

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) Meeting

In Person at Wanapum Hydro Office Building
 and Microsoft Teams
Tuesday, August 25, 2026
1:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

PRCC Representatives, Alternates, and Facilitation

Larissa Rohrbach, Anchor QEA, Facilitator	Scott Carlon, Emi Melton (Alt), NMFS
Kristi Geris, Anchor QEA, Technical Support	Clayton Buck, Nathan Buck, Wanapum
Tom Lorz, Pete McHugh (Alt), CRITFC for CTUIR	Chad Jackson, Andrew Murdoch (Alt), WDFW
Dennis Moore, John Arterburn (Alt), CTCR	Bill Gale, USFWS
Tom Dresser, Rod O'Connor (Alt),	Keely Murdoch, Brandon Rogers (Alt), YN
Tim Taylor (Alt), GPUD	

Meeting Attendees

Larissa Rohrbach, Anchor QEA, Facilitator	Tim Taylor, GPUD
Kristi Geris, Anchor QEA, Technical Support	Chad Jackson, WDFW
Pete McHugh*, CRITFC for CTUIR	Andrew Murdoch, WDFW
Dennis Moore†, CTCR	Bill Gale, USFWS
John Arterburn*, CTCR	Nathan Buck, Wanapum
Tom Dresser, GPUD	Keely Murdoch, YN
Rod O'Connor, GPUD	

*Joined virtually.

†Joined virtually at the end of the meeting.

Action Items

- The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CTCR) will provide an official PRCC representation designation letter for the administrative record.
- Anchor QEA will follow up with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to obtain their vote on the PRCC July 28 meeting minutes. (*Note: S. Carlon provided NMFS approval of the minutes via email on August 26, 2026.*)
- Anchor QEA will coordinate with Tracy Hillman (Habitat Conservation Plan Coordinating Committees [HCP-CCs] Chair) regarding a joint PRCC/HCP-CCs

letter from the PRCC Facilitator and HCP-CCs Chair about the NMFS staffing constraints and resulting inability to participate in PRCC and HCP processes. (Note: T. Hillman is awaiting HCP-CCs indication of support to move forward on a joint letter.)

- Grant PUD will review and respond to the Joint Fisheries Parties' (JFP's) revisions to the draft statement of agreement (SOA) *Survival Evaluations - Path Forward*. (This item is ongoing.)
- Grant PUD will provide all dead-fish-release detections on any array deployed during Grant PUD's 2026 Smolt Survival Study.
- Grant PUD will provide steelhead travel time by reach for Rock Island-released fish, broken down by kilometer per day (km/day), as presented on slide 15 of the presentation *Juvenile Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Survival through the Priest Rapids Project in 2026*.

Review Items

- The revised draft SOA *Survival Evaluations - Path Forward* was distributed to the PRCC by K. Geris on April 27, 2026.
- A PRCC No Net Impact Project Specification Sheet titled *Characterizing Adult Spring Chinook Holding Habitat to Support Telemetry-Based Evaluation of Prespawn Mortality in the Wenatchee Basin*, for Project Sponsor Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), was distributed to the PRCC by K. Geris on September 10, 2026.

Decisions and Approvals

- None.

I. Welcome, Announcements, Agenda Review, and Meeting Minutes Approval

L. Rohrbach welcomed the PRCC and led introductions.

CTCR Representation

L. Rohrbach reviewed the following updated CTCR representation:

- PRCCs Representative: Dennis Moore
- PRCCs Alternate: John Arterburn
- PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee (HSC) Representative: Andrea Pearl
- PRCC HSC Alternate: Wes Tibbits

D. Moore noted that J. Arterburn may eventually transition into the PRCC Representative role. D. Moore said he will provide an official PRCC representation designation letter for the administrative record.

Agenda Review

L. Rohrbach reviewed the agenda. The agenda was approved by all members in attendance.

Meeting Minutes Approval

The draft PRCC July 28 meeting minutes were distributed to the PRCC by K. Geris on August 14. K. Murdoch provided edits in tracked changes. The July 28 minutes were approved by members who attended that meeting. The CTCR and Wanapum abstained because representatives of theirs did not participate in the PRCC July 28 meeting. Anchor QEA will follow up with NMFS to obtain their vote on the PRCC July 28 meeting minutes. *(Note: S. Carlon provided NMFS approval of the minutes via email on August 26, 2026.)*

NMFS Representation

L. Rohrbach understands that all PRCC members have heard the same message about NMFS's reduced participation in Upper Columbia River (UCR) forums. She also reached out to Jennie Franks (NMFS PRCC Policy Committee [PC] Acting Representative), who said NMFS has no plans to participate in the PRCC PC and to reach out to her supervisor, Jeromy Jording (NMFS), with questions. L. Rohrbach summarized the HCP-CCs discussion on this topic from this morning:

- The HCP-CCs have an action item to discuss internal agency support for a letter from the Chair expressing concern about NMFS participation in HCP processes (all HCP Committees).
 - Have not discussed who this letter would be sent to.
 - Just good to document concern.

K. Murdoch has experienced/observed similar NMFS pullback in other non-UCR forums (not isolated to HCPs). She added that her comment was in response to a question from Douglas PUD about whether similar pullback has been experienced elsewhere. P. McHugh said the McNary Fish Compensation Committee is experiencing NMFS pullback, as well.

L. Rohrbach said it is important for NMFS to be at the table to provide input on these Endangered Species Act topics. T. Dresser said he spoke with J. Franks last week about White River and emphasized that NMFS needs to be present, and he did not hear "no." T. Dresser said Grant PUD is also using congressional delegation in Washington D.C. and working with Chelan PUD and Douglas PUD on this. Grant PUD plans to send a letter to Sam Rauch, NMFS Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs in Washington D.C., who is the person who established this directive. J. Jording reports to S. Rauch. T. Dresser believes it would be beneficial for the PRCC Facilitator to send a letter and also for individual PRCC members to send letters. T. Dresser was also asked to compile a list of meeting dates and key issues that the PRCC and PRCC PC may

need to discuss and prioritize. C. Jackson said WDFW heard the same from E. Melton, that NMFS will only participate in the highest-priority topics. L. Rohrbach said she also heard this. T. Dresser said this is also an opportunity for education—a reminder that NMFS did sign the Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement, a contractual agreement bound by contractual requirements. B. Gale said energy security and power production is a priority for this administration, so identifying how NMFS's involvement in these committees facilitates efficient mainstem hydropower will help Washington D.C. understand this and will be important. Anchor QEA will coordinate with T. Hillman regarding a joint PRCC/HCP-CCs letter from the PRCC Facilitator and HCP-CCs Chair about the NMFS staffing constraints and resulting inability to participate in PRCC and HCP processes. *(Note: T. Hillman is awaiting HCP-CCs indication of support to move forward on a joint letter.)*

II. Actions Items Review

Action items from the PRCC July 28 meeting and follow-up discussions were as follows *(Note: Italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the July 28 meeting.)*:

- *L. Rohrbach will work with T. Dresser to identify proposed dates for a PRCC PC meeting, including a timeline for materials preparation.*

This meeting has been scheduled for September 16. L. Rohrbach is working to narrow down a 3-hour time slot. She also expects these discussions to go beyond one meeting. *(Note: This meeting is now scheduled for 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., to be held in person at the Wanapum Hydro Office Building in Beverly, Washington.)*

- *Grant PUD will review and respond to the JFP's revisions to the draft SOA Survival Evaluations - Path Forward.*

This item is ongoing.

- *L. Rohrbach will draft language to define the PRCC PC's task and guide decision-making for the White River spring Chinook Salmon mitigation*

L. Rohrbach emailed the PRCC on August 3 to share draft content and then sent this content to the PRCC PC Representatives on August 6, 2026. This item is complete.

III. 2026 Smolt Survival Study Update

T. Dresser thanked PRCC members for the phone calls ahead of today's meeting. As discussed, the data presented today are raw survival estimates provided by LGL Limited (LGL), which still need to be reviewed by R. Buchanan (Buchanan Statistical Consulting LLC). R. O'Connor shared on Microsoft Teams the presentation *Juvenile Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Survival through the Priest Rapids Project in 2026* (Attachment A), which was distributed to the PRCC by K. Geris during the PRCC

August 25 meeting. R. O'Connor reviewed the information on each slide. Further discussions were as follows.

Slide 4: Initial Results: 2026 Survival

R. O'Connor said the dataset has been quality checked by LGL and is now with R. Buchanan. He spoke with her, and she has all she needs. She will determine the precision around these numbers and apply any corrections (e.g., tag life). No dead fish releases were detected at the downstream terminal arrays. The primary assignment will be to assess compliance with the study assumptions.

