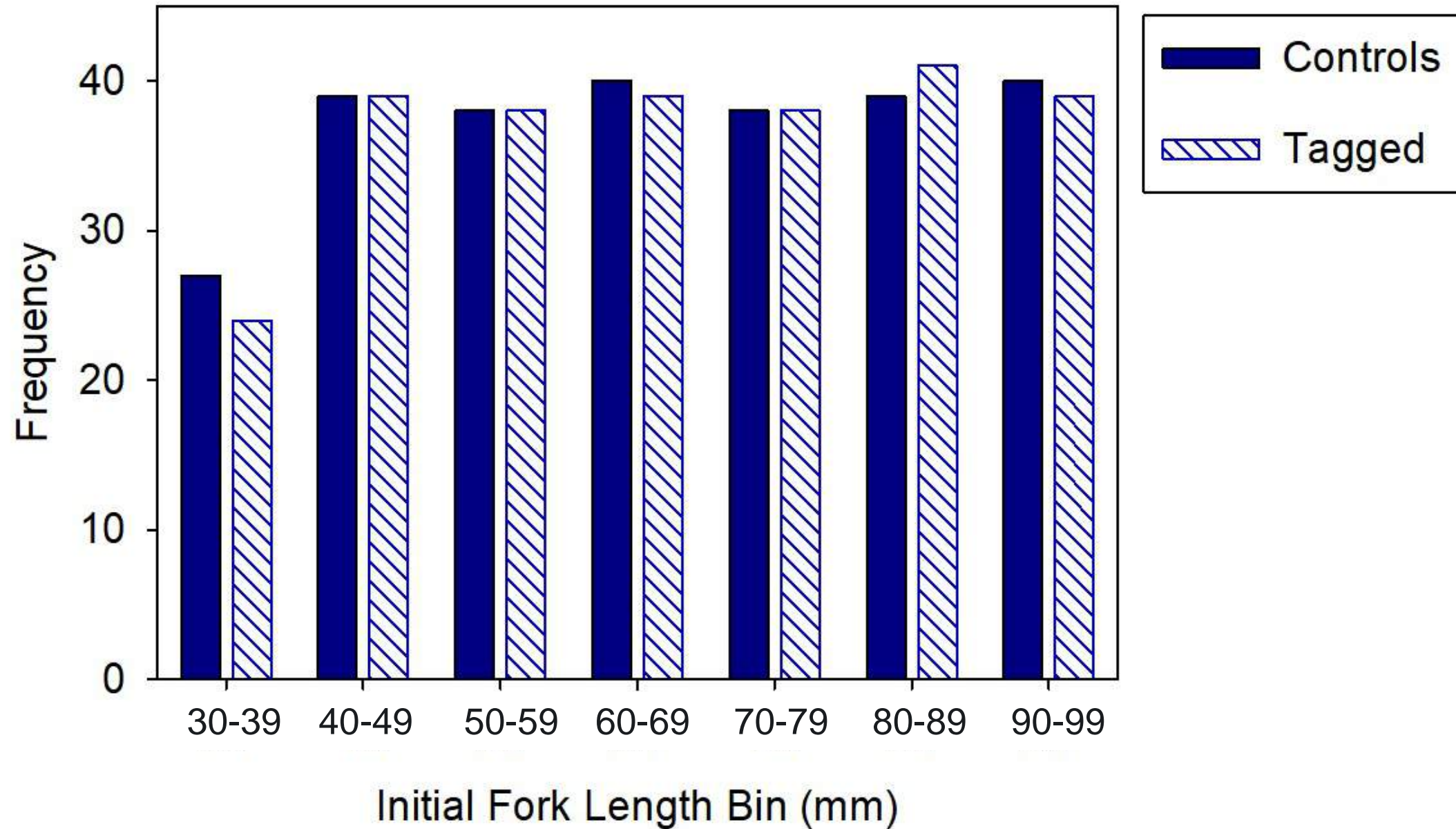
Swimming performance study



N = 241

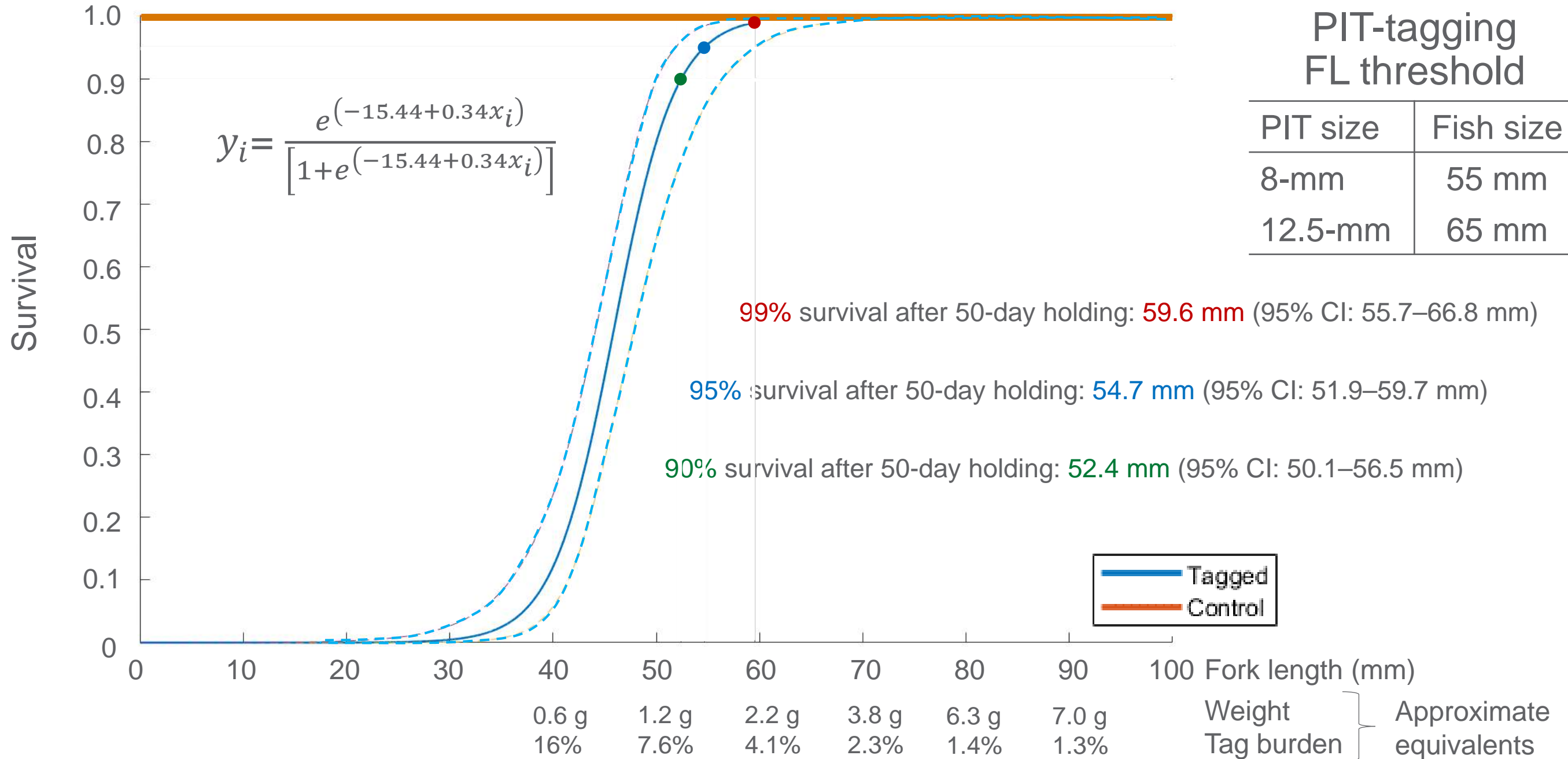
40–99 mm FL = size range of study fish

Fish Evenly Distributed Across Size Range*



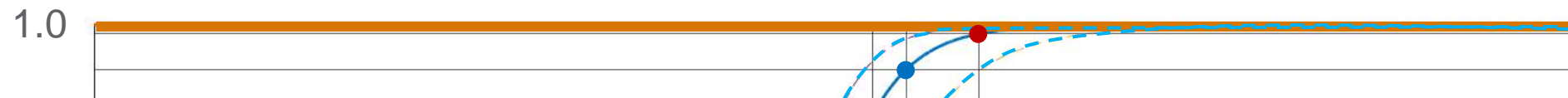
*No difference in temperatures: data combined.

