

1 **The influence of release strategy and migration history on capture rate of *Oncorhynchus***  
2 ***mykiss* in a rotary screw trap**

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### Abstract

Rotary screw traps are used throughout the West Coast of North America to capture emigrating juvenile salmonids. Calibrating the capture efficiency of each trap is essential for valid estimates of fish passage. We released Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tagged *Oncorhynchus mykiss* upstream of a rotary screw trap in the South Fork John Day River, Oregon to estimate capture efficiency. We used three strategies for release of fish recently captured in the trap. We recaptured 28% of medium-size fish (86–145 mm fork length) and 14% of large-size fish (146–230 mm fork length) released during daylight 1.6 km upstream of the trap. We recaptured 33% of medium-size fish and 17% of large-size fish released during daylight 4.8 km upstream of the trap. We recaptured 42% of medium-size fish and 23% of large-size fish released at twilight 1.8 km upstream of the trap. A PIT antenna detected summer tagged parr (which were PIT tagged upstream 1–5 months before migration) as they approached the trap to evaluate potential bias from reduced recapture of recently trapped fish. We captured 53% of the medium-size first-time migrants and 40% of the large-size first-time migrants. Although average capture efficiencies of first-time migrants were greater than any of the three recently trapped fish strategies, twilight releases of recently trapped fish were least negatively biased, especially for medium-size fish.

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## Introduction

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Extensive salmonid population monitoring across the West Coast of North America (Volkhardt et al. 2007) has been initiated in response to declining abundance (Nehlsen et al. 1991). Returns of adult anadromous salmonids are influenced by numerous factors in freshwater and marine life stages. Survival rates in migratory corridors and in the ocean are variable (Bilton et al. 1982; Achord et al. 2007) and may mask the influence of freshwater rearing areas on production. Hence, there is a need to determine abundance by life stage (Solazzi et al. 2000; Johnson et al. 2005) to measure effects of proximate factors, such as marine survival (Pyper et al. 2002). Most often such life history monitoring involves estimation of numbers of: 1) out-migrant juveniles emigrating from freshwater, and 2) adults returning to freshwater to spawn.

Abundance estimates of juveniles emigrating from rearing habitats require out-migrant traps, except in the few situations where census counts may be conducted at weirs. A common out-migrant trap throughout the West Coast of North America is the rotary screw trap (RST, E.G. Solutions Inc.<sup>1</sup>, Corvallis, Oregon). RSTs can be nested inside weirs (Scace et al. 2007) to increase capture efficiency. This can potentially result in overcrowding of the holding box, causing mortality of biologically and economically valuable fishes (Music et al. 2010). Thus, RSTs are commonly used as a “stand-alone” gear that samples a portion of the channel profile, and captures a portion of the emigrant population. Valid estimates of capture efficiency are required for each RST in each location (Thedinga et al. 1994; Roper and Scarnecchia 2000) in order to estimate out-migrant abundance.

Capture efficiency varies depending on stream size, water velocity, water depth, cone rotation speed, and fish size (Roper and Scarnecchia 2000). The most commonly used method of estimating capture efficiency is to capture unmarked fish in the trap, apply a unique mark or tag,

60 such as a Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tag (Schultz et al. 2006; Copeland and Venditti  
61 2009), and release the marked fish upstream of the RST. The proportion of these marked fish  
62 (hereinafter referred to as “recent releases”) subsequently recaptured in the trap estimates capture  
63 efficiency for that sample period (Thedinga et al. 1994; Miller et al. 2000). This mark-recapture  
64 population estimation technique is subject to the assumptions of the Petersen estimate (Seber  
65 1982). Violation of any of these assumptions can result in erroneous population estimates (Frith  
66 et al. 1995). The most pertinent, yet seldom evaluated, is the assumption of equal capture  
67 efficiency of marked and unmarked fish. For an estimate of catch efficiency to be unbiased the  
68 capture efficiency of “recent releases” which are fish captured in an RST, tagged, released  
69 upstream of the RST, and then make a second migration past the RST (usually occurring in < 24  
70 hours) must equal the capture efficiency of fish approaching that RST for the first time (termed  
71 “unhandled naïve” by Scace et al. 2007).

72 Two protocols for “recent releases” may help meet the assumption of equal capture  
73 efficiency. The first protocol is to liberate recent releases close enough to an RST site so that  
74 mortality or delayed migration prior to returning to the RST site is minimized (Roper and  
75 Scarnecchia 2000; Volkhardt et al. 2007). The second protocol is to liberate recent releases at or  
76 after the end of civil twilight (when the sun is 6 degrees below the horizon line) each day. This  
77 protocol is based on the assumption that liberation after civil twilight will reduce predation and  
78 mimic natural movement patterns. There has been no evaluation of whether these protocols  
79 result in equal capture efficiency between recent releases and migrants that have not been  
80 previously captured in an RST. We evaluated these protocols by estimating capture efficiency  
81 for *Oncorhynchus mykiss* which were PIT tagged 1–5 months before their downstream migration

82 (hereafter “summer tagged parr”) and monitored by a PIT tag antenna immediately upstream of  
83 an RST.