A. Murdoch asked about the locations of the farthest downstream arrays. R. O'Connor said loggers were installed at Vernita Bridge and White Bluffs to assist with the further breakdown of mortalities. A. Murdoch asked whether Grant PUD can provide all dead-fish-release detections on any array deployed during Grant PUD's 2026 Smolt Survival Study. R. O'Connor said he can do this.

Slide 7: Tagging Process

P. McHugh asked what percentage of fish have been double tagged (with acoustic and PIT tags) in past studies? R. O'Connor believes double tagging started when studies switched to JSATS¹ tags (after 2010). From 2008 to 2010, these studies used HTI² tags, which are larger, so double tagging was not an option. The 2015 to 2017 studies were all double tagged fish.

Slide 9: 2026 Study Releases vs 2026 Smolt Index and Historical Smolt Index

R. O'Connor noted that study fish releases for yearling Chinook Salmon aligned well with the migration, but steelhead missed the early peak. Steelhead are notoriously difficult to pinpoint the peak. The study did capture the second peak. L. Rohrbach asked what the lighter red shading represents on this slide. R. O'Connor said this is the variation (+/- 1 SD) around the 25-year mean.

Slide 10: Detection Efficiency at Arrays and Tag Life Survival Curve

R. O'Connor noted there were no issues with the tags or loggers.

Slide 11: Initial Results: Steelhead Historical vs 2026

R. O'Connor said for the Rock Island releases (RIS), 2026 was the second poorest survival of all studies. For the Priest Rapids releases (PRD), 2026 was the second highest survival of all studies. For the entire Project, 2026 was also the second poorest survival of all studies.

Slide 12: Reach Mortality for Rock Island Release Group

¹ Juvenile Salmon Acoustic Telemetry System

² Hydroacoustic Technology, Inc.

R. O'Connor said these are listed from upstream to downstream. The higher the bar, the higher the mortality. L. Rohrbach asked whether these are additive. R. O'Connor said this is only the RIS release group, and only mortalities per reach, so not mathematically additive. A. Murdoch noted the interesting spatial "flip-flop" for the two species. R. O'Connor agreed.

Slide 14: Travel Times (steelhead only)

R. O'Connor noted that travel times aligned with river flow.

Slide 15: Steelhead travel time by reach for Rock Island-released fish

L. Rohrbach asked whether travel times through the RIDM-WADM³ reach were slower due to water transport time. R. O'Connor said yes, and due to the fact that this reach is a long stretch.

A. Murdoch asked whether Grant PUD can provide travel times by reach broken down by km/day, as presented on this slide. R. O'Connor said yes.

Slide 16: Objective 3: Avian Predation Support

R. O'Connor noted that results for this objective are forthcoming.

Slide 17: Study Summary

R. O'Connor said he hopes to have another update on results by next meeting. It will be helpful if R. Buchanan can assess whether there were any violations to the study assumptions written in the study plan.⁴

Next Steps

L. Rohrbach said it sounds like the biggest questions were run to ground with LGL, and now Grant PUD is waiting for another update from R. Buchanan on study assumptions. L. Rohrbach asked PRCC members what information is needed to prepare for discussions next month. R. O'Connor said Grant PUD is curious about handling effects or anything that could affect the varying survival for each species through each reach. One big difference in this study compared to past studies was fish source (from the Rock Island Juvenile Bypass versus gate-well dipping at PRD). A. Murdoch suggested comparing control and treatment groups to look for tagging effects. T. Taylor said this would depend on which arrays are considered, because handling effects wash out at a certain array for both groups.

L. Rohrbach asked whether Grant PUD is thinking about any changes in plans for next year based on this year's results? T. Dresser said from a logistics standpoint, everything is already in place. Currently, the plan is to study Sockeye Salmon. If the PRCC wants

³ Rock Island to Wanapum

⁴ *Study Plan: Juvenile Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Survival through the Priest Rapids Project in 2026.* Version dated July 20, 2025.

to use a different fish source, this would need to be discussed. R. O'Connor noted that R. Buchanan's findings could be influential for next year.

K. Murdoch asked, in addition to Sockeye Salmon, is Grant PUD considering redoing yearling Chinook Salmon or steelhead? R. O'Connor said this is to be determined. Grant PUD is still trying to understand how this survival standard was missed. There is not enough information right now. Ideally, it would be nice to redo one of the species to compare results to this year. This will depend on snowpack, temperature, among other things. He did not get into these details today, but it just did not get cold last winter. The range of temperatures during the study was not concerning, but in perspective of other studies, high survival occurred in years that were cold and had high flows. With steelhead, in 2008, this is when Grant PUD really started understanding avian predation in the area. He thinks some of that effort paid off, and he is interested in hearing from Real Time Research (RTR) on Objective 3 to put this in perspective.

C. Jackson asked, regarding a retest, has there been any thought about deferring Sockeye Salmon for one year? R. O'Connor said with steelhead and yearling Chinook Salmon, the study was able to transport both species in one tank per release. Sockeye Salmon need their own tank and cannot be mixed with other species because these fish are smaller and more fragile. Grant PUD anticipated and already planned for this. It is likely not feasible to add a third species to next year's plans because it would require twice as many flights to transport another species separately.

L. Rohrbach said more to come next month.

IV. White River PRCC Policy Committee Meeting

L. Rohrbach said she has been reaching out to PRCC PC representatives. So far, representatives are aligned with what the PRCC discussed last month. She started developing a draft agenda, which she hopes to distribute for PRCC PC review on August 31, then have a final agenda out about 10 days ahead of the PRCC PC meeting on September 16. For agenda topics, she will provide background on progress in the area, understanding that some representatives may not have this context. She wants to provide flexibility to let the discussions flow, but there will also be decisions points. She would like to discuss what type of documentation is needed, as the current SOA closes, in terms of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or NMFS requirements.

L. Rohrbach said, for instance, sharing the No Net Impact funding guidance documents may be a good reminder to maybe review some of these documents that are fundamental to the PRCC processes.

A. Murdoch asked whether PRCC PC representatives are being asked to figure out what the mitigation will be. L. Rohrbach said that last month the PRCC decided it is not the role of the PRCC PC to weigh in on the technical merits of the actions that were

included on a list from the PRCC HSC. The technical committees have already put a lot of effort into laying out the groundwork. The PRCC PC's role is to provide guidance on how these actions move forward. She thinks the PRCC HSC representatives should provide their PRCC PC representatives with some background on the list of potential ideas, and she will ask the PRCC PC representatives whether these ideas should go forward, should some come off the list, are any not on the list, etc. She wants to avoid a situation where the PRCC PC are asking for more technical information. The idea is for the PRCC PC to provide guidance, and the subcommittees take it from there.

K. Murdoch said there is an SOA that is expiring, that is also specific to how Grant PUD mitigation will be met during a 10-year period. She thinks there is some outcome expected from the PRCC PC to direct how mitigation will be met, if not White River.

L. Rohrbach said this is written as an expectation in the memorandum from T. Hillman.⁵ For the near term, mitigation will be met through the Nason Program. Even if a decision is made, it will take time to implement. K. Murdoch noted that brood year 2026 fish have already been collected, so this time frame is locked in. However, the PRCC PC's role is to direct how mitigation will be met beyond this. B. Gale said the second expectation in the memorandum is that some level of monitoring and evaluation will continue.

L. Rohrbach asked whether there is a gap in what T. Hillman provided. K. Murdoch said no, she believes it is fair and accurate. She just thought the first expectation was skipped at first in this discussion. A. Murdoch asked whether the PRCC PC is being asked to make a technical decision, and he questioned whether this can be done.

L. Rohrbach said the PRCC PC may need to prioritize what is in Hillman's memorandum, and she is trying to encourage PRCC PC representatives to discuss this with their technical representatives.

L. Rohrbach said during her PRCC PC outreach, a question came up a few times: Should this meeting be limited to PRCC PC representatives only? She thinks it should. She wants to avoid the meeting being pulled into technical tangents. The technical committees have already done the work. If this means technical representatives bullet out thoughts for their PRCC PC representatives, this is the preference. No objections were expressed.

V. 2026 Fish Passage Operations Report

A. Fish Ladder Inspections

No updates were shared.

⁵ PRCC HSC's memorandum *White River Mitigation Recommendations* (PRCC HSC's Mitigation Memorandum), distributed to the PRCC by K. Geris on July 21, and Attachment B to the PRCC July 28, 2026, meeting minutes.

B. Fish Spill Updates

T. Dresser said he worked with B. Gale and S. Carlon (Agency Spill Representatives) to transition out of summer spill to adult fallback spill, on August 12 at both plants, until November 15, 2026.

