

**Physiological Development and Vulnerability to *Ceratomyxa shasta* of Fall-run Chinook Salmon in the Upper Klamath River Watershed**

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**Alec G. Maule**  
**U.S. Geological Survey, Western Fisheries Research Center**  
**Columbia River Research Laboratory**  
**5501A Cook-Underwood Rd**  
**Cook, WA**

**Scott P. VanderKooi**  
**U.S. Geological Survey, Western Fisheries Research Center**  
**Klamath Falls Field Station**  
**6973 Washburn St.**  
**Klamath Falls, OR 97603**

**John Hamilton**  
**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
**Yreka Fish and Wildlife Office**  
**1829 S. Oregon St.**  
**Yreka, CA 96097**

**Richard Stocking and Jerri Bartholomew**  
**Oregon State University**  
**Department of Microbiology**  
**220 Nash Hall**  
**Corvallis, OR 97331**

37 **Abstract**

38 To evaluate a possible stock for restoring runs in the Upper Klamath River Basin,  
39 we monitored the development of fall Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) in  
40 Iron Gate Hatchery and held them in netpens in the Williamson River (WR and Upper  
41 Klamath Lake (UKL)). We transferred age 1+ hatchery fall Chinook salmon to netpens  
42 in October 2005 and age 0+ fall Chinook salmon in May 2006. Several indices of smolt  
43 development were assessed in the fish in the hatchery and after 3 and 14 days in netpens.  
44 Based on gill Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase activity, and plasma thyroxine (T4) concentration, we  
45 determined that age 1+ Chinook salmon were not developing smolt characteristics in the  
46 hatchery during October. Fish transferred to WR or UKL had increased plasma cortisol  
47 in response to stress, and increased T4 accompanying the change in water, but did not  
48 have altered development. These variables in age 0+ Chinook salmon (2006) indicated  
49 that fish in the hatchery were smolting. Fish in the WR netpens lost weight and had gill  
50 ATPase activity similar to fish in the hatchery, while fish transferred to UKL gained  
51 weight and length, had reduced condition factor and higher gill ATPase compared to WR  
52 fish. These results along with environmental variables suggest that conditions in UKL  
53 were conducive to smoltification and accelerated the development of Chinook salmon as  
54 compared to conditions in WR. The presence of the myxozoan parasite *Ceratomyxa*  
55 *shasta* was confirmed using non-resistant rainbow trout at several locations. None of the  
56 Chinook salmon in the hatchery or in the netpens in UKL or WR became infected with *C.*  
57 *shasta* during either trial, or when held for 90 d after a 10-d exposure in the netpens  
58 (2006). We conclude that that there is little evidence of physiological impairment or  
59 significant upriver vulnerability to *C. shasta* of Iron Gate Hatchery fall Chinook salmon  
60 to preclude them from reintroduction into the Upper Klamath River Basin.

61

62 **Introduction**

63 The Klamath River watershed historically produced some of the largest runs of  
64 anadromous fish on the west coast of North America, including both fall and spring run  
65 Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), coho salmon (*O. kisutch*), chum salmon  
66 (*O. keta*), steelhead (*O. mykiss*), green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*), eulachon  
67 (*Thaleichthys pacificus*), coastal cutthroat trout (*O. clarki clarki*), and Pacific lamprey  
68 (*Entosphenus tridentata*). These runs supported significant commercial, recreational,  
69 subsistence, and Tribal harvests. In particular, the Upper Klamath River Basin above  
70 Iron Gate Dam once supported the spawning and rearing of large populations of  
71 anadromous salmon and steelhead (Lane and Lane Associates 1981; Federal Energy  
72 Regulatory Commission (FERC) 1990). Prior to the completion of the first impassible  
73 barriers to anadromous fish on the main stem Klamath River (Copco 1 Dam in 1918,  
74 Copco 2 Dam in 1925, and Iron Gate Dam in 1962) anadromous fish runs accessed  
75 spawning, incubation, and rearing habitat in more than 350 miles of river and stream  
76 channel above the site of Iron Gate Dam (Hamilton et al. 2005, Huntington 2006). Iron  
77 Gate Dam, at river kilometer 306 (river mile 190), is the current limit of upstream  
78 passage.

79 The Long Range Plan for the Klamath River Basin Conservation Area Fishery  
80 Restoration Program (LRP) (USDI Fish and Wildlife Service 1991) identified the lack of  
81 passage beyond Iron Gate Dam as a significant impact to the Klamath River anadromous  
82 fishery. At present, significant unused anadromous habitat exists upstream of Iron Gate  
83 Dam.