84 The objectives of this study were three-fold: 1) compare estimates of the capture  
85 efficiency of an RST among recent releases made during daylight hours in two different  
86 locations and recent releases made after the end of civil twilight, 2) develop a size-structured  
87 model predicting capture efficiency for juvenile *O. mykiss*, 3) validate the accuracy of the model  
88 by comparing the model-predicted capture efficiency for recent releases against estimates of  
89 capture efficiency for summer tagged parr detected by an antenna as they approached an RST.

## 90 **Methods**

### 91 *Site Description*

92 This study was conducted in the South Fork John Day River (SFJD), a fifth-order basin  
93 located in Northeast Oregon (Figure 1). The SFJD supports a naturally reproducing population  
94 of *O. mykiss*, including resident and anadromous life history types. No hatchery stocking occurs  
95 in this basin, so all *O. mykiss* observed in this study were naturally produced. *O. mykiss* are  
96 widely distributed in the SFJD and its four main tributaries downstream of Izee Falls, an  
97 anadromous fish barrier (Figure 1). Emigration of juvenile *O. mykiss* from the SFJD is bimodal,  
98 with peaks in October-November and April-May. During fall 2005, we estimate that 3,966 *O.*  
99 *mykiss* migrated past this RST site (I. Tattam, unpublished data). The *O. mykiss* captured in the  
100 trap during this period ranged in fork length (FL) from 82–227 mm, with a mean of 140 mm.

101 We operated a 1.52 m diameter RST at river kilometer 10 of the SFJD (Figure 1). An  
102 RST comprises a partially submerged cone with an interior helical structure that is passively  
103 rotated by water pressure and funnels emigrant fish into a submerged holding box on the  
104 downstream end of the trap. The same type and size trap was used at the same location during

105 fall (October-December) 2004 and fall (October-December) 2005. We conducted this calibration  
106 study during fall because flows are lower than during spring, allowing for placement of an in-  
107 stream PIT tag antenna. Stream discharge at this site during the 2005 release experiment ranged  
108 from 0.74–2.01 m<sup>3</sup>/s (OWRD 2012). In-stream PIT tag antenna data were not available for  
109 2005, hence we used the combination of antenna and RST data from 2004 to validate the  
110 predictive model we developed for recent releases in 2005.

111 The trap was situated at the head of a pool, and was adjusted both longitudinally and  
112 laterally to remain in the thalweg as discharge changed. Wetted width at this location was  
113 approximately six to eight m, depending on discharge. We monitored two operational variables:  
114 stream depth (a surrogate for discharge) and trap rotation speed (a surrogate for water velocity).  
115 Depth was measured with a staff gauge in the pool downstream of the trap. Speed was the  
116 number of seconds required for the cone of the trap (the mechanism by which fish are captured)  
117 to complete three full rotations. Depth and speed were recorded daily.

#### 118 *Comparison of capture efficiency estimates among different release strategies*

119 During fall 2005 we used three different recent release strategies. All unmarked *O.*  
120 *mykiss* captured in the RST were tagged with intra-peritoneally injected 12-mm long full-duplex  
121 PIT tags (Prentice et al. 1990) and measured for FL. Retention rates for smaller Chinook salmon  
122 PIT tagged with these methods in a hatchery have been estimated at 99.9% over a four-week  
123 period, with mortality rates < 1% (Dare 2003). We assumed no tag-shed or tagging related  
124 mortality in our study. From October 14, 2005 through December 15, 2005; on each day that  
125 three or more unmarked *O. mykiss* were captured in the RST each fish was tagged and  
126 systematically assigned to one of three release strategies. For example, every 1st, 4th, 7th, etc.,  
127 individual retrieved from the day's catch was transported 1.6 km upstream and immediately

128 liberated during daylight hours (typically around 1100 hours). This daylight short-distance  
129 release strategy was labeled “A”. Fish assigned to release strategy “B” were transported 4.8 km  
130 upstream (long-distance) and immediately liberated during daylight hours a few minutes  
131 following the release of the other fish under strategy “A”. Finally, fish assigned to the release  
132 strategy “C” were transported 1.8 km upstream (short distance) and placed into a holding device  
133 equipped with a timer (see description in Miller et al. 2000) which was set to release them at the  
134 conclusion of civil twilight. A total of 848 *O. mykiss* were PIT tagged and released upstream of  
135 the SFJD RST on 37 days (daily release by strategy ranged from 1 to 51 individuals) during fall  
136 2005 (Table 1). The RST was operated every night but one during this release experiment  
137 because a high volume of floating leaf debris prevented RST operation on that night. We  
138 excluded data from that day, as there was no potential for recapture on the night after release and  
139 most recaptures occurred on the first night following release.