Statistical Results: Conservative Threshold = 60 mm



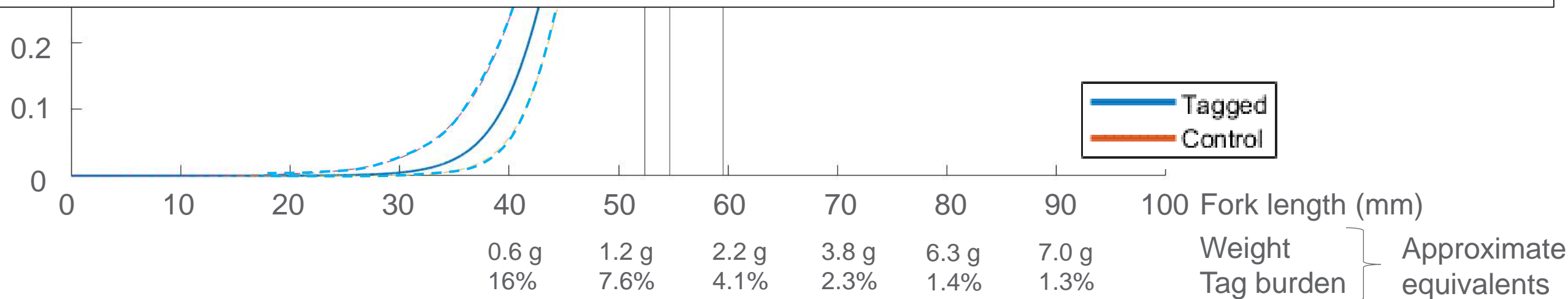


Statistical Results: Conservative Threshold = 60 mm



GLM Binomial Logistic Regression Models were also run for Weight and Tag Burden

Figures Looked Similar to Fork Length Regression Curve





Length, Weight and Tag Burden Results from GLMs to Fit a Variety of Study Objectives

Post-Tagging Survival (50 d)	Metric	95% CI
90%	53 mm FL	50–57 mm
	1.5 grams	1.3–1.9 g
	6.8% tag burden	5.2–7.9%
95%	55 mm FL	52–60 mm
	1.6 grams	1.4–2.1 g
	5.4% tag burden	3.4–6.7%
99%	60 mm FL	56–67 mm
	2.0 grams	1.7–2.8 g
	2.3% tag burden	0.0–4.1%





Biological Results:

All fish ≥ 58 mm survived and retained their ELAT

Initial (day 0) measurements of the five largest fish that died or expelled their ELAT in the survival study, and the number of days post-tagging it occurred.

Count	Day post-tagging	Fork length (mm)	Weight (g)	Tag burden (%)	Mechanism
1	6	51	1.5	5.9	Died
2	15	55	1.6	5.5	Died
3	18	51	1.4	6.3	Expelled ELAT
4	27	54	1.5	5.9	Expelled ELAT
5	29	57	1.7	5.2	Died



Biological Results:

All fish ≥ 58 mm survived and retained their ELAT

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3	18	51	1.4	6.3	Expelled ELAT
4	27	54	1.5	5.9	Expelled ELAT
5	29	57	1.7	5.2	Died

