



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northwest Region
7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Bldg. 1
Seattle, WA 98115

April 10, 2009

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Dear Messer's:

This is to advise you of the intended distribution of Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2009 Columbia River hatchery funds including those authorized under the Mitchell Act and that portion of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) NOAA provides for marking fish produced under the program.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) intends to distribute FFY 2009 funds according to the following table:

	WDFW	ODFW	USFWS	Yakama	IDFG	Hatchery Reform
Hatchery Operations	\$3,468,773	\$3,518,329	\$3,078,165	\$694,528		
Screens & Fishways	\$184,516	\$1,595,384		\$15,965	\$1,327,133	
Monitoring, Evaluation & Reform	\$586,000	\$437,000	\$315,900	\$61,000		\$290,000
PCSRF for Mitchell Act marking	\$157,000	\$913,000				



NOAA Fisheries requests that applications for FFY 09 funding under the Mitchell Act provide your planned production at funding levels shown above, and that applications include plans to ensure that no fish reared with these funds will be released without an adipose-fin clip unless specifically excepted from that requirement. Specifically, state and tribal applicants (and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in its proposed Statement of Work) should provide information that: 1) identifies the source and level of funding for production and marking by species and facility; 2) establishes the purpose of each hatchery program and how the program operates to avoid adverse effects on ESA-listed species; 3) identifies the specific fisheries the production by species is intended to benefit; 4) identifies, for conservation programs, the ESA-listed species that the program will enhance and how; 5) describes how the program is designed to accomplish its stated purposes; 6) describes how the program is going to monitor, evaluate and report its performance; and, 7) describes the species, number, size, release site, and mark information (number of adipose only marks, number of adipose-coded wire tag marks, and number of other marks) for each release group. Your budget and production planning should take into account the fact that insufficient funding is not justification for an exception to the marking requirement.

Once NOAA Fisheries has received the requested information from you, it will ask you to submit your grant applications. For state and tribal applications, NOAA Fisheries will provide the "Federal Funding Opportunity Number" (FFO) on Grants.gov, the Federal website for submitting your grant application.

NOAA Fisheries greatly appreciates the ongoing dialog and cooperation of each of you, your agency staffs and other interested persons in the ongoing discussions surrounding Mitchell Act production, hatchery and harvest reform, the development of the Environmental Impact Statement, the recovery plan for the lower Columbia River, and long-term funding. NOAA Fisheries is committed to make substantial progress on each topic during the coming year and looks forward to continuing the close working relationship with each of you.

Sincerely,



Barry A. Thom

Acting Regional Administrator