140         We anticipated that FL would influence capture efficiency (e.g., Roper and Scarnecchia  
141 2000). Thus we partitioned fish into three size categories within each recent release strategy:  
142 “small” (86–115 mm FL), “medium” (116–145 mm FL), and “large” (146–230 mm FL). We  
143 used Pearson correlation to test for collinearity among explanatory variables. Depth and speed  
144 were correlated ( $r = 0.85$ ,  $n = 38$ ,  $P < 0.0001$ ). We eliminated depth, and analyzed trap rotation  
145 speed, since we had some control over speed as trap position was routinely adjusted to maximize  
146 it. We used logistic regression (SAS Procedure GenMod with logit link function) to model daily  
147 capture efficiency as a proportion and estimate significance of our strategies and other variables.  
148 Our model assumed a binomial distribution with an over-dispersion parameter to account for  
149 extra-binomial variation. Over-dispersion is typical for capture efficiency estimates, probably  
150 because fish do not behave as independent and identical units as a pure binomial model assumes.

151 Failure to account for over-dispersion could have resulted in erroneous error estimates. This  
 152 model applies more weight to samples with a larger number of releases. The full model was:  
 153  $\text{logit}(E) = \log(E/1-E) = B_0 + B_1 \cdot I_b + B_2 \cdot I_c + B_3 \cdot I_{\text{small}} + B_4 \cdot I_{\text{medium}} + B_5 \cdot \text{speed} + B_6 \cdot I_b \cdot I_{\text{small}} +$   
 154  $B_7 \cdot I_b \cdot I_{\text{medium}} + B_8 \cdot I_c \cdot I_{\text{small}} + B_9 \cdot I_c \cdot I_{\text{medium}} + B_{10} \cdot I_b \cdot \text{speed} + B_{11} \cdot I_c \cdot \text{speed} + B_{12} \cdot I_{\text{small}} \cdot \text{speed} +$   
 155  $B_{13} \cdot I_{\text{medium}} \cdot \text{speed}$  (1)

156 where E is capture efficiency (number recaptured  $\cdot$  number released<sup>-1</sup>). B's are fitted  
 157 coefficients.  $I_b$  is the indicator (dummy variable, value 0 or 1) for release strategy B,  $I_c$  is the  
 158 indicator for release strategy C (strategy A is represented when  $I_a=I_b=0$ , against which B and C  
 159 are compared in turn),  $I_{\text{small}}$  is the indicator for the small FL group,  $I_{\text{medium}}$  is the indicator for the  
 160 medium FL group (the small and medium size groups are individually compared with the large  
 161 size group in this model), and speed is the number of cone rotations per second. Product signs  
 162 denote first order interactions. The logit function represents a log odds ratio ( $\log(E/1-E)$ )  
 163 expression of E, allowing additive terms on the right side of equation (1) to be tested by analysis  
 164 of deviance. We used drop-in-deviance F-tests (Ramsey and Schafer 2002) to sequentially  
 165 compare reduced models with the full model (equation 1). Significant changes in deviance in  
 166 reduced models represent significant effects on  $\text{logit}(E)$ , and by association on E.

#### 167 *Size structured predictive model of E*

168 We developed a size structured predictive model of E for release strategy C. These were  
 169 of the form:

$$170 \quad \text{logit}(E) = \log(E/1-E) = B_0 + B_1 \cdot I_{\text{size}} \quad (2)$$

171 where  $I_{\text{size}}$  is an indicator for different size groups based on FL. B's are fitted coefficients. The  
 172 size ranges of individuals released in strategy C and the summer tagged parr differed slightly  
 173 (Figure 2). There were no summer tagged parr  $> 200$  mm FL (Figure 2). To account for



174 possible size based influences on the comparison of E between strategy C and summer tagged  
175 parr, we censored the 11 individuals in strategy C which were  $> 200$  mm FL. Thus, the range of  
176 sizes was comparable between groups.

177 *Validation of the predictive model for E*

178         During fall 2004 we operated a PIT tag detection antenna (inner dimensions 30.5 cm high  
179 by 80.0 cm wide in the thalweg 78m upstream of the RST. The antenna was coupled to a  
180 Destron-Fearing<sup>1</sup> 2001F transceiver which recorded date and time of detection). The stream  
181 segment between the antenna and RST included two meanders and a turbulent riffle. The  
182 antenna detected 66% of summer tagged parr known to have migrated past the array (based on  
183 capture in the RST). Summer tagged parr were *O. mykiss* PIT tagged and released upstream of  
184 the RST during summer 2004. These individuals were primarily tagged in Black Canyon and  
185 Murderers creeks, and to a lesser extent, in the SFJD upstream of Black Canyon Creek to Izee  
186 Falls (Figure 1). Summer tagged parr were last handled 1–5 months prior to approaching the  
187 RST location. They were captured via seining or electrofishing, and were unlikely to have had  
188 prior experience with an RST. Thus, we assumed that the migratory behavior, diel migration  
189 timing, and probability of capture in the RST of these summer tagged parr were equal to that of  
190 *O. mykiss* which had never been captured before. Summer tagged parr were categorized into the  
191 same FL groups used in equation 1. For summer tagged parr captured in the RST, we used FL  
192 on the day of RST capture to group individuals. Additionally, we used FL data from summer  
193 tagged parr captured in the RST to estimate mean growth rates (mm/d) experienced by each  
194 specific tagging group (i.e., Black Canyon, Murderers, or upper SFJD) from tagging date to their  
195 recapture at the RST. For summer tagged parr which were not captured in the RST, we  
196 estimated FL of each individual on the day it migrated past the RST. We estimated FL of

197 summer tagged parr that were detected, but not captured, as: ((FL when tagged in upper basin) +  
198 (mean daily growth rate · number of days at large)). This was a minor correction, increasing FL  
199 by a mean of 15% (range: 4–32%).