Priest Rapids Dam Spillway Stability Improvement Project

T. Dresser said this work is ongoing. He recalled sharing a presentation during the PRCC June 23 meeting. At that time, there was an estimated 70 to 80 hours of outage time. This was reduced to 26 hours spanning July 6, 7, and 28. Work continues throughout August. So far, there has been about 15 hours of outage time, and the outage is still ongoing. The initial projection for outage time in August was 70 to 80 hours. Work continues in the forebay. This week, divers are in the tailrace, requiring a full spillway clearance. Work is ongoing on the downstream side to prepare for this work. Crews are installing a catwalk platform on the spillway crest. The direction given to staff is to minimize outage time. Although, a lot of work now is to minimize the bypass outages next year during fish passage season.

C. Adult Fish Counts for 2026 (April 15 to November 15)

L. Rohrbach reviewed the adult fish counts through August 8, as shown below:

Project	Spring Chinook Salmon ^a		Summer Chinook Salmon ^b		Fall Chinook Salmon ^c		Sockeye Salmon	Coho Salmon	Steelhead
	Adults	Jacks	Adults	Jacks	Adults	Jacks			
PRD	10,307	200	34,556	822	0	0	67,373	15	838
WAN	9,945	272	35,421	884	0	0	65,913	0	834
RIS	8,573	563	34,841	921	0	0	66,234	0	578

Notes:

a: Chinook Salmon counted from April 15 to June 13 are considered spring Chinook Salmon.

b: Chinook Salmon counted from June 14 to August 13 are considered summer Chinook Salmon.

c: Chinook Salmon counted after August 14 are considered fall Chinook Salmon.

PRD = Priest Rapids; WAN = Wanapum; RIS = Rock Island

UPDATES

VIII. Review of Outstanding NNI-Funded Projects

- **Northern Pike Removal**
No updates were shared.
- **WDFW PIT-Tag Detection Barge**
No updates were shared.
- **2026 Quincy Northern Pikeminnow Derby**
No updates were shared.
- **2026 RTR Avian Predation Study**

T. Dresser said RTR is now past the field season. He has not seen any email updates lately. Remaining items include visiting islands where there is no nesting

(roosting islands) to do tag recovery. There was also some extra work in the Hanford Reach.

- **Tag Effects Evaluation for Summer Subyearling Chinook Salmon**

R. O'Connor said the study is moving forward as planned. It just passed the mid-study checkpoint last week. There are 2 to 3 weeks remaining, and then next steps are breaking down laboratory, then analysis and writing.

IX. Subcommittee Updates

K. Geris will continue to forward subcommittee notes and materials to PRCC members and alternates as follows:

- Priest Rapids Fish Forum – met August 4, next meeting September 2.
- Habitat Subcommittee – met August 13, next meeting September 10.
- Fall Chinook Work Group – met April 30, next meeting October 5.
- Hatchery Subcommittee – met August 19 to 20, next meeting September 16 to 17.

X. SOAs Discussed in 2026

SOA number	Key Words	Last Discussed	Status
2026-01	Decoupling Summer Subyearling Survival	February 24, 2026	Approved (March 20, 2026)
2026-XX	Survival Evaluations - Path Forward	April 28, 2026	In Review

XI. Next Meetings

The next PRCC meeting will be on Tuesday, September 22, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., to be held in person at the Wanapum Hydro Office Building in Beverly, Washington. The next Subyearling Joint Session (Session 17) with the HCP-CC is to be determined.

XII. Attachments

Attachment A – *Juvenile Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Survival through the Priest Rapids Project in 2026*

Juvenile Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Survival through the Priest Rapids Project in 2026

August 25, 2026





2026 Study Objectives



Estimate survival of juvenile steelhead and yearling Chinook salmon using a paired release model, as they migrate through the Priest Rapids Project.

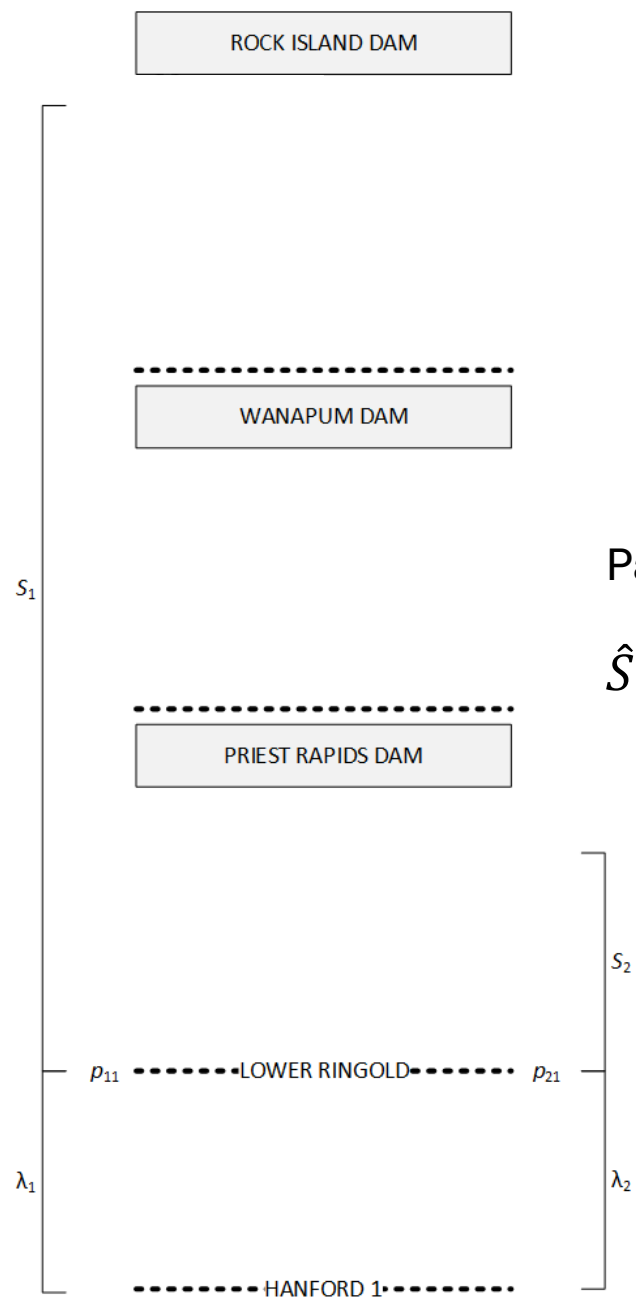
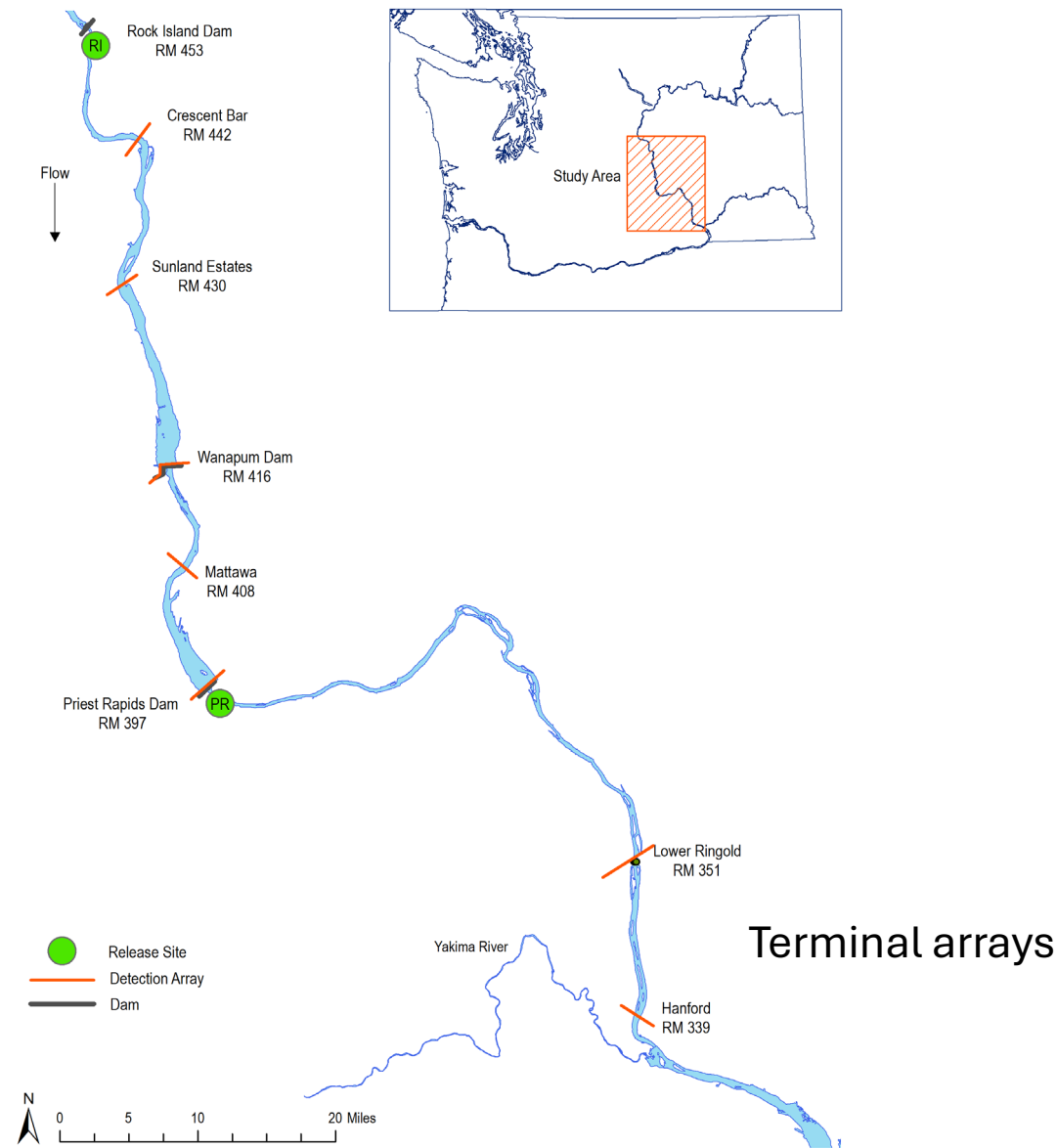