84 One critical uncertainty to successful reintroduction of sustainable populations of  
85 anadromous fish into historical habitat above and within Upper Klamath Lake (UKL) is  
86 whether outmigrants will be able to pass through the lake. Because anadromous fish  
87 have been excluded from UKL, and habitat and water quality conditions have been  
88 altered over the past 90 years, it is possible that salmon that enter the lake might be  
89 challenged physiologically, thus impairing their readiness to emigrate. Furthermore, the  
90 genetic inclination to emigrate through UKL may have been lost from the existing stocks  
91 available for reintroduction. Resistance to fish pathogens present in the Klamath River  
92 Basin will also be critical to the success of a salmon stock reintroduced into the Upper

93 Klamath River Basin. To address these critical uncertainties, we assessed the  
94 physiological development of one salmonid stock proposed for reintroduction, and  
95 determined the physiological impacts, including disease resistance, of transferring fish  
96 from a hatchery to UKL or the lower Williamson River (WR). We were unable to test  
97 more than one stock of Chinook salmon because of concerns about out-of-basin transfers.  
98 The objectives of this study were (1) determine whether the transfer of fall Chinook  
99 salmon from California Department of Fish and Game's Iron Gate Hatchery (IGH) into  
100 netpens in the UKL or WR affects the fish's physiological development, (2) determine if  
101 the physiological effects of acclimation in the netpens differed in fish at UKL or WR, and  
102 (3) determine if the fish become infected with the fish pathogen *Ceratomyxa shasta*  
103 during the acclimation period. This study took place in the fall 2005 using age 1+ fall  
104 Chinook salmon (brood-year 2004) to simulate the emigration timing of spring Chinook  
105 salmon. The study was repeated in the spring 2006 using age 0+ Chinook salmon  
106 (brood-year 2005) from the same hatchery. Release of the two age groups represents two  
107 alternative approaches to producing juvenile salmon that are physiologically ready to  
108 outmigrate.

109 Both groups of fish were sampled in the hatchery over several months to  
110 determine the physiological trajectory of their development. The fish were then  
111 transferred to the two locations and sampled again after three days. Previous studies have  
112 shown that within 24 to 72 hours after transport or other acute stress, fish's physiological  
113 responses will have returned to baseline (Barton & Iwama 1991; Maule et al. 1988;  
114 Wendelaar Bonga 1997). We sampled the fish again after they had been in the netpens  
115 for 14 days to assess potential effects of the transfer on physiological development  
116 associated with smoltification (Beckman et al. 2003; Hoffnagle and Fivizzani 1990). We  
117 monitored several physiological variables that have been shown to be important  
118 responses to stress and to the process of smoltification, which prepares salmon for  
119 emigration and pre-adapts them for entering the marine environment.

120 We also examined fish for the pathogen *C. shasta*, which is responsible for  
121 mortalities of salmonids in the lower Klamath River system, and conducted a field-  
122 exposure experiment to determine the likelihood of these Chinook salmon being infected  
123 with *C. shasta* at various locations in the Klamath River Basin.

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## Methods

*Fish rearing.*—Two groups of Chinook salmon from the Iron Gate Hatchery were used for this study. The first group of fish was part of the 2004 brood-year adults that were spawned October 8, 2004. The eggs and larval fish were raised with the general population in the hatchery building until May 15, 2005, when about 1500 fish were transferred to a separate holding tank (4.7 m long by 1.2 m wide and 0.4 m deep) positioned outside near the standard hatchery raceways. These fish were held separately because the hatchery fish were going to be released below Iron Gate Hatchery before this study was completed. The fish in the tank received a continuous flow of single-pass Klamath River water from the reservoir behind Iron Gate Dam. Water temperature varied from 6.1° C (43° F) at the beginning of the study to 13.3° C (56° F) when fish were transferred. The fish were fed daily with the same commercial salmon diet (BioOregon Starter, Bio-Moist Grower, and then Nelson & Sons Silver Cup) as the general hatchery population. The second group of fish was from adults of the 2005 brood-year, which were spawned on October 19, 2005. Because the experimental fish were going to be transferred before the hatchery fish were to be released, these fish were not separated from the general population, but were sampled from the general hatchery population in raceways. This change did not compromise the experimental design because there were no differences in results from the first year comparing responses of fish in the small tanks to those of fish in the raceways (see Results). The 2005 brood-year fish were fed the same diets as above, and were put in hatchery raceways 30.5 m x 3.1 m x 1.5 m (100' x 10' x 5') on February 17, 2006. At this time water temperature was (4.5° C) water and increased to 14° C by the time fish were transferred to the netpens.

*Sampling.*—Fish were sampled in the hatchery at the beginning of each month from August through October 2005. Fish were also sampled on October 17, prior to