200 For summer tagged parr, E was estimated by the quotient of the number of *O. mykiss*  
201 captured at the RST divided by the total number detected migrating past the PIT array. We  
202 restricted this analysis to nights when both the RST and the PIT array were operational, as *O.*  
203 *mykiss* nearly always migrated past the PIT array and RST in the same night. *O. mykiss* detected  
204 at the PIT array on multiple days were censored as it was unknown whether they migrated past  
205 the RST during the study period. Estimates of E for summer tagged parr were compared against  
206 model-predicted 95% Confidence Intervals of E derived for two FL groups within strategy C.  
207 This comparison was made to determine whether strategy C (twilight-release, making a second  
208 migration past the RST) produced unbiased estimates of E for *O. mykiss*.

## 209 Results

### 210 *Comparison of E among different release strategies*

211 Drop-in-deviance tests found none of the first-order interactions (release strategy · size  
212 group, release strategy · speed, size group · speed) significantly contributed to the model ( $F_{8,214} =$   
213 1.51,  $P = 0.16$ ). Trap rotation speed also did not significantly contribute to the model ( $F_{1,215} =$   
214 1.31,  $P = 0.25$ ). Release strategy ( $F_{2,217} = 4.7$ ,  $P < 0.01$ ) and FL ( $F_{2,217} = 12.2$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ) were  
215 significant. Thus, we interpreted a reduced version of equation 1 with release strategy and FL as  
216 main effects.

217 Predicted E varied significantly among release strategies and FL (Figure 3). When  
218 analyzing FL, recent releases in the small FL group had significantly higher E than those in the  
219 large FL group ( $P < 0.001$ ). Likewise, the E of recent releases in the medium FL group was

220 significantly higher than those in the large FL group ( $P < 0.001$ ). There was no significant  
221 difference in E between recent releases in the small and medium FL groups ( $P = 0.81$ ). The E of  
222 recent releases under strategy A was significantly lower than for those under strategy C ( $P =$   
223  $0.005$ ). The E of recent releases with strategy B was not significantly different from those with  
224 strategy A ( $P = 0.32$ ). We proceeded with our final size structured predictive model (equation 2)  
225 only for strategy C, because it was closest to our summer parr validation data (see below).

#### 226 *Size structured predictive model of E*

227 We found no difference in E between small (86–115 mm) and medium (116–145 mm) FL  
228 groups, thus we combined these two FL groups into a small/medium group. The predicted E  
229 for the small/medium group was 0.45 (95% Confidence Interval: 0.36–0.55; Figure 3). The  
230 predicted E for the large group was 0.19 (95% Confidence Interval: 0.10–0.31; Figure 3). The  
231 size-structured binomial logistic model (equation 2) was over-dispersed, as indicated by an  
232 estimated over-dispersion parameter of 1.26.

#### 233 *Validation of the predictive model for E*

234 Strategy C predictions were compared with averages for summer tagged parr. The  
235 observed E of summer tagged parr in the RST differed between FL groups. Estimated average E  
236 was 0.53 (24 captured of 45 available for capture) for summer tagged parr in the small/medium  
237 group and 0.40 (14 captured of 35 available for capture) in the large size group. For the  
238 small/medium group, the 95% Confidence Interval of E from the regression model (equation 2)  
239 for strategy C included the average estimate of E observed for summer tagged parr (Figure 3).  
240 The 95% Confidence Interval of E for the large group (equation 2) did not encompass the  
241 observed E for summer tagged parr (Figure 3).

242

## **Discussion**

243 Time of release influenced E for *O. mykiss* in the South Fork John Day River. Daylight  
244 releases (strategy A or B) resulted in lower estimates of E than twilight releases (strategy C).  
245 Between daylight releases, transporting *O. mykiss* further upstream (strategy B) did not  
246 significantly change E compared to releases in close proximity to the trap (strategy A). Such  
247 daylight releases (strategies A and B) probably resulted in a daytime second migration past the  
248 RST. During fall 2004, recent releases with strategy A often migrated past the PIT antenna  
249 during daylight (I. Tattam, unpublished data). Conversely, natural downstream migration of  
250 salmonids occurs during darkness (Roper and Scarnecchia 1996). Of the summer tagged parr  
251 detected at the PIT tag antenna during fall 2004, 94% of detections occurred after evening civil  
252 twilight and before the beginning of civil twilight the following morning. Individuals migrating  
253 during daylight were seldom captured in the RST. Similarly, Cramer et al. (1992) found capture  
254 efficiency of juvenile Chinook in an RST to be 15 times higher at night than during daylight.  
255 We suspect that individuals migrating during daylight may have been lower in the water column,  
256 and less vulnerable to the RST which samples the upper portions of the column. Daytime out-  
257 migrants may also use visual clues to avoid the RST that are unavailable at night (Roper and  
258 Scarnecchia 1996). Migration timing, rather than loss of naivete, appeared to drive E in our  
259 study. Fish < 146 mm captured in the RST and released upstream at civil twilight (migrating  
260 past the trap during darkness) were recaptured at a rate comparable to fish approaching the trap  
261 for the first time. By altering diel migration timing, release strategies A and B produced biased  
262 estimates of E when compared to the E for naturally migrating summer tagged parr.