Measure how quickly fish move downstream and where mortality occurs between major river reaches.



Support studies of bird predation by providing PIT-tag and acoustic-tag data from released fish recovered at avian colonies.

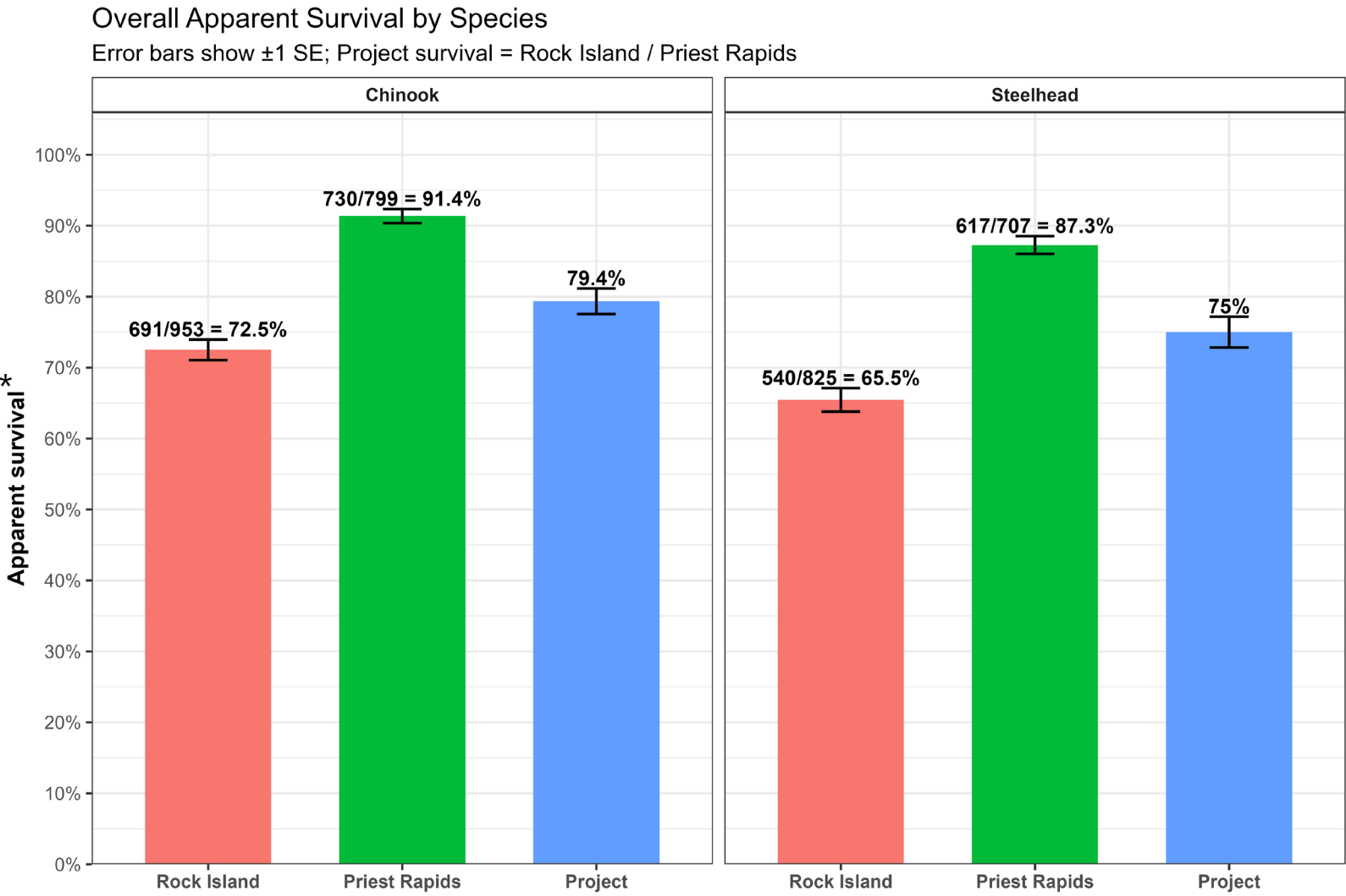
2026 Study Design



Paired-release model:

$$\hat{S} = \frac{\hat{S}_1 \text{ (Rock Island-Treatment)}}{\hat{S}_2 \text{ (Priest Rapids-Control)}}$$

Initial Results: 2026 Survival



$$Project\ Survival = \frac{Rock\ Island\ Survival}{Priest\ Rapids\ Survival}$$

* Data has been sent to Columbia Basin Research for the final survival analysis and test of model assumptions. These results are preliminary.

Dates and quantities of fish tagged & released

Chinook

Release Date	Rock Island	Priest Rapids	Priest Rapids (Euthanized)
4/22/2026	41	0	0
4/23/2026	41	0	0
4/24/2026	41	0	0
4/25/2026	41	33	2
4/26/2026	42	33	2
4/27/2026	42	33	2
4/28/2026	39	34	1
4/29/2026	42	33	2
4/30/2026	42	33	0
5/1/2026	41	34	2
5/2/2026	42	33	2
5/3/2026	42	34	2
5/4/2026	42	34	2
5/5/2026	0	34	2
5/6/2026	42	35	2
5/7/2026	42	35	2
5/9/2026	83	68	3
5/10/2026	42	34	3
5/11/2026	42	33	2
5/12/2026	41	33	2
5/14/2026	41	33	2
5/15/2026	41	33	2
5/16/2026	41	32	2
5/17/2026	0	33	2
5/18/2026	0	33	2
5/19/2026	0	29	2

Steelhead

Release Date	Rock Island	Priest Rapids	Priest Rapids (Euthanized)
4/27/2026	41	0	0
4/28/2026	41	0	0
4/29/2026	41	0	0
4/30/2026	41	35	0
5/1/2026	42	33	2
5/2/2026	42	33	2
5/3/2026	42	26	0
5/4/2026	42	33	2
5/5/2026	0	33	2
5/6/2026	42	32	1
5/7/2026	40	34	2
5/9/2026	74	68	4
5/10/2026	42	34	2
5/11/2026	42	35	2
5/12/2026	42	35	2
5/14/2026	40	36	0
5/15/2026	42	34	2
5/16/2026	42	34	2
5/17/2026	42	32	2
5/18/2026	0	23	0
5/19/2026	19	14	0
5/20/2026	13	10	0
5/21/2026	13	9	0
5/22/2026	0	33	2
5/23/2026	0	30	1
5/24/2026	0	21	1

Chinook



Steelhead



Used in survival analysis:

- Chinook (n = 1752)
- Steelhead (n = 1532)

Not used in survival analysis:

- Euthanized control (n = 76)
- Post tagging mortality (n = 7)
- Pre-release tag failure (n = 9)
- Not released via helicopter (n = 111)
- Dropped on tarmac (n = 9)