95% survival after 50-day holding threshold = 55 mm

55–59 mm } 31 out of 33 fish: 93.9%

55–99 mm } 345 out of 347 fish: 99.4%



ELAT Allows for Active Monitoring of Small Chinook Salmon

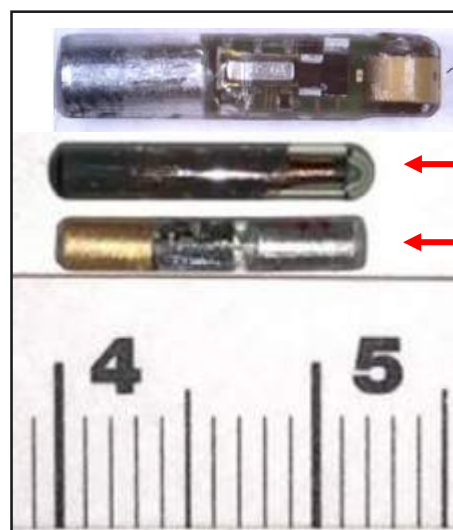
Recommended PIT-tagging FL threshold

PIT size	Fish size
8-mm	55 mm
12.5-mm	65 mm

Same as our 95% 50-day post-surgery threshold



Credit card: 87 mm wide



← 15.0 mm Injectable

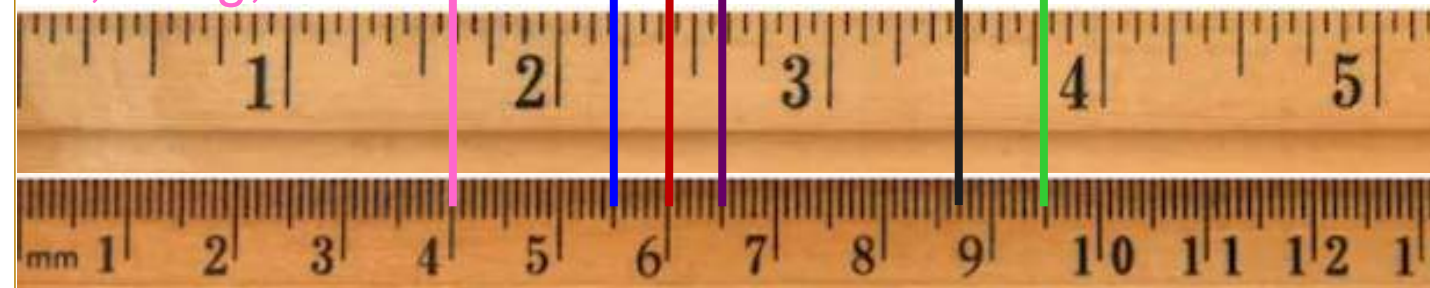
← 12.5 mm PIT

← 12.0 mm ELAT

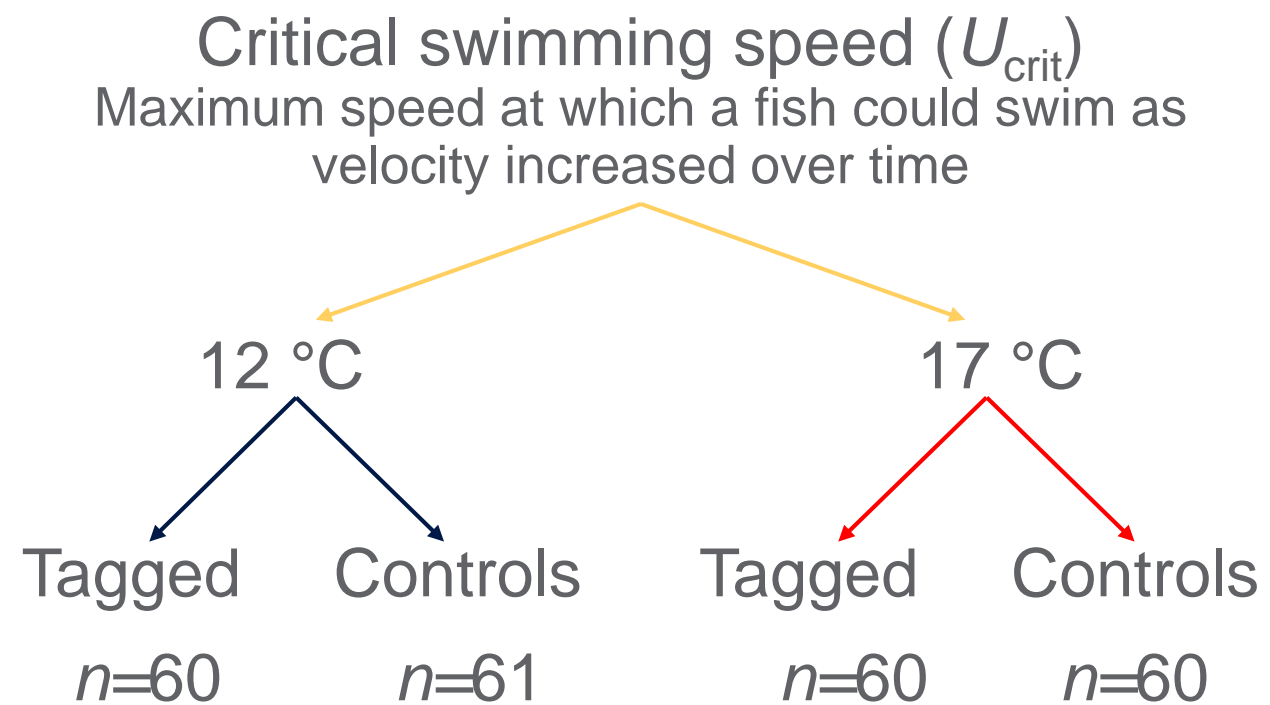
Smallest survived:
40 mm; 0.5 g; 17.6%

99% post-surgery survival: 60 mm FL

Injectable acoustic transmitter threshold: 95 mm FL

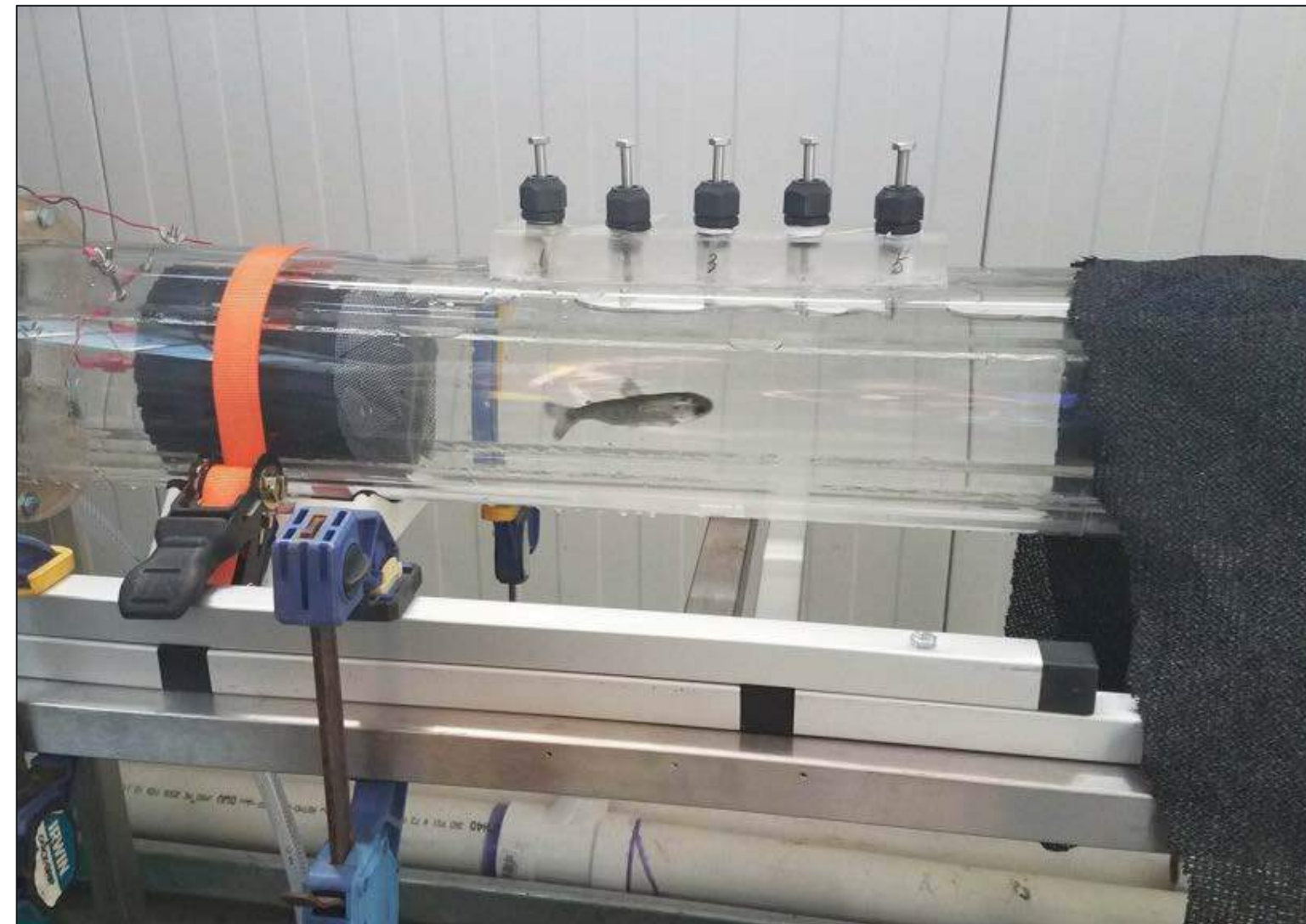


Swimming Performance Study