263 Fish length had a significant effect on rate of recapture in the RST. However, the  
264 relationship between E (as  $\text{logit}(E)$ ) and FL is not linear. The recapture rate of recent releases in  
265 the small and medium FL groups was not significantly different when compared within any

266 single release strategy (Figure 3). There is a threshold length, represented by the large size group  
267 in our study, above which *O. mykiss* have an increased ability to avoid capture in an RST (Figure  
268 3). This decline in E for individuals  $\geq 146$  mm was also present for summer tagged parr,  
269 although to a lesser degree than for recent releases (Figure 3). Dambacher (1991) also found E  
270 to decrease with FL. However, he noted declining E beginning at a FL of only 106 mm when  
271 fishing a Humphreys trap. Trap placement, operation, stream flow, fish size, and species  
272 encountered will influence E uniquely in each trapping situation. For example, Thedinga et al.  
273 (1994) did not find any size-based differences in E when using a 2.4 m RST. However, the  
274 observed recapture rate was very low (3–6%, Thedinga et al. 1994), perhaps limiting the power  
275 to detect size differences in E. Future RST calibration efforts should anticipate size-based  
276 differences in E. If the number of recent releases is even among size groups, fewer large  
277 individuals will be recaptured. If fewer large individuals are recaptured, the estimate of E for the  
278 large size group will be less precise. Increasing the number of fish in the large size group  
279 released upstream of an RST is necessary to increase recaptures and hence increase the precision  
280 of the estimate of E. If few large wild out-migrants can be captured, releasing large hatchery-  
281 origin out-migrants upstream of an RST may be a strategy to increase recaptures. The capture  
282 efficiency of hatchery and wild out-migrants may differ (Roper and Scarnecchia 1996). Hence,  
283 statistically comparing capture efficiency of the two groups is necessary before applying capture  
284 efficiencies of hatchery fish to wild fish. Releasing hatchery fish may not be an option in basins  
285 managed for natural production, such as the South Fork John Day. Nonetheless, it may be a  
286 strategy to increase precision of efficiency estimates in basins that are managed for both natural  
287 and hatchery production.

288 Strategy C produced estimates of E comparable to the E observed for summer tagged  
289 parr. We found evidence that, at least for *O. mykiss* in the small and medium size groups,  
290 estimates of E for recent releases and summer tagged parr were not statistically different when  
291 using strategy C (Figure 3). These results are similar to those of Scace et al. (2007), who also  
292 employed a PIT tag antenna upstream of an RST. They found that when using a weir and RST in  
293 combination, E was high and comparable between summer tagged parr and twilight released  
294 Atlantic salmon smolts. Our results differed from Scace et al. (2007) for *O. mykiss* in the large  
295 size group. For large *O. mykiss*, we found a significant difference between estimates of E for  
296 summer tagged parr and recent releases (Figure 3). Therefore strategy C did not effectively  
297 duplicate the E of summer tagged parr *O. mykiss* in the large size group. Prior experience with  
298 the RST did not reduce the E of fish released under strategy C in the small and medium size  
299 groups as compared to summer tagged parr. Unless prior experience with the RST differentially  
300 influences large fish, we believe this likely did not cause the discrepancy in E.

301 The summer rearing location of large-sized *O. mykiss* may explain the difference in E  
302 between the recent release twilight group and summer tagged parr. Summer tagged parr were all  
303 PIT-tagged > 10 km upstream of the RST (Figure 1). We do not know from where the fish used  
304 for the recent release groups originated. However, it is plausible that some of these individuals  
305 originated from near the RST, and were simply making home-range movements when captured.  
306 *O. mykiss* were present in this location year-round (I. Tattam, personal observation). Small and  
307 medium-sized *O. mykiss* dominated the population size structure in upstream reaches of the  
308 SFJD and its tributaries. Larger *O. mykiss* dominated the population near the RST (Madriñán  
309 2008). Thus, when unmarked *O. mykiss* in the small and medium size groups were captured in  
310 the RST, it is more likely that they were migrating several km or more to reach the RST (similar

311 to the summer tagged parr), rather than just movement within their home range. Some of the  
312 large *O. mykiss* captured in the RST may have been released upstream within their original home  
313 range. In this scenario, they may not attempt a second migration past the RST. Alternatively,  
314 large individuals may have been more effective than small and medium size individuals at  
315 avoiding capture on a second migration past the RST. However, it seems as likely that location  
316 of origin, rather than enhanced trap avoidance on a second pass, influenced the difference in E  
317 between large-size recent releases and summer tagged parr. The apparent lack of directed  
318 migration by large *O. mykiss* released upstream of the RST indicates the importance of RST  
319 location within the stream network. If possible, an RST should be located in a stream section  
320 which is not continuously occupied by juvenile salmonids, so that only active migrants are  
321 captured. However, this may be impossible in small subbasins such as the SFJD.