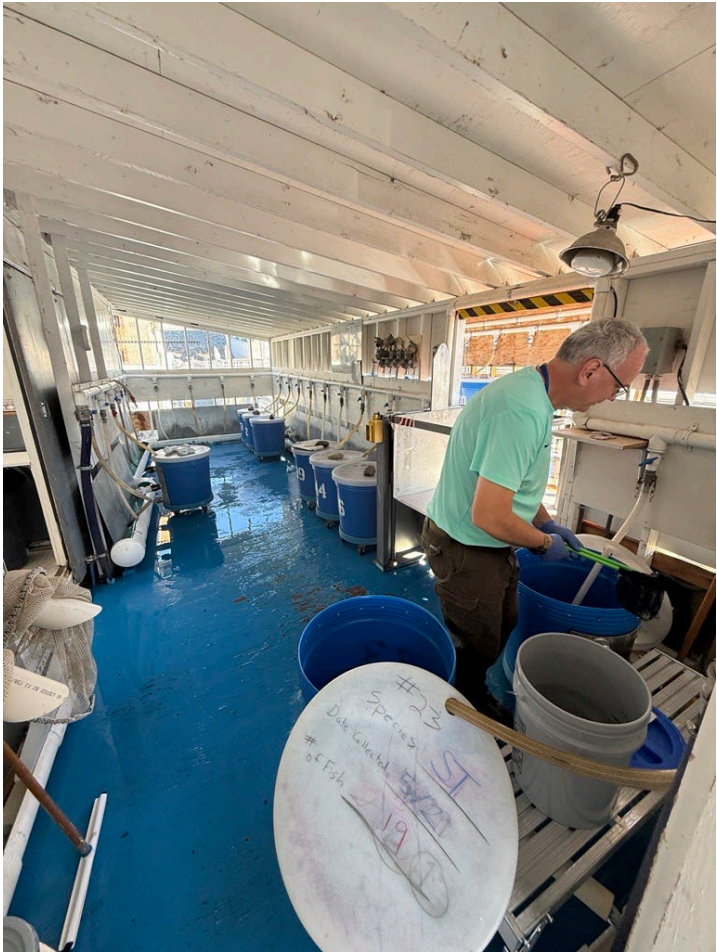
Pre-Tagging Process



Sorting facility



Fish collection at Rock Island



Pre tag holding

Tagging Process



JSATS acoustic and PIT tags



Fish surgery



Fish tagging process

Helicopter Drop

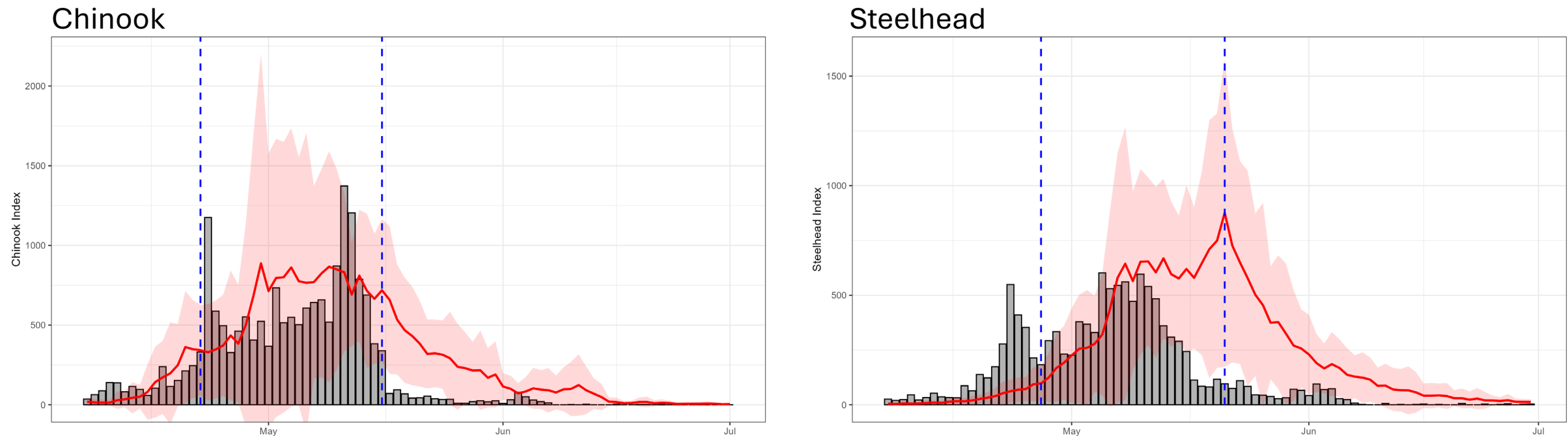


Fly tank



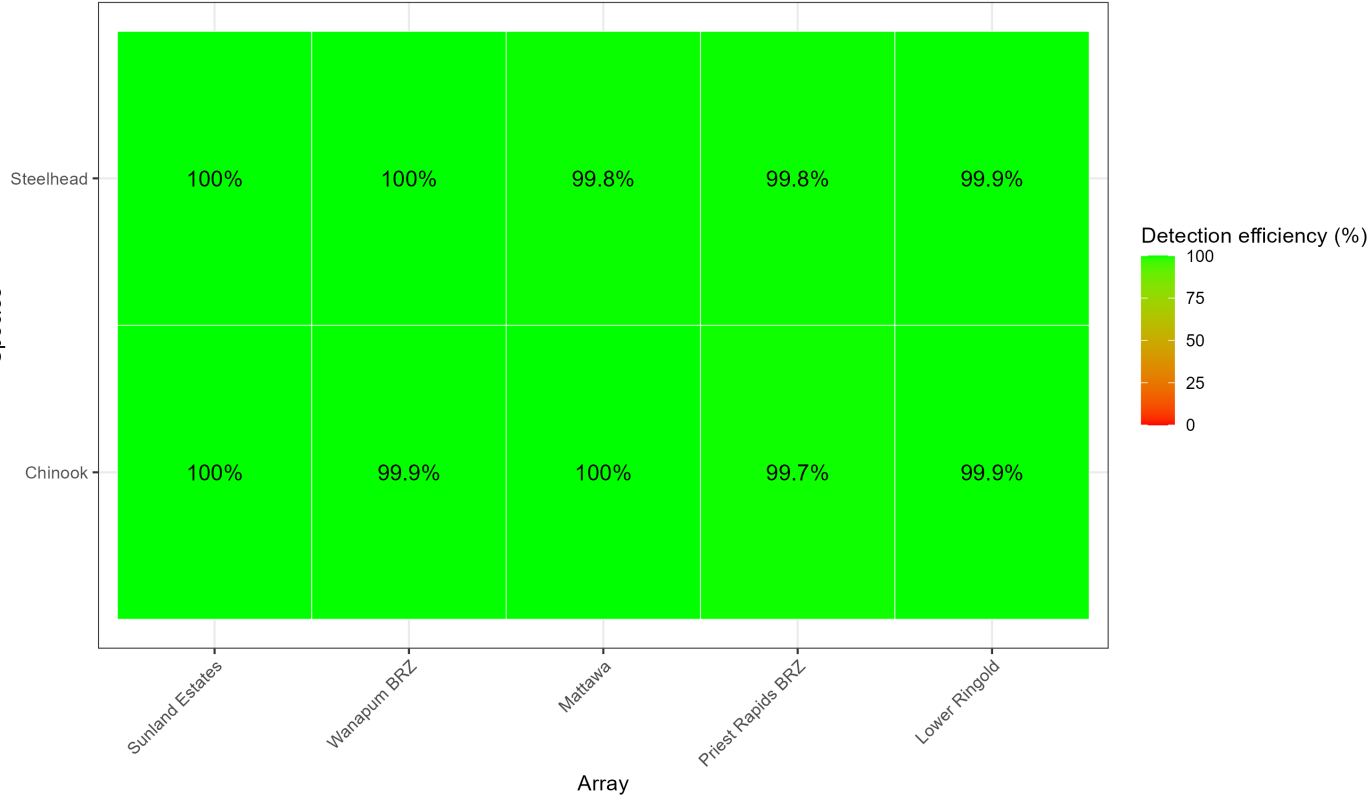
Helicopter in the air with fly tank

2026 Study Releases vs 2026 Smolt Index and Historical Smolt Index

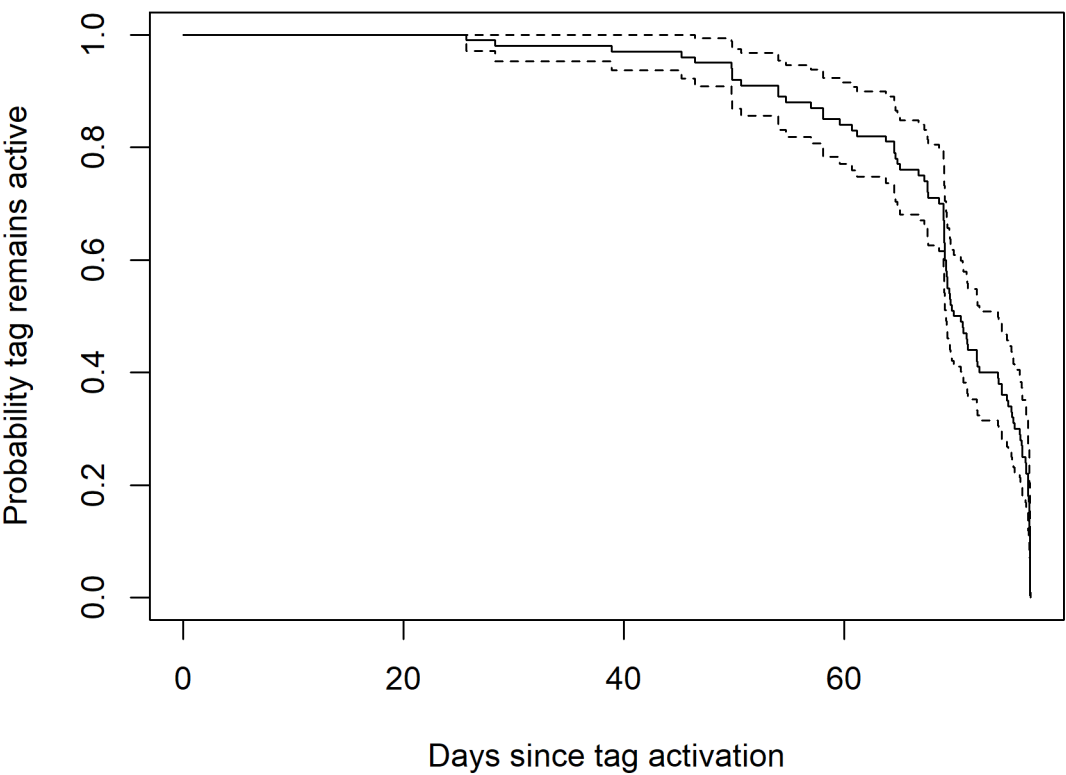


Red line = Historical smolt index 25 years $\pm$ 1 SD
Gray bars = 2026 smolt index at Rock Island
Blue lines = 2026 release window

