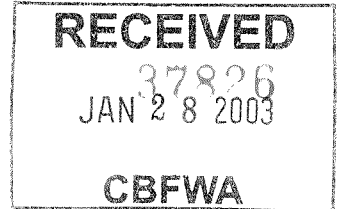




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
525 NE Oregon Street
PORTLAND, OREGON 97232-2737

F/NWR5

January 27, 2003



Frank Young
Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority
2501 SW First Avenue, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97201-4752

Subject: NOAA Fisheries Draft Fish Passage Design Criteria

Dear Mr. Young:

As we have discussed, National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) has completed a draft version of design criteria and guidelines for a broad range of fish passage facilities. The subject document does not constitute rule making by NOAA Fisheries. Rather, the intent is to provide guidance to the fisheries agencies and tribes, and other fish facility designers in the Pacific Northwest, as to design features that have proven to be successful in getting passage facilities on the ground that operate reliably and satisfactorily protect fish.

We have posted a draft version of the document for your review at the NOAA Fisheries website located at: <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/1hydrop/hydroweb/ferc.htm>. We request review and invite comments from you and those copied with this letter. In addition, please feel free to release this document to others for their review.

At the workshop you have scheduled for March 4-5, 2003, NOAA Fisheries engineers will facilitate discussion of these criteria and receive comments from reviewers. Separate, focused forums to discuss particular types of facilities may follow. Our objective is to achieve regional consensus on the design and operation of fish passage projects, to accomplish getting these valuable projects on the ground as quickly as possible.

If you are unable to download the document from our website, please contact Debbie Clement at 503-230-5414. If you have questions about the workshop agenda or location, please contact Mary Washkoske at 503-229-0191. Please feel free to contact me at 360-534-9338 if you have general questions about the referenced document.

Sincerely,

Bryan Nordlund, P.E.
Chief, FERC and Water Diversions Branch