### 322 *Management Implications*

323 Strategies A and B resulted in estimates of E that were lower than estimates of E from  
324 summer tagged parr. The estimated E for small and medium size groups in strategies A and B  
325 ranged from 28%–34%. The E from strategy C in these same size groups was 42%–44%.  
326 Strategy C best mimicked the E of summer tagged parr, which was 53% for the small/medium  
327 size group. If E is underestimated, population abundance will in turn be overestimated. An  
328 appropriate recent release strategy is crucial for population estimates and management. Our  
329 results suggest that for *O. mykiss* in the small and medium size groups, liberating recent releases  
330 at civil twilight created an estimate of E that is not statistically different from that of naturally  
331 migrating fish. Our results indicate that this release strategy will accurately estimate out-migrant  
332 abundance for the small and medium size groups. However, it remains unclear whether  
333 nighttime upstream releases will produce a valid estimate of E for *O. mykiss* in the large size

334 group. Therefore, estimates of E should be qualified by time (Roper and Scarnecchia 2000) and  
335 fish length. Alternative methods of estimating E for large fish making their first approach to the  
336 trap should be further investigated. Emplacing PIT antennas or dual-frequency identification  
337 sonar immediately upstream of an RST may be two approaches.

338         The efficiency of any RST needs to be estimated in order to estimate out-migrant  
339 abundance. We found evidence that releasing marked *O. mykiss* upstream of an RST during  
340 daylight will result in biased estimates of out-migrant abundance. Releasing marked *O. mykiss* at  
341 twilight will create unbiased estimates of out-migrant abundance for small and medium size  
342 groups. Alternative trap calibration methods, preferably using an independent measure of  
343 migrating fish abundance should be considered. One option is to PIT tag juvenile salmonids  
344 upstream from the RST and use PIT antennas near the RST to detect migrants. Our results  
345 suggest this may be critical for an accurate estimate of E for large sized *O. mykiss*.

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**Footnotes**

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445 <sup>1</sup>Reference to trade names does not imply endorsement by the United States Geological Survey,

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447 of Fish & Wildlife.

448

449 TABLE 1.—Sample sizes of *Oncorhynchus mykiss* captured, marked with a PIT tag, and released  
 450 upstream (M) of the South Fork John Day River rotary screw trap over 37 different days during  
 451 fall 2005. The number of recaptures (R) and recapture rate of marked fish (E) are presented by  
 452 size group and release strategy. Range is the minimum and maximum number of fish released  
 453 by strategy on a single day. Strategy A was release during daylight 1.6 km upstream from the  
 454 trap. Strategy B was release during daylight 4.8 km upstream of the trap. Strategy C was release  
 455 at civil twilight 1.8 km upstream of the trap.

| Strategy | Small (86–115 mm) |    |      | Medium (116–145 mm) |     |      | Large (146–230 mm) |    |      | Range |
|----------|-------------------|----|------|---------------------|-----|------|--------------------|----|------|-------|
|          | M                 | R  | E    | M                   | R   | E    | M                  | R  | E    |       |
| A        | 53                | 16 | 0.30 | 130                 | 37  | 0.28 | 113                | 15 | 0.13 | 1–51  |
| B        | 41                | 16 | 0.39 | 140                 | 39  | 0.28 | 99                 | 22 | 0.22 | 1–49  |
| C        | 42                | 16 | 0.38 | 133                 | 63  | 0.47 | 97                 | 18 | 0.19 | 1–49  |
| Total    | 136               | 48 | 0.35 | 403                 | 139 | 0.34 | 309                | 55 | 0.18 | 3–149 |

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457

458 FIGURE 1.—Map of the South Fork John Day River (SFJD) basin. Locations of release strategies  
459 (A, B, and C) used during fall 2005 are indicated. Dashed circles indicate the summer rearing  
460 locations where “summer tagged parr” were released 1–5 months prior to migration. Dashed  
461 arrow denotes streamflow direction. Inset shows the location of the SFJD basin in Oregon.