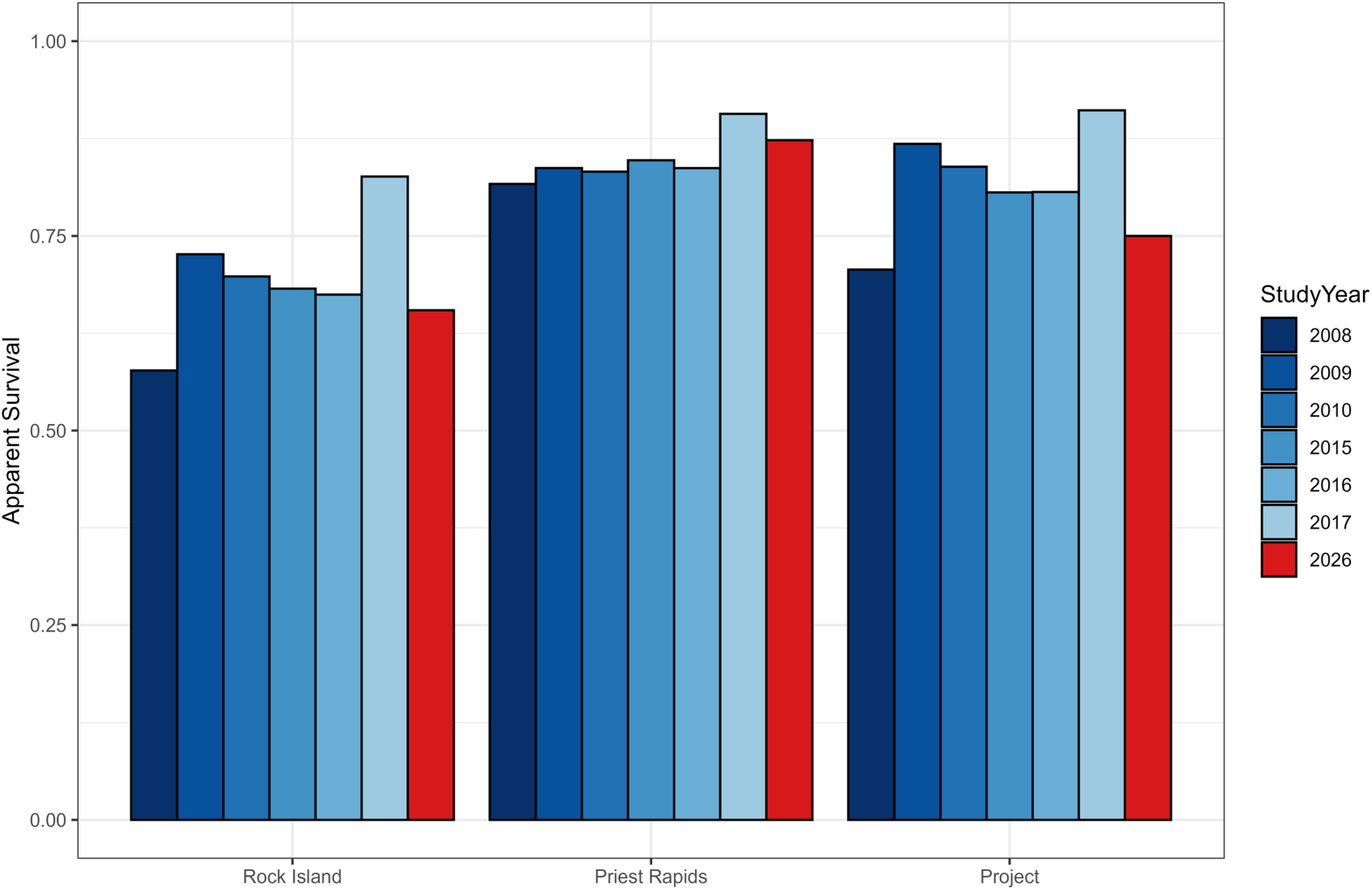
Detection Efficiency at Arrays



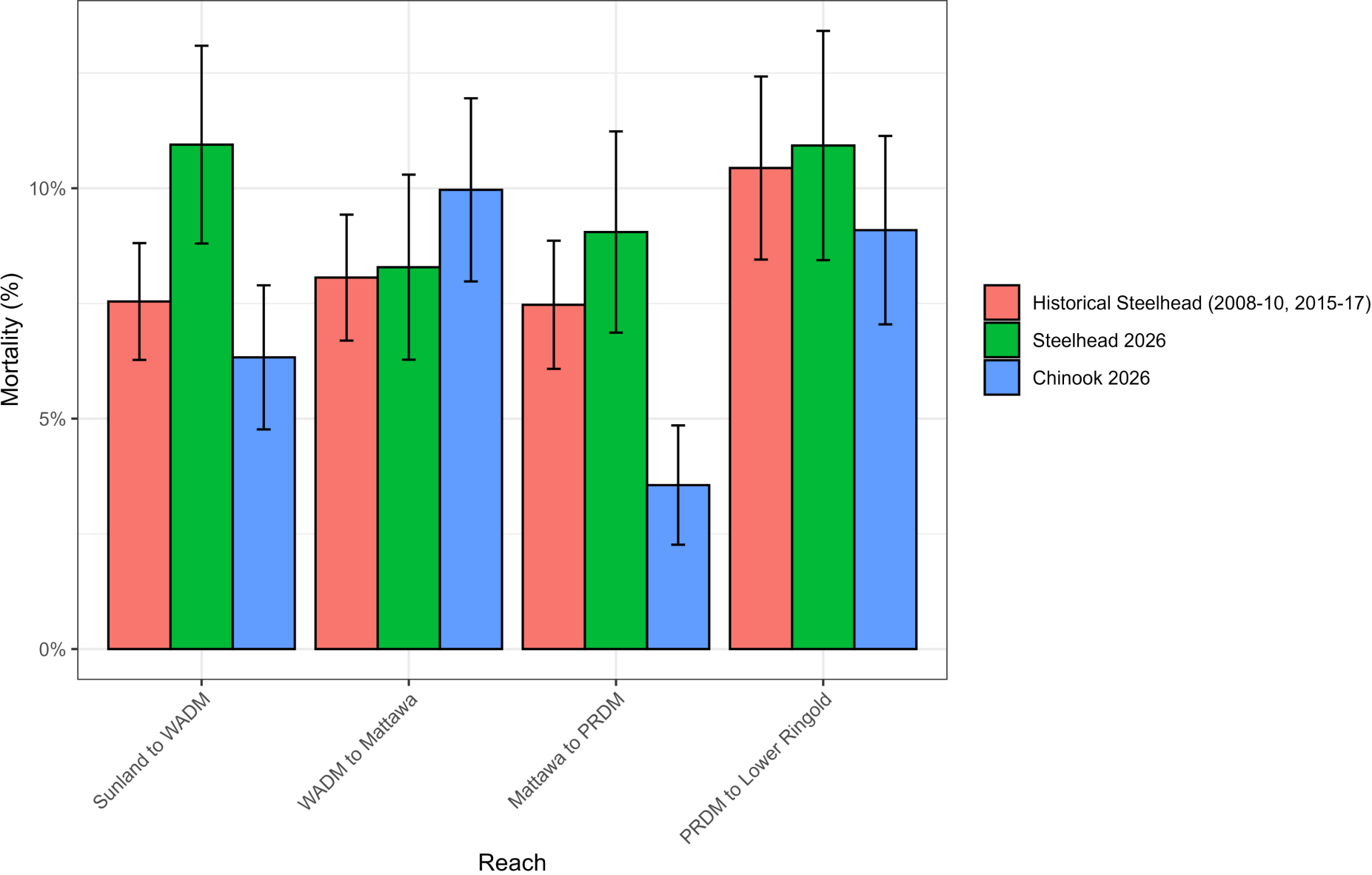
Tag Life Survival Curve



Initial Results: Steelhead Historical vs 2026