155 transferring them to netpens (see below). Five fish at a time (total = 20 fish) were  
156 randomly sampled from the holding tank and put into about 10 L water containing 50 mg  
157 L<sup>-1</sup> tricaine methanesulfonate (MS-222) and taken to the sampling area in the hatchery  
158 building. One or two fish at a time were transferred to water containing 80 mg L<sup>-1</sup> MS-  
159 222 until they were well anesthetized and then were removed to determine weights and  
160 lengths. Individual fish were then transferred to the holding aquarium where color and  
161 infrared digital photographs were taken. (These photographs were examined as measures  
162 of skin reflectance, but did not vary during either year so data are not presented here.)  
163 The fish were then bled by severing their caudal peduncle and collecting blood into  
164 heparinized tubes. The blood was subsequently centrifuged to separate plasma from cells  
165 and the plasma was used to determine concentrations of cortisol and thyroxine (T4).  
166 About 10 mg of gill filament was clipped from the first full gill arch on the right side of  
167 the fish for determining Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup> ATPase (ATPase) activity. The tubes containing plasma  
168 and gill filaments were rapidly frozen in liquid nitrogen, and subsequently stored in a -  
169 80° C freezer until assayed (see: *Biochemical Measures*). Fish that were sampled in the  
170 hatchery before transport and those sampled on two occasions from the netpens were  
171 assessed for the presence of *C. shasta*, a myxosporean parasite found extensively in  
172 salmonid fish in the Klamath River Basin. This was accomplished by removing a piece  
173 of the fish's lower intestine and preserving it in 95% ethanol. The tissue was then sent to  
174 the Department of Microbiology, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon to assess  
175 the presence of *C. shasta* using polymerase chain reaction (PCR) based on the method of  
176 Palenzuela & Bartholomew (2002).

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178 In 2006, fish were sampled four times from the hatchery raceways between March  
179 9 and May 16. After the last sample in the hatchery, fish were transported to the netpens.  
180 Sample collection and variables assayed were the same in 2006 as described for 2005,  
181 except that the small size of the fish at the first two sample times prohibited the collection  
182 of an adequate volume of blood with which to assay either plasma variable. Plasma  
183 samples collected beginning in May 2006, were of adequate volume to assay only one  
184 variable (T4). We did not continue to sample hatchery fish in either year after  
185 experimental fish were transferred to the netpens. We assumed that in fish in the

186 hatchery, variables continued on the same trajectory during the next two weeks as that  
187 observed at the time of transfer. For example, in actively smolting Chinook salmon we  
188 expected that gill ATPase activity and plasma T4 would continue to increase, and  
189 condition factor would continue to decrease\_(Beckman et al. 2003; Hoar 1976; Hoffnagle  
190 and Fivizzani 1990).

191

192 *Transfer and holding.*—After sampling on October 17, 2005, 30 age 1+ Chinook salmon  
193 were put into each of four transport tanks filled with about 150 L (40 gallons) of hatchery  
194 water. Each tank was continuously aerated with air from a small aquarium pump via air  
195 stones. Ice in a plastic bag was added to each tank to ensure that the water temperature  
196 was not elevated during transport. The tanks were transported from IGH in the back of a  
197 pickup truck. Two netpens had previously been put in place in each of two locations, the  
198 first about 2.5 km upstream of the mouth of the WR and the second about 2 km east of  
199 the mouth in UKL. The netpens were 0.45-m cubes made of 6.4-mm bar-mesh netting on  
200 all sides of a PVC pipe frame. The netpens were held about 1 m off the bottom by a  
201 combination of anchors and floats. On arrival at the transfer site, two tanks of fish were  
202 taken to each netpen location by boat. Thirty fish were transferred to each netpen, which  
203 was sealed and re-suspended. Water quality (temperature, pH, and dissolved oxygen) at  
204 each site was monitored hourly using YSI 600 XLM data sondes deployed 1 m off the  
205 bottom. We calibrated multiprobes prior to each deployment and checked parameter  
206 precision and accuracy against reference multiprobes upon retrieval, following U.S.  
207 Geological Survey (USGS) established protocols to collect data and maintain multiprobes  
208 (USGS National Field Manual, USGS 1997 to present). After three days (October 20) we  
209 sampled one group from each site to assess the fish's response to stresses of  
210 transportation and change in holding, and after 14 days (October 31) fish from each site  
211 were sampled to assess influence of the holding locations on physiological development.  
212 At sampling, all of the fish in one netpen at each location were quickly removed, put into  
213 50 mg l<sup>-1</sup> MS-222 and taken to a sampling station setup on the shore; there, the fish were  
214 sampled as described above.

215

216 The trip to UKL and WR took about three hours. No fish died during transport.  
217 Transportation, survival, holding, and sampling of age 0+ Chinook salmon on May 16,  
218 2006 was identical to that of 2005.

219

220 *Disease testing in 2006.*—We coordinated our disease experiments with another study  
221 conducted by Bartholomew and others who had an established design, which we could  
222 not match precisely (i.e., different numbers of fish and lengths of exposures). Data from  
223 that study, however, are incorporated in the present study in order to determine (1) the  
224 susceptibility to *C. shasta* of IGH fall Chinook salmon in different areas of the Klamath  
225 Basin and (2) the impacts of *C. shasta* to a salmonid species with known susceptibility  
226 held in locations through which IGH Chinook salmon might migrate if released in the  
227 upper Klamath Basin.