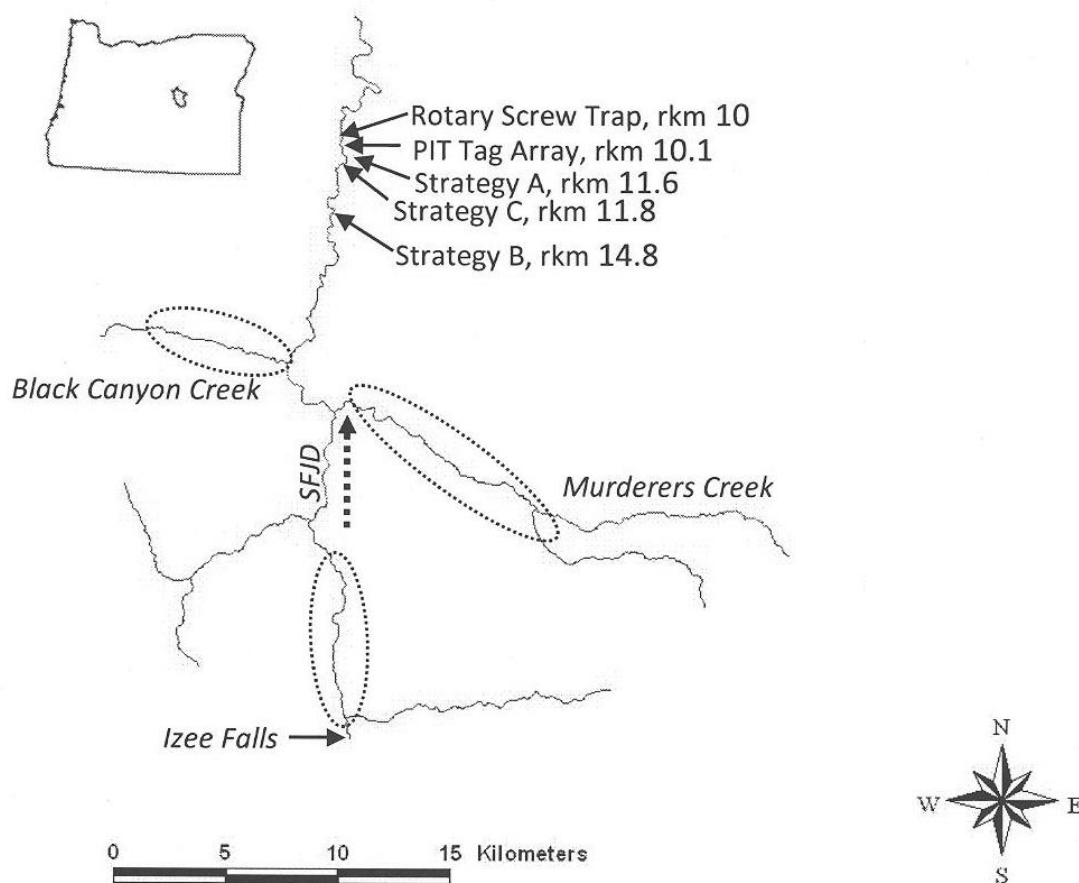
462  
463 FIGURE 2.—Length-frequency histogram for *Oncorhynchus mykiss* migrating past a rotary screw  
464 trap on the South Fork John Day River. Summer tagged parr were tagged upstream of the trap  
465 during June–September 2004, 1–5 months before migration. Lengths for summer tagged parr  
466 were those observed or estimated when they migrated past the trap. Release strategy C fish were  
467 captured in the trap during October–December 2005, tagged and released upstream of the trap at  
468 civil twilight. Exclusions were those individuals removed from the final logistic regression  
469 model.

470  
471 FIGURE 3.—Capture efficiencies for PIT tagged *Oncorhynchus mykiss* released upstream of the  
472 South Fork John Day River rotary screw trap during 2004–2005. Estimates are from two  
473 binomial logistic regression models of the effect of release strategy and size group on capture  
474 efficiency. Release strategy A (fish were released 1.6 km upstream during daylight), release  
475 strategy B (fish were released 4.8 km upstream during daylight), and release strategy C (fish  
476 were released 1.8 km upstream at civil twilight) occurred during fall 2005. Size groups for these  
477 releases were: Small = 86–115 mm FL, Medium = 116–145 mm FL, and Large = 146–230 mm  
478 FL. Striped bars compare capture efficiencies from the final binomial logistic regression model  
479 of strategy C (“Final C”) with observed capture efficiencies for summer tagged parr (“Summer  
480 Parr”). Summer tagged parr were detected migrating past a PIT antenna 78 m upstream of the