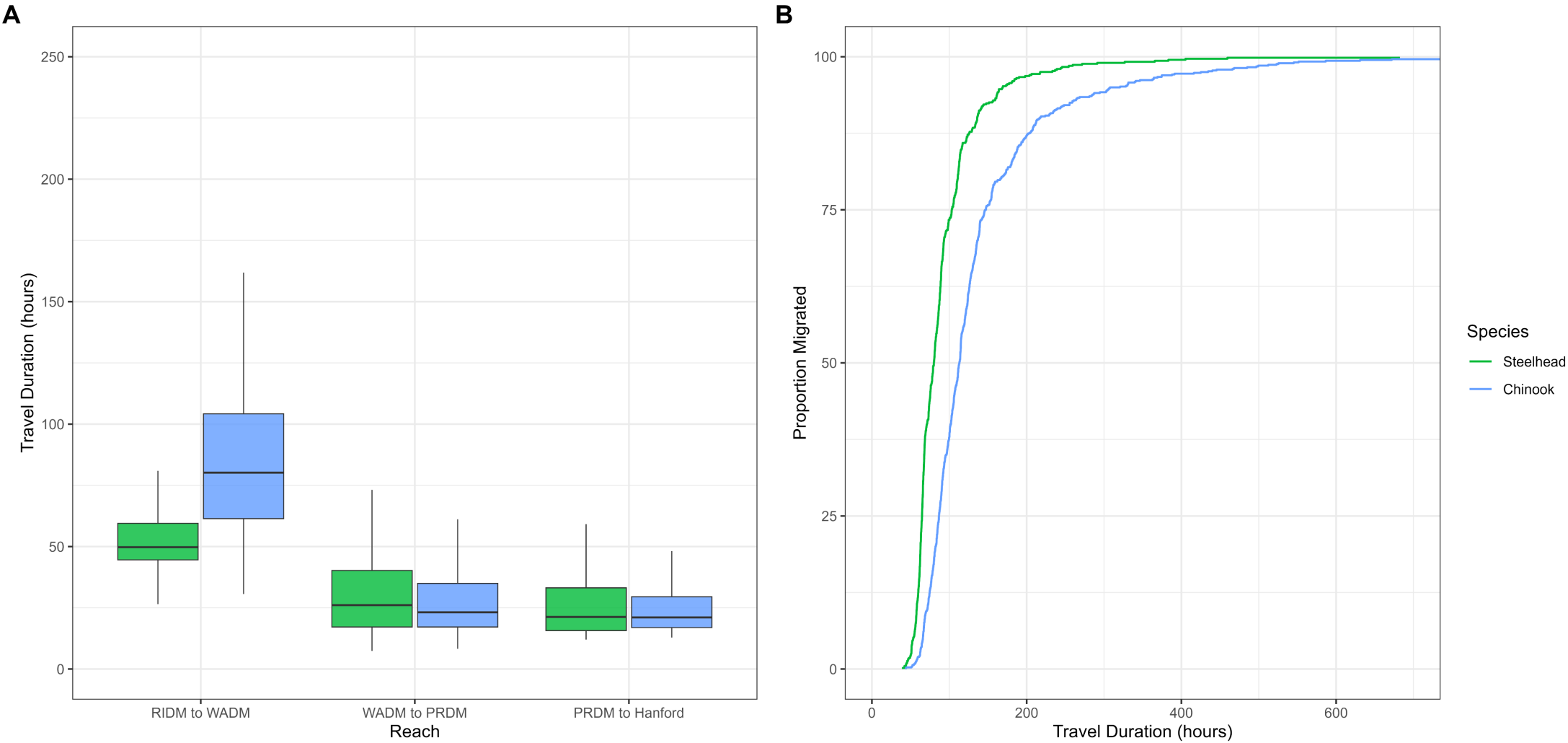


Reach Mortality for Rock Island release group



Travel Times

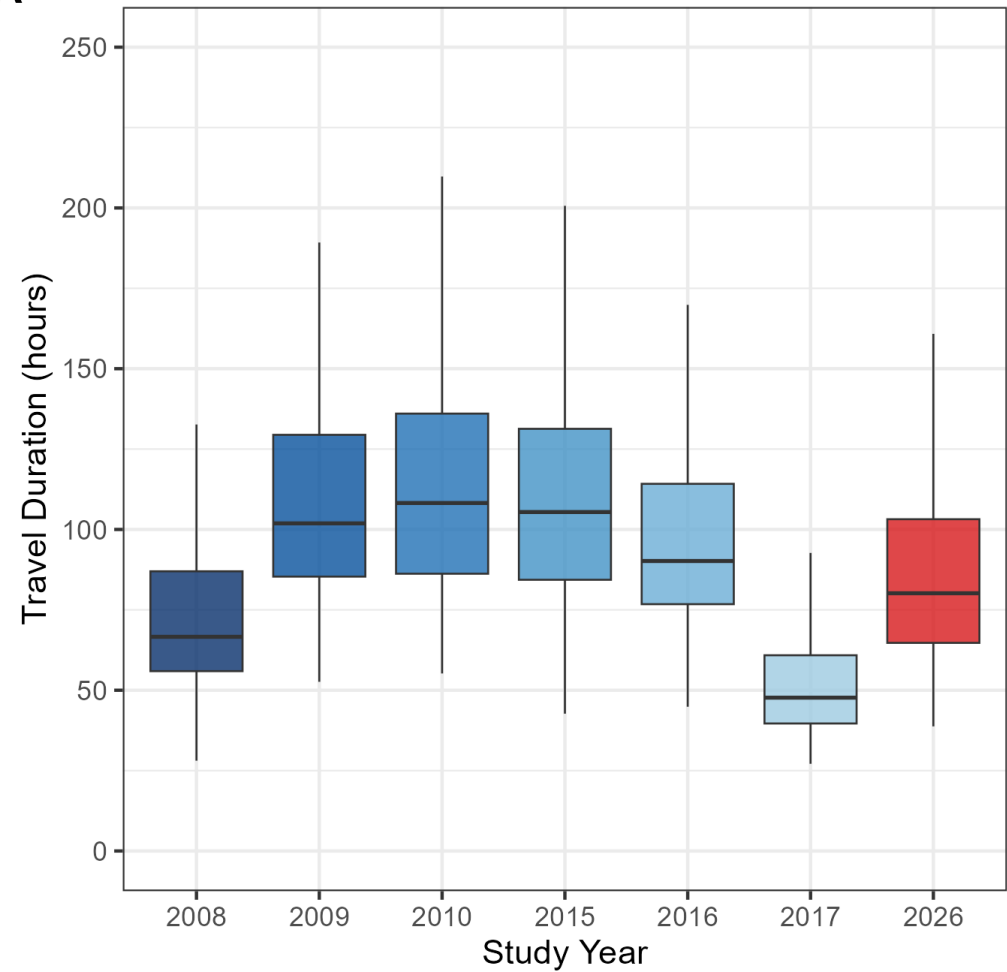
2026 Steelhead and Chinook travel duration: Rock Island Dam to Priest Rapids Dam