228 On May 16, 2006, two additional groups of 35 Chinook salmon were transported  
229 from IGH and transferred to a cylindrical netpen (0.3 m x 1.0 m) at WR and UKL. These  
230 additional fish were used to test exposure of the fish to pathogens in each of the holding  
231 locations. Although there were more fish in each transport tank, weight per fish in 2006  
232 was just 10% of 2005 fish. The Bartholomew study mentioned above used 3-d  
233 exposures, which have historically resulted in close to 100% mortality in “hot-spots” in  
234 the lower Klamath River. Because fish were being held in our netpens for 14 d and in  
235 2005 none of the fish became infected with *C. shasta*, we wanted to expose the fish for  
236 longer than 3 d; thus, we ended the exposures after 10 d. Thus, the Chinook salmon in  
237 each of these cylindrical netpens were retrieved on May 26 (identified as: May/10-d  
238 Lower WR FCS and May/10-d UKL FCS in Table 1) and transported to the Oregon State  
239 University, John L. Fryer Salmon Disease Laboratory (OSU-FSDL), Corvallis, Oregon  
240 where they were held at 13°C for 90 d to assess the presence and severity of *C. shasta*  
241 and monitor pathogen-related mortalities.

242 During April, May, and June 2006, 3-d exposures of 40 rainbow trout (*O. mykiss*)  
243 of a strain known to be susceptible to *C. shasta* were conducted. The exposure took place  
244 in the Williamson River approximately 6.0 km (about rkm 8.0) upstream from the netpen  
245 site (referred to in Table 1 as: April/3-d, May/3-d, and June/3d Upper WR RBT). During  
246 the May and June exposures, 40 IGH Chinook salmon were also exposed along with the



247 40 rainbow trout at this location (May/3d Upper WR FCS and June/3d Upper WR FCS in  
248 Table 1). In May and June, 40 rainbow trout and 40 IGH Chinook salmon were also  
249 exposed (3 d) in the lower Klamath River above the Beaver Creek confluence (rkm  
250 259.1). This site is located about 46.7 km downstream from Iron Gate Dam in Northern  
251 California and about 141.0 km downstream of the Williamson River confluence. Water  
252 temperature readings were recorded for all exposure groups at each site.

253 After exposure, the rainbow trout and Chinook were retrieved, and the groups  
254 placed in individual coolers with bubbled oxygen. The fish were then transported to the  
255 OSU-FSDL where each exposure group was held in separate 100-L tanks in 13°C  
256 specific-pathogen-free water until about 90 d post-exposure (dpe) when all fish were  
257 euthanized. Preventative treatments for bacterial infections were administered within 1  
258 dpe, and included a two-week diet of TM100 (Bio-Oregon, Warrenton, OR) medicated  
259 feed and 1.0 mg/L Furanase (Aquarium Products, Glenburnie, MD) bath treatment 1 hr  
260 daily for 3 d. After two weeks, fish received a 1-hr formalin bath at 125 to 170 mg/L for  
261 three consecutive days to remove external parasites. Dead or moribund fish were  
262 collected daily and examined for signs of infection. All groups, including unexposed  
263 control groups, were terminated with a lethal dose of MS222.

264 A sample of 10 fish per exposure group was visually examined for spores by  
265 microscopy. If any fish was identified as positive, an additional 15 fish were examined by  
266 microscopy. Dead or moribund fish as well as fish sampled for infection were first  
267 examined by wet-mount. The wet-mount was prepared by inserting a sterilized  
268 inoculating loop of the appropriate diameter into the anogenital pore to a depth of  
269 approximately 1.0 to 1.5 cm. The sample collected was smeared onto a glass microscope  
270 slide and observed at 100 X or 250 X magnifications for 3 min. Fish were considered  
271 positive if the characteristic kidney bean-shaped myxospore was observed. Fish not  
272 demonstrating clear spore stages were not considered visually positive due to the  
273 difficulty of differentiating early presporogonic stages from host cells or other  
274 myxozoans. If spores were not observed then intestinal tissue was excised, digested, and  
275 assayed by a single round polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using methods described by  
276 Palenzuela and Bartholomew (2002). The following modifications were made to the  
277 protocol: an additional 2 to 3 mm segment of the alimentary canal, just posterior to the

278 pyloric ceca attachment, was excised and included with the 5.0 mm segment of the  
279 posterior intestine.

280 Percent prevalence of infection was calculated as the number of exposed fish that  
281 tested positive for infection (by microscopy and/or PCR analysis), including euthanized  
282 fish and mortalities, divided by the total number of fish examined for infection (X 100).  
283 Percent mortality was calculated as the number of fish that died during the 90-d holding  
284 period that were visually positive for *C. shasta* by microscopy, divided by the total  
285 number of fish that survived the prophylactic treatment period (> 5 dpe) also expressed  
286 as: [(# mortalities) / (# mortalities + # terminated) X 100]. The mean days-to-death for  
287 each exposure group was calculated as the geometric mean of all days with *C. shasta*  
288 positive mortalities within the 90-d holding period.