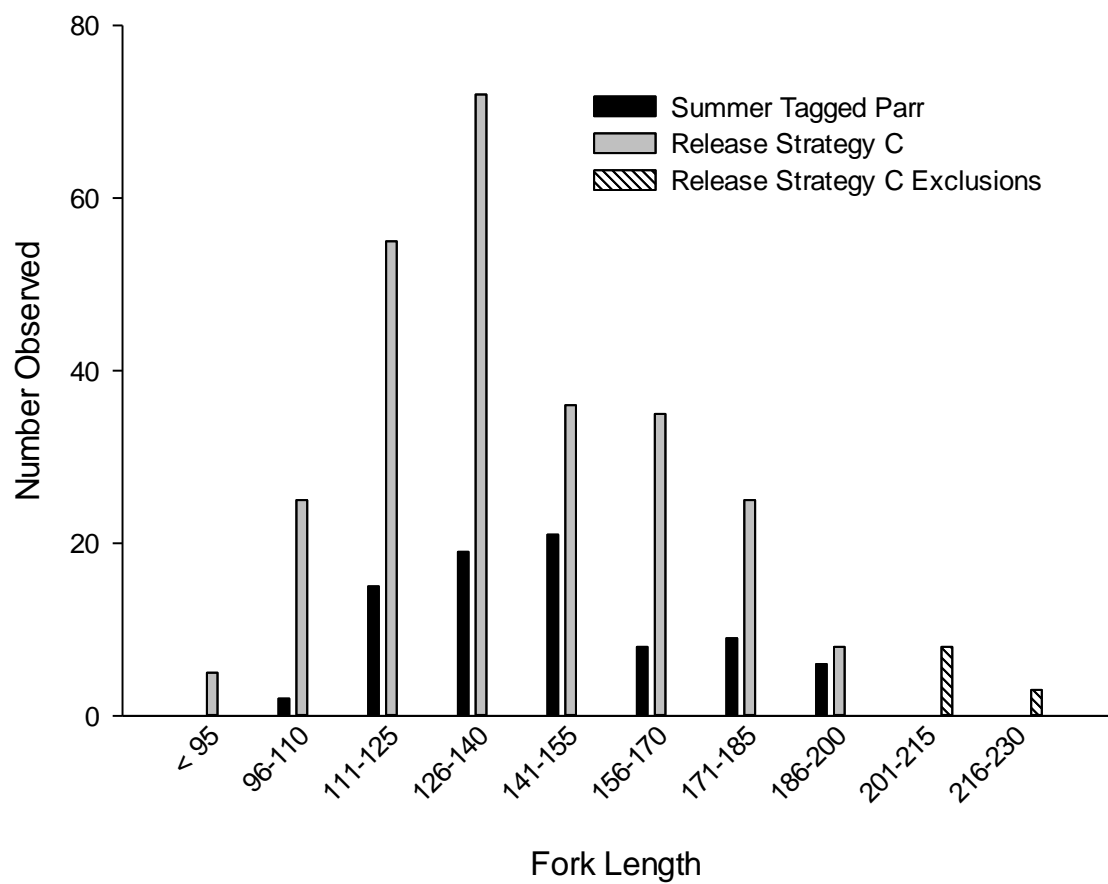
481 rotary screw trap during fall 2004. Size groups for this comparison were: Small/Medium = 86–  
482 145 mm FL, Large = 146–200 mm FL. Error bars are 95% Confidence Intervals.

483 Tattam et al., Figure 1.



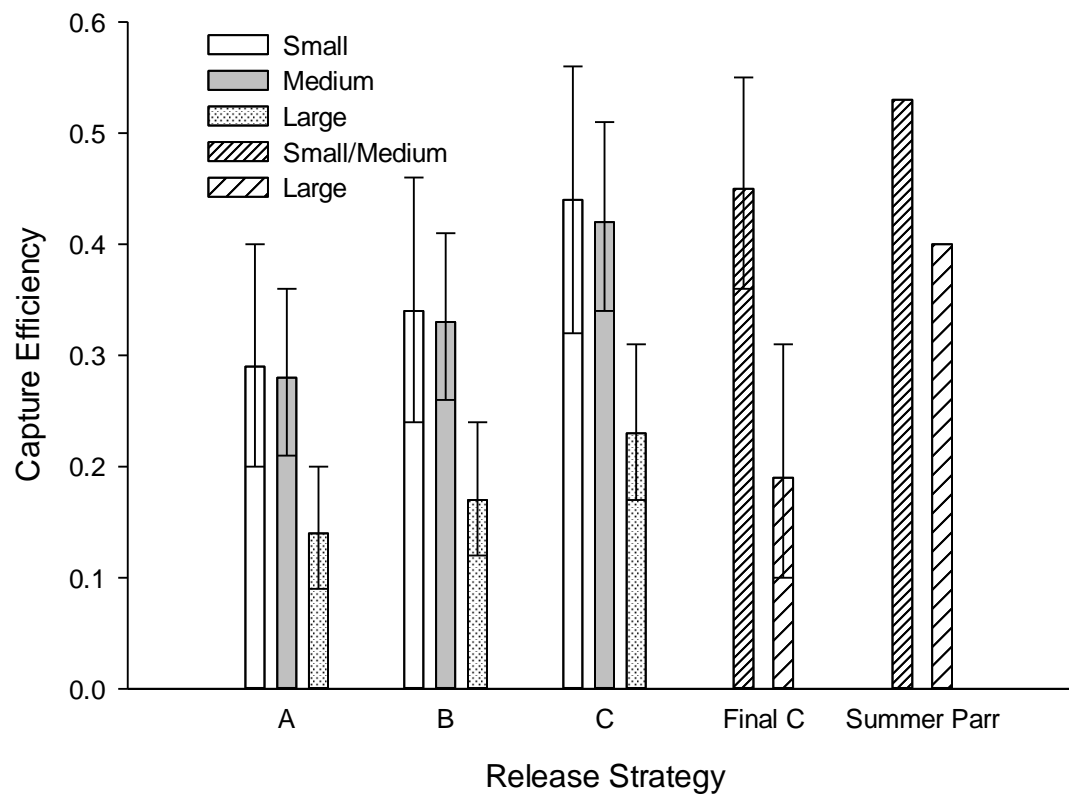
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485 Tattam et al., Figure 2.



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487 Tattam et al., Figure 3.



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