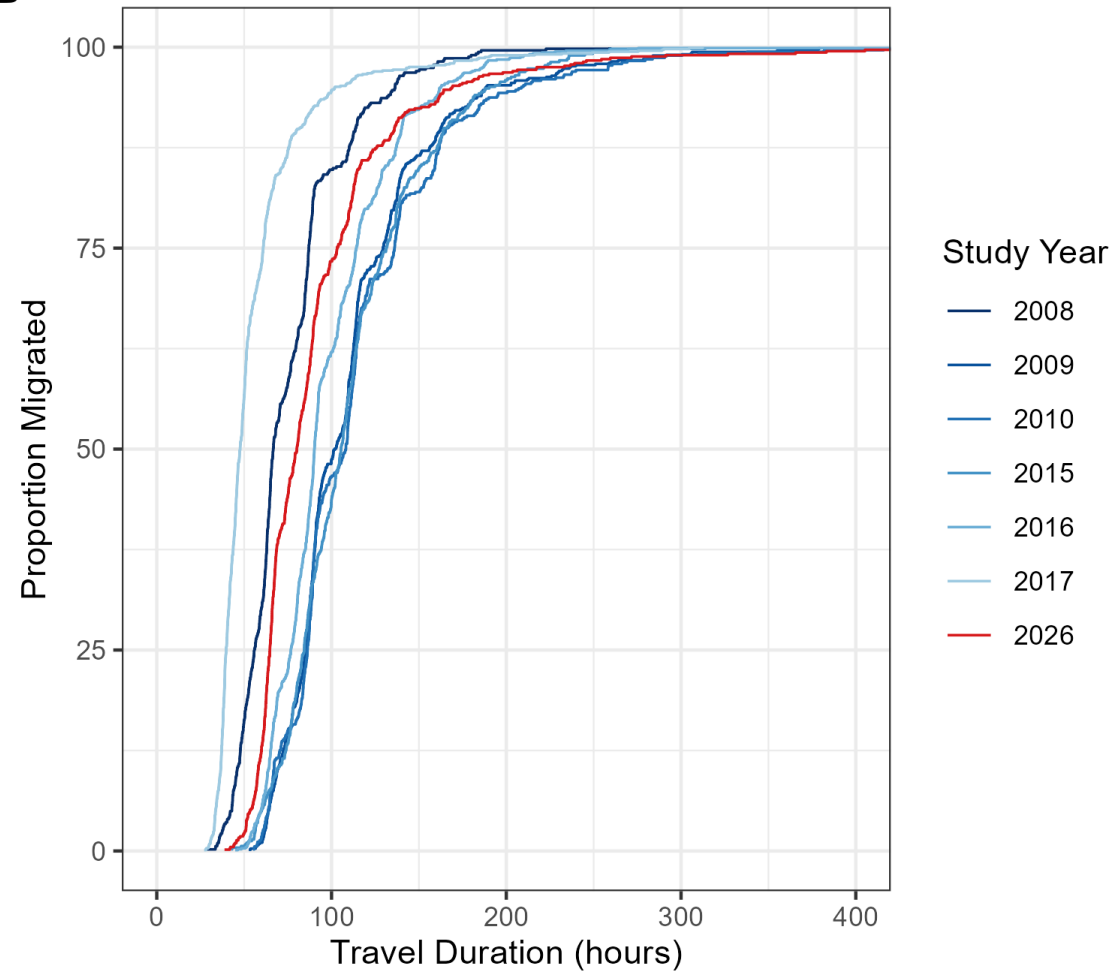
Travel Times

Steelhead travel duration: Rock Island Dam to Priest Rapids Dam

A

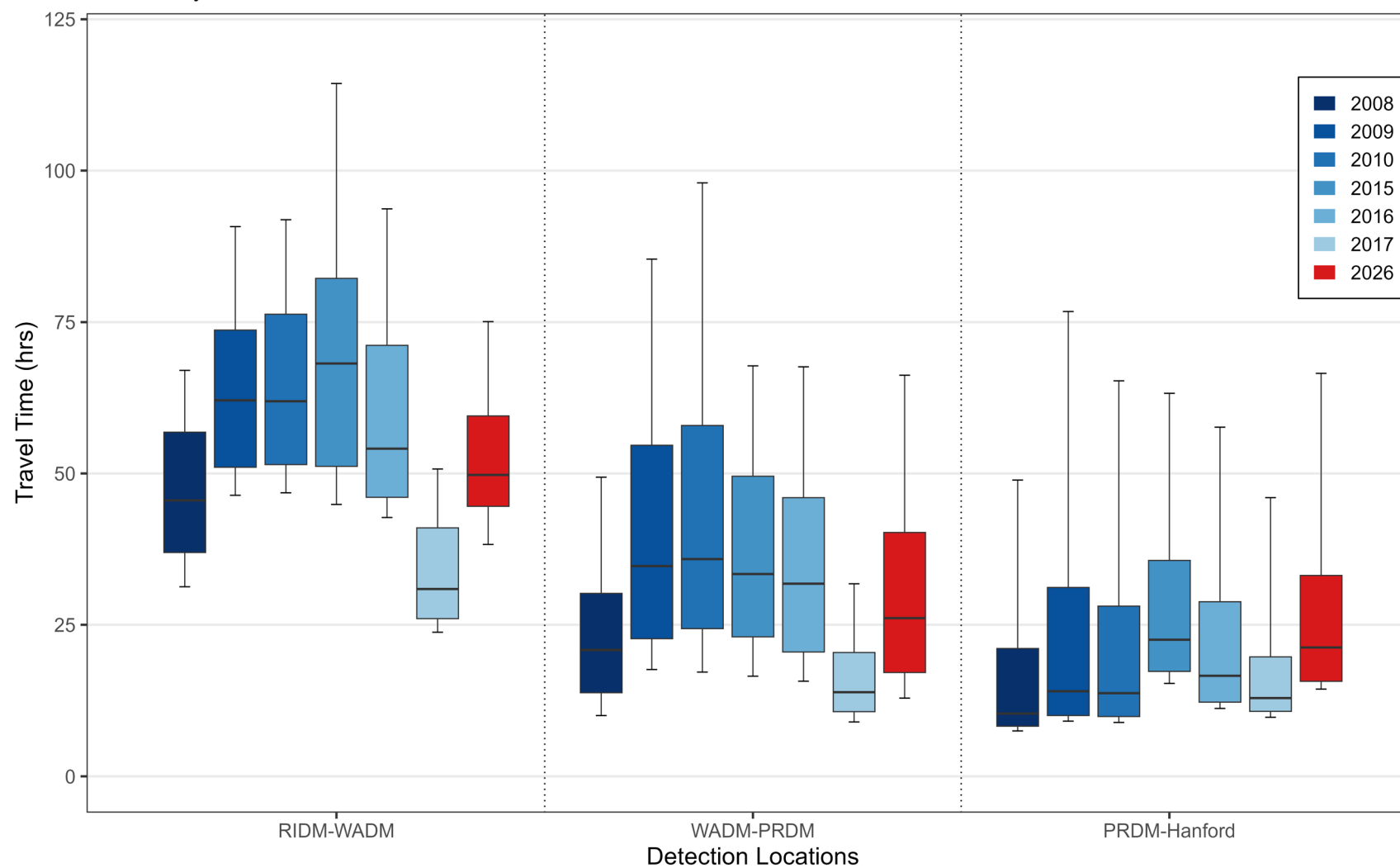


B



Steelhead travel time by reach for Rock Island-released fish

Historical years vs 2026





Objective 3: Avian Predation Support

- All 2026 study fish were double-tagged with acoustic and PIT tags to support RTR's avian predation analysis.
- RTR's 2026 colony scanning and PIT tag recovery analysis is ongoing.
- Recovered PIT tags will be matched to the release master list and combined with acoustic "last-detect" histories to estimate where predation likely occurred within the Project.

Study Summary

2026 Priest Rapids Project juvenile salmonid survival study

Study design

Paired releases at Rock Island and Priest Rapids were used to generate project survival estimates.

Tagged fish

Analysis includes 1,752 yearling Chinook salmon and 1,532 juvenile steelhead, with acoustic and PIT tags.

Preliminary findings

Initial Project survival estimates steelhead = 75%, yearling Chinook = 79.4%

Reach-scale data points to poor steelhead survival from Sunland to Priest Rapids Dam. Chinook survival was poor from Wanapum Dam to Mattawa.

Next steps

Columbia Basin Research is completing the final survival analysis and model-assumption testing. Avian predation analysis is ongoing.



Grant
PUD