289 In addition to the fish exposures, 1.0-L water samples were collected, filtered and  
290 assayed by quantitative PCR to quantify spore concentrations using methods described by  
291 Hallet and Bartholomew (2006). Before the fish were set in the water for exposure, three  
292 1.0-L bottles of water were manually collected 30 cm below the water surface at 5-min  
293 intervals. The same process was repeated just prior to retrieving the fish. Water samples  
294 were not collected from the lower WR or UKL netpens. We used ISCO 3700 portable  
295 water samplers (Teledyne-Isco Inc, Lincoln, NE) to collect water samples in the lower  
296 Klamath River. The portable samplers were set to collect two 500-ml samples with a  
297 single purge cycle every 2.0 hrs during the course of the 3-d exposure period. When one  
298 sampler had run its 24-hr collecting cycle the sample bottles were retrieved and filtered  
299 while the other sampler continued the process.

300

301 *Biochemical Measures.*—Gill ATPase activity (Johnson et al. 1977), plasma thyroxine  
302 (T4; Jaklitsch et al. 1976) and plasma cortisol (Ogihara et al. 1977) were assayed by  
303 Biotech Research & Consulting, Inc. (Corvallis, OR) using standard methods as cited.

304

305 *Statistical analyses.*—Statistical comparisons of the mean weight, length, condition factor  
306 {K-factor = [(mass) (1000)/ (length)<sup>3</sup>] [100]}, plasma T4 and plasma cortisol were  
307 conducted in Prism GraphPad software. Mean data were subjected to one-way analysis  
308 of variance (ANOVA) followed by Tukey's multiple comparison tests where differences

309 occurred. In the event of an unbalanced design, the statistical software automatically used  
310 the General Linear Models (GLM) approach, which is an ANOVA for unequal sample  
311 sizes. Median data were subjected to nonparametric Kruskal-Wallis test followed by  
312 Dunn's multiple pairwise comparisons. These analyses were conducted independently on  
313 two groups of data for each variable. The first group established the trajectory of the  
314 various indices examined and included data collected from fish sampled in the hatchery.  
315 The second group examined the impacts of the netpens and included data collected from  
316 fish in the hatchery on the day fish were transported to the netpen sites and from fish  
317 sampled from the netpens after 3 or 14 days. We also conducted two-way ANOVA (or  
318 GLM) on data from fish in netpens using location (UKL and WR) and days in the netpens  
319 (3 and 14 d) as the dependent variables. Environmental variables (temperature, DO, &  
320 pH) were collected as continuous data and were summarized as daily means after we  
321 determined that there were no differences between mean daytime (0601 to 1800 hours)  
322 and mean nighttime (1801 to 0600 hours) values for any of the variables (t-tests,  $P >$   
323 0.05). The mean daily values for the days each group of fish were in the netpens (3 d and  
324 14 d) were compared using Kruskal-Wallis tests and Dunn's multiple pairwise  
325 comparisons. For all statistical tests, differences were considered significant when  $P \leq$   
326 0.05.

327

328

## Results

329

### *Gill ATPase*

331 In 2005, gill ATPase activity decreased continuously in fish in the hatchery. There  
332 were no differences in gill ATPase activity between the experimental fish and the  
333 hatchery fish at any time (Figure 1, top). This was true of all of the variables examined,  
334 except for plasma cortisol, and indicated that fish could be held and sampled from either  
335 the raceways or the smaller holding tanks and obtain the same results. Decreasing gill  
336 ATPase activity is expected in Chinook salmon during the late summer and early fall  
337 when photoperiod and temperature are decreasing. When fish were transferred to the  
338 netpens in UKL and WR (arrows on all figures indicate time and group transferred) there  
339 was no effect on ATPase activity from either environment. The values did differ between

340 locations when comparing fish at WR after 3 d to fish at UKL after 14 d—a comparison  
341 that we do not believe is as meaningful as comparing between fish held at the two  
342 locations for an equal amount of time.

343 In 2006, gill ATPase activity increased in fish in the hatchery (Figure 2, top).  
344 These Chinook salmon exhibited evidence of smoltification in anticipation of emigration.  
345 When the fish were transferred to the netpens, gill ATPase activity remained elevated in  
346 both locations; that is, it did not differ from values in fish in the hatchery on the day of  
347 transfer. However, activity in fish held in the WR for 14 d was significantly lower than  
348 that of fish in UKL after 14 d. In both years, gill ATPase values differed based on  
349 location of netpens (WR or UKL) but not days in the netpens (3 d or 14 d; 2-way  
350 ANOVA or GLM,  $P < 0.05$ ).

351

#### 352 *Plasma T4*

353 In 2005, plasma T4 did not differ between experimental and hatchery groups.  
354 Although there were some significant differences between some dates (e.g., lower values  
355 on September 8), we do not believe that there were any biologically significant  
356 differences in fish in the hatchery through time (Figure 1, bottom). On the last day of  
357 sampling before fish were transferred to the netpens, a mistake in plasma sample tube  
358 labels kept us from separating experimental fish from production fish. As these groups  
359 did not differ at any time for any of the variables, we are comfortable pooling the results.  
360 Sample size for this pool is 40. After transfer to netpens, plasma T4 increased  
361 significantly for fish in the WR after 3 d. This increase in T4 after transferring salmon to  
362 a new water source was expected and was documented in salmon over 20 years ago  
363 (Grau et al. 1982; Lin et al. 1988). Fish in UKL netpens demonstrated a similar (though  
364 not significant) increase in T4 after 14 d. After 14 d, the T4 levels of fish held in WR  
365 decreased significantly and differed from that of fish held in UKL for the same length of  
366 time and from those in WR after 3 d.