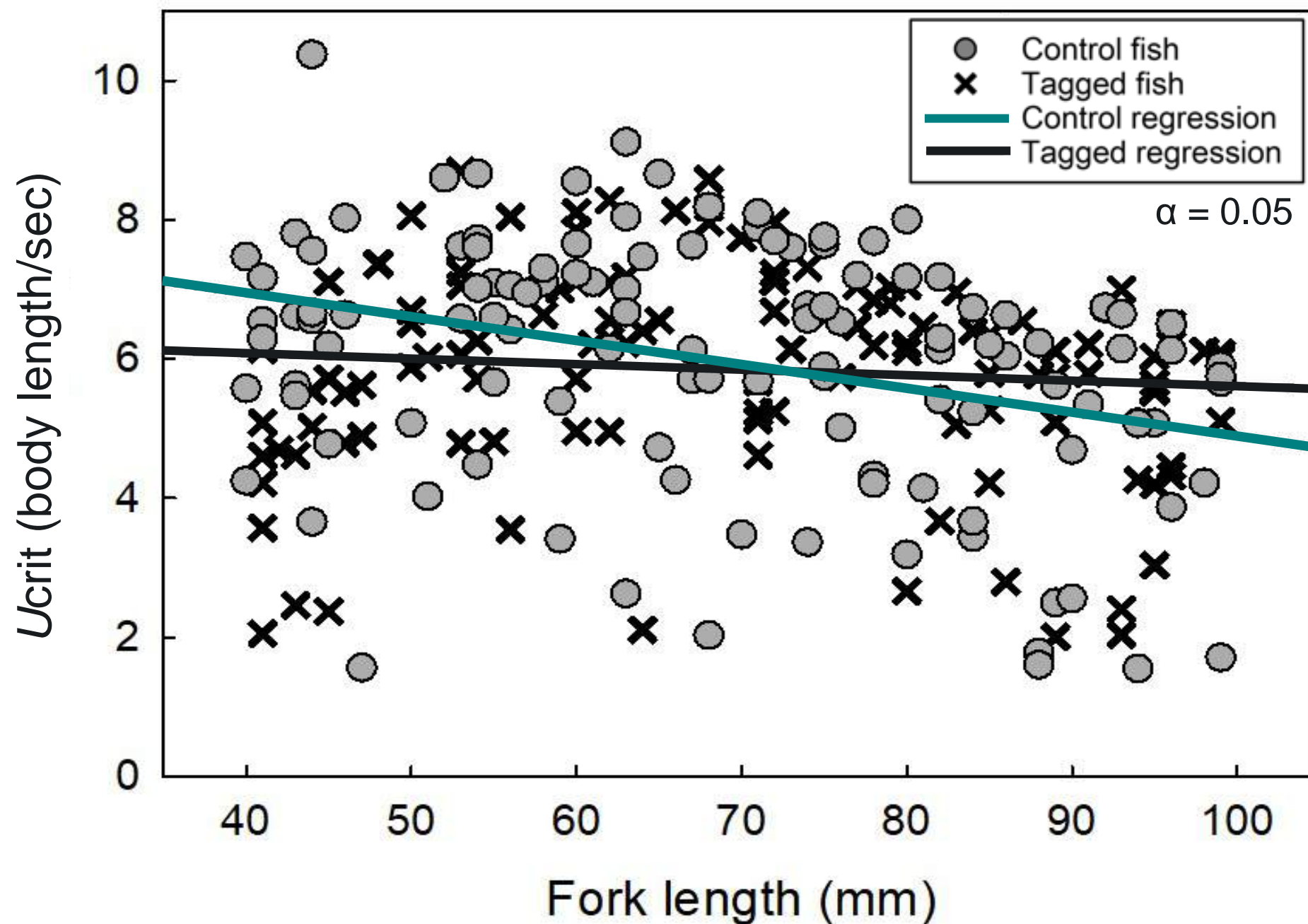
N = 241

40–99 mm FL = size range of study fish
Fish evenly distributed across size range



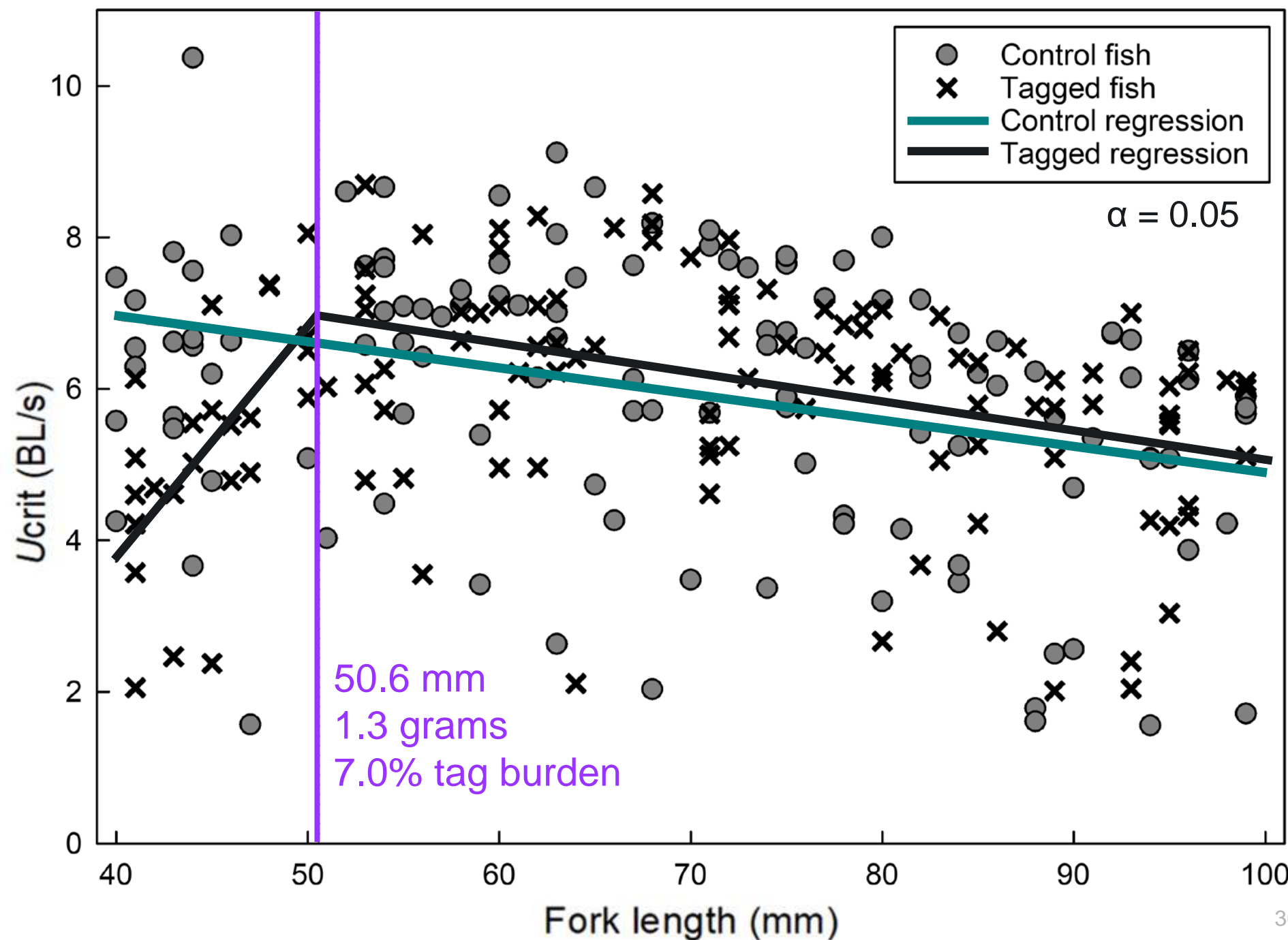
GLM Dependent on Fork Length and Treatment

- No difference in temperature: data combined
- GLM performed
 - Dependent on fork length and treatment
- Tagged
 - $y = -0.0072x + 6.35$
 - $R^2 = 0.072$
- Control
 - $y = -0.03x + 8.28$
 - $R^2 = 0.109$



Significant threshold = 51 mm

- Smallest fish that could be tagged?
 - Spline regression better fit than linear
 - Spline point at **50.6 mm FL**
- Swim performance **decreased** for **tagged fish** ≤ 50.6 mm FL



What is the Minimum Size for Chinook Salmon that Can be Tagged with the ELAT?