367 In early 2006 there was insufficient blood volume in fish (mean weight  $< 1.0$  g)  
368 during the sampling to assay for T4. However, by early May mean plasma T4 was  $> 2.0$   
369  $\text{ng ml}^{-1}$  (Figure 2, bottom)—a level not attained by any groups in 2005. Thus, we assume  
370 that plasma T4 was increasing during the early spring, similar to gill ATPase (Figure 2,

371 top) as the fish went through smoltification. Three days after transfer to the netpens,  
372 plasma T4 in fish at both locations did not differ from that of fish in the hatchery. Plasma  
373 T4 in fish after 14 d in the netpen in the WR was lower than in fish before leaving the  
374 hatchery on May 16, but there were no differences in T4 between any of the groups of  
375 fish held in netpens for 3 or 14 d (Figure 2, bottom). While in 2005 there were no  
376 difference in plasma T4 based on netpen location or days in the netpens (2-way GLM), in  
377 2006 fish in the UKL netpens had higher T4 levels than fish in WR (2-way GLM,  $P <$   
378 0.05)

379

### 380 *Plasma Cortisol*

381 In 2005, plasma cortisol in the pooled hatchery and treatment fish on October 17  
382 was significantly higher than the other samples collected in the hatchery except the  
383 experimental fish on August 9 (Figure 3, top). The range of mean values (9.2 to 30.8  
384  $\text{ng ml}^{-1}$ ), however, were all lower than what is considered stressful in hatchery fish (Barton  
385 and Iwama 1991; Schreck 1982). Plasma cortisol was extremely high in fish in both  
386 netpens 3 d after transfer—indicative of the stress the fish experienced by being  
387 transferred from the hatchery. Cortisol declined after 14 d in the netpens, but was still  
388 significantly higher than it had been in the hatchery. Elevated, but declining plasma  
389 cortisol after 14 d suggests that the fish were stressed by the transfer, but were adapting  
390 to the new environment. Differences in fish density and the lack of food, as well as  
391 differences in water quality were probably all contributing to high plasma cortisol.  
392 Plasma cortisol in fish in the WR was significantly lower than that of fish in UKL based  
393 on location and number of days in the netpens (2-way GLM,  $P < 0.05$ ; Figure 3, top). In  
394 2006, the insufficient volume of plasma in the small fish sampled prohibited the  
395 assessment of plasma cortisol.

396

### 397 *Condition Factor, Weight & Length*

398 In 2005, there were no differences in condition factor between treatment and  
399 production groups in the hatchery (Figure 3, bottom). Condition factor was reduced in  
400 fish in both netpens as compared to the hatchery, with the exception that fish held for 3 d

401 in WR did not differ from fish in the hatchery. By 14 d, however, condition factor in fish  
402 at WR was reduced significantly from the 3 d measurements (Figure 3, bottom)

403 In 2006, condition factor of fish sampled in the hatchery increased significantly  
404 between March and May, and then declined significantly in all groups after the fish were  
405 transferred to the netpens (Figure 4). Furthermore, condition factor of fish in the WR  
406 was significantly lower than that of fish in UKL. Based on 2-way GLM, there was no  
407 difference between netpen fish based on location or days in the netpens in 2005.  
408 However, in 2006 this variable differed based on both location and days in the netpens  
409 (2-way GLM,  $P < 0.05$ ).

410 Weights and lengths of fish in the hatchery increased throughout rearing in both  
411 years (Figures 5 & 6). These variables did not change in fish transferred to netpens in  
412 2005, nor were there any differences in fish at the two netpen locations. There were,  
413 however, significant changes in these variables when fish were transferred to netpens in  
414 2006. Weight of fish in WR declined significantly after 3 d in netpens and remained  
415 lower after 14 d. Weights in fish in UKL did not decline after transfer, and were in fact  
416 greater than those in the hatchery after 14 d (Figure 6, top). Lengths of fish in the  
417 netpens for 3 d did not differ from that of fish in the hatchery, however by 14 d the fish in  
418 UKL were significantly longer than fish in the hatchery and those in WR (Figure 6,  
419 bottom). While there was no difference in lengths or weights based on location or days  
420 in the netpens in 2005, in 2006 both variables differed based on location of netpens and  
421 the length of time fish were in the netpens (2-way GLM,  $P < 0.05$ ).

422

#### 423 *Juvenile Chinook Salmon Transport and Short Term Survival*

424 All of the fish transferred from Iron Gate Hatchery (120 in 2005 and 180 in 2006)  
425 survived transport to the Upper Klamath Basin and were successfully put into the  
426 netpens. In 2005, there were no mortalities among the 60 fish sampled from the netpens  
427 (30 fish from each site) after 3 d, and one mortality in the WR netpen after 14 d. In  
428 2006, there were two mortalities in the WR netpen 3 d after transport and one mortality at  
429 the same location 10 d after transport when fish were collected for *C. shasta*  
430 susceptibility test. After 14 d, there were three more mortalities in the WR. While there  
431 was no mortality among the fish held at the UKL site, there were only 14 fish in that

432 netpen after 14 d. We examined the netpen and discovered a hole in the mesh  
433 approximately 3-cm in diameter. As there was no evidence of dead fish in this netpen  
434 and all fish in the other netpens were accounted for as alive or were recovered as  
435 mortalities, we believe the 16 missing fish escaped into UKL.

436

#### 437 *Susceptibility to C. shasta*

438 In 2005, there was no evidence of *C. shasta* infection in any of the Chinook  
439 salmon sampled from the hatchery or from the netpens in the WR or UKL after 3 or 14 d  
440 (data not shown). However, some fish had exophthalmia (“popeye”) indicating the  
441 potential for systemic pathogen infection. Exophthalmia was seen in one fish from the  
442 UKL netpen and three from the WR netpen after 3 d and in three fish from the UKL and  
443 five from the WR after 14 d. In 2006, there was no evidence of *C. shasta* infection in any  
444 fish sampled from the netpens after 3 or 14 d. However, we did not necropsy the six dead  
445 fish from the WR netpens because opportunistic microbes could have invaded the  
446 carcasses after the fish died.

447 In May 2006, the two groups of 35 Chinook salmon exposed for 10 d at WR and  
448 UKL were retrieved, transported to OSU–CFDR without loss, and successfully  
449 acclimated to lab conditions without mortality. During the 90-d holding period, no  
450 mortality occurred and, at termination of the experiment, all fish that were examined  
451 microscopically were negative for *C. shasta* (May / 10-d exposures in Table 1). Gross  
452 pathology characteristic of ceratomyxosis was not evident in fish from either the UKL or  
453 WR 10-d exposure groups. In the past, no Chinook salmon exposed in the WR or UKL  
454 have become infected, even during the period of the year when parasite densities are  
455 highest (Stocking, 2006).

456 In April 2006, results from rainbow trout exposures at the upper WR site (April /  
457 3-d exposure in Table 1) indicate that *C. shasta* was present in the WR when water  
458 temperatures averaged about 12.2 °C. Only one rainbow trout died (at 49 dpe) during the  
459 90-d holding period, but the prevalence of infection was > 95%. In May, rainbow trout  
460 exposed in the upper WR (May / 3-d Upper WR in Table 1) demonstrated high  
461 prevalence of infection (97.5%) and high mortality (97.5%) when water temperatures  
462 averaged 19°C; those exposed lower in the Klamath River, at about the same water

463 temperature (18.2°C) suffered similar mortality (92.3%) and prevalence of infection  
464 (100%; May / 3-d KR in Table 1). Water temperatures during the June exposure in the  
465 WR had decreased to an average of 17.4°C while that in the Klamath River remained  
466 high (20°C). Prevalence of infection and mortalities of rainbow trout exposed at both  
467 sites remained high (> 96%; June / 3-d in Table 1). The mean days-to-death for rainbow  
468 trout in June (32.2 dpe) was about the same as it was in May (31.8 dpe). We detected no  
469 infection or mortality in the Chinook salmon exposed in the upper WR in May or June;  
470 however those exposed in the lower Klamath River suffered 16.7% mortality and had a  
471 moderate prevalence of *C. shasta* (37.5 %; Table 1). In all tests, rainbow trout and IGH  
472 Chinook salmon that were not exposed (i.e., control fish) tested negative for *C. shasta*.  
473 Detection of *C. shasta* spores in the water collected from the upper WR and lower  
474 Klamath River indicates a seasonality of presence at both locations, as there were at least  
475 an order of magnitude more spores at both locations in June (10 spores / L in Table 1)  
476 than May (> 1 spores / L in Table 1).

477

#### 478 *Water Quality*

479 As would be expected, water temperature varied between the fall 2005 (Figure 7)  
480 and spring 2006 (Figure 8) and between the WR and UKL sites. Due to its shallow  
481 nature, UKL is very responsive to changes in ambient air temperature. At the beginning  
482 of the 2005 holding period temperature in UKL was about 11° and 14 d later had  
483 decreased to about 7.5° C. In 2006 temperature in UKL started at about 16.5° C,  
484 increased to 20.5° C after 3 d of unseasonably warm weather and then declined to about  
485 13° C at the end of the 14-d holding period.