Survival, tag retention, growth study

90% 50-day survival = 53 mm FL

95% 50-day survival = 55 mm FL

99% 50-day survival = 60 mm FL

Swimming performance study

Spline point = 51 mm FL

Potentially less than 90% survival

55 mm fork length

55 mm FL // 1.5 grams // 5.9% tag burden

ID: 523D



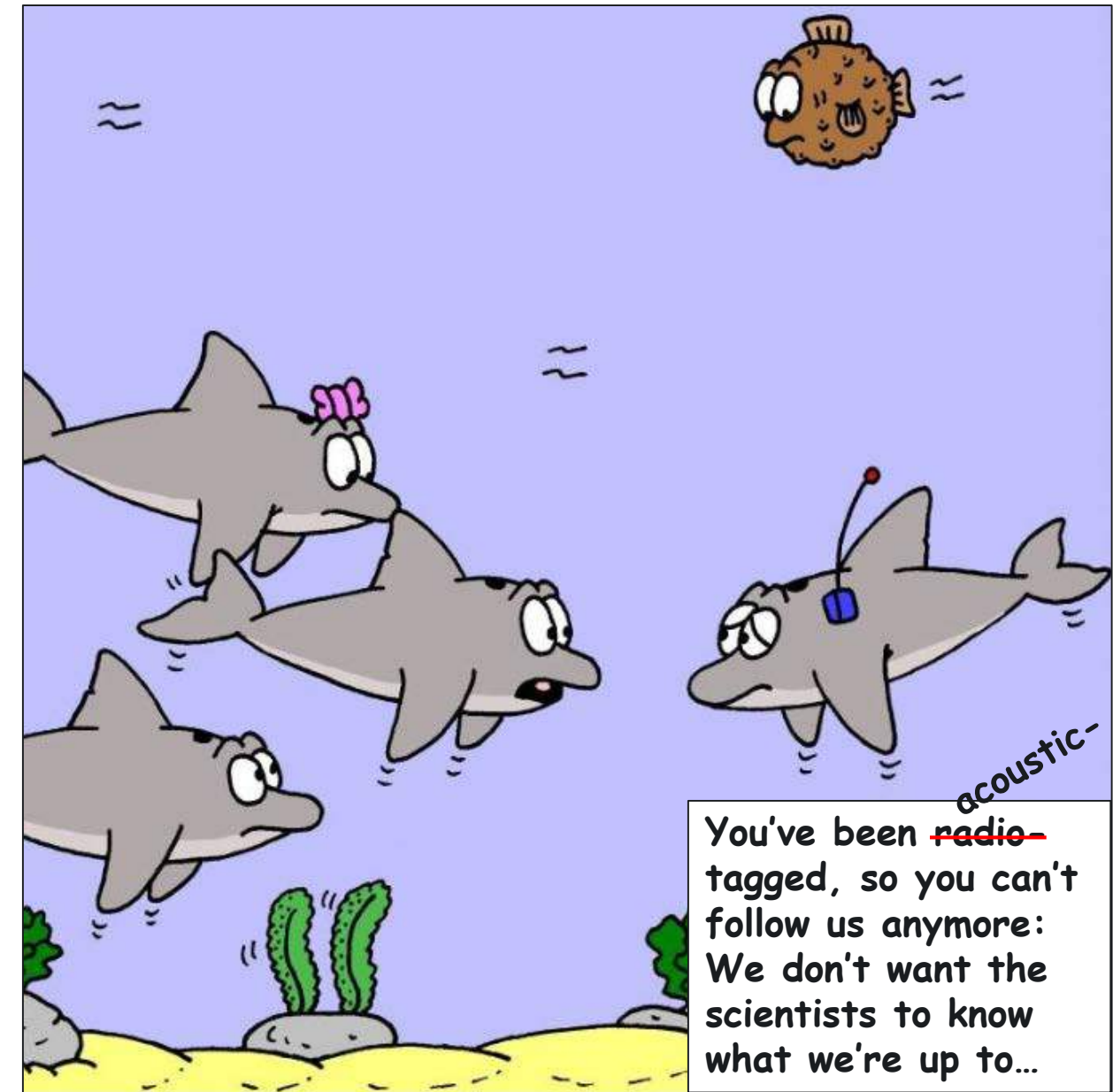
ID: 523D

Day 50 Measurements: 72 mm FL // 4.2 grams // 2.1% tag burden



Where Do We Go From Here?

- Get the word out: publication in prep
- Potential field trials using lab study results
 - Variety of post-surgery survival thresholds to pick and choose what fits best for objectives
 - Tiny acoustic tag
 - ✓ Viable tool for use in the field
 - ✓ Actively track smaller Chinook Salmon
 - No suture = less cost
 - ✓ Fewer supplies
 - ✓ Faster surgery
- Other laboratory tag effects studies
 - Predator avoidance
 - Rapid decompression/barotrauma
 - Shear forces



Acknowledgements

- Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
 - **ELAT Study Funding**
 - ✓ Laboratory Directed Research and Development
 - **ELAT Study Co-Authors**
 - ✓ Katherine Znotinas ✓ James Hughes
 - ✓ Shannon Blackburn ✓ Huidong Li
 - ✓ Eric Fischer ✓ Daniel Deng
 - **ELAT Study Support Staff**
 - ✓ Kate Deters ✓ Erin McCann
 - ✓ Kristin Engbrecht ✓ Bob Mueller
 - ✓ David Geist ✓ Brett Pflugrath
 - ✓ Ryan Harnish ✓ John Stephenson
 - ✓ Cameron Holt ✓ Yong Yuan
 - ✓ Jill Janak
 - ✓ Tim Linley
- U.S. Department of Energy Water Power Technologies Office
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Electric Power Research Institute
- Grant County Public Utilities District
- Idaho Power Company
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Numerous additional DOE/USACE/PNNL Support Staff

Questions?

<http://JSATS.pnnl.gov/>