486 Similar temperature patterns occurred in the WR, but with different values. In the  
487 fall 2005, WR temperatures started at about 9° C and declined to about 6.5° C. In the  
488 spring 2006 WR temperatures were 18° C, and increased to 20.5° C before declining to  
489 about 12° C. Mean daily temperatures in 2005 did not differ significantly when  
490 comparing one location at different times (e.g., UKL at 3 d versus UKL at 14 d) or  
491 between sites after the same number of days (e.g., UKL at 14 d versus WR at 14 d;  
492 Figure 9, top). In 2006, however, mean daily temperature at WR was significantly higher  
493 after 3 d as compared to 14 d (Figure 9, bottom).



494 The mean daily pH was similar at both locations for a given year (2005 daily  
495 means = 8.01 to 8.14; 2006 daily means = 7.34 to 7.87, Figure 9), however, in both years  
496 the mean daily pH was higher in UKL than WR (Figure 9). Because we used daily mean  
497 values of the continuous water quality variables for statistical analyses, the true variation  
498 in the data was lost. However, it is quite evident from visual inspection, that there was  
499 considerably more variation in the measures taken at the UKL site than at the WR site  
500 (Figures 7 & 8). Visual examination of the continuous data (Figures 7 & 8) clearly shows  
501 that pH in the UKL was considerably more variable (daily variation of almost 1.0 units)  
502 than in WR (daily variation of < 0.1 units in 2005 and < 0.5 units in 2006). Similarly,  
503 mean daily dissolved oxygen (DO) in both locations and years was 7 – 10 mg L<sup>-1</sup>—with  
504 values at WR significantly lower than the DO at UKL (Figure 9) at some times each year  
505 —but daily variation was much greater in UKL (~2.0 mg L<sup>-1</sup>) than at WR (~0.5 mg L<sup>-1</sup>;  
506 Figures 7 & 8).

507

508

### Discussion

509

510 During the fall 2005 and spring 2006, we monitored a number of physiological  
511 variables over several months in fall Chinook salmon in Iron Gate Hatchery to establish a  
512 developmental trajectory and a baseline against which to judge possible impacts of  
513 transferring the fish to two sites in the upper Klamath Basin. Based on the lack of  
514 biologically significant changes in plasma cortisol, condition factor (Figure 3) or plasma  
515 T4 (Figure 1), and the declining gill ATPase activity (Figure 1) we conclude that in 2005  
516 age 1+ juvenile Chinook salmon in the hatchery were not going through smoltification at  
517 the time they were transferred to the netpens. We also conclude that transferring those  
518 fish to the netpens had no long-term effect on their physiology or development. As  
519 would be expected, plasma cortisol was elevated (Figure 3) in response to the stress of  
520 transportation (Maule et al. 1988; Wendelaar Bonga 1997). Also not surprisingly, fish in  
521 the WR after 3 d and UKL after 14 d had elevated plasma T4 (Figure 1), in response to  
522 being transferred to new water source (Lin et al. 1988; Hoffnagle & Fivizzni 1990).  
523 While weights and lengths increased significantly as fish were held in the hatchery,  
neither variable changed after fish were put in netpens (Figure 5).

524           When age 0+ Chinook salmon were monitored in the hatchery and then  
525 transferred to the same locations in the upper Klamath Basin in spring 2006, results  
526 differed notably from 2005. In the hatchery, gill ATPase activity increased significantly  
527 between March and May 2006 (Figure 2), suggesting that the fish were going through  
528 smolt development (Beckman et al. 2003; Hoar 1986). Condition factor, weight and  
529 length also increased significantly between March and May (Figures 4 & 6).  
530 Unfortunately the fish were too small to collect enough blood with which to measure both  
531 plasma cortisol and T4, so we do not have a measure of the fishes' response to the stress  
532 of transport. While in 2006 there were few differences in variables between hatchery fish  
533 and fish in netpens after 3 d (i.e., reduced condition factor at both sites, Figure 4; and  
534 reduced weight in WR fish, Figure 6), virtually all measures of fish physiology and  
535 morphology differed when comparing fish in UKL to fish in the WR after 3 d or 14 d.

536           It appears that UKL fish continued to go through smoltification, as evidenced by  
537 elevated gill ATPase activity (Figure 2, top) and decreasing condition factor (Figure 4)  
538 while gaining weight and length (Figure 6). On the contrary, fish in the WR netpens also  
539 had significantly lower condition factor than did fish in the hatchery or UKL netpens, but  
540 they concurrently had significantly lower body weight than both other groups of fish. The  
541 weight loss seen after 3 d persisted in fish after 14 d in the WR netpens (Figure 6) and we  
542 believe this, rather than continued smolt development, resulted in reduced condition  
543 factor. The loss in weight of fish at the WR site is even more notable considering that  
544 fish in the UKL netpens actually gained weight and length between the 3-d and 14-d  
545 sampling times (Figure 6). Furthermore, after 14 d UKL fish had higher gill ATPase  
546 activity than did WR fish (Figure 2) suggesting that conditions in the WR that lead to  
547 reduced weight of juvenile Chinook salmon may have also affected their smolt  
548 development. While declining condition factor has been used as an index of  
549 smoltification in other studies, we do not believe that is the case for WR fish because of  
550 the lack of other changes suggesting smolting (i.e., gill ATPase or plasma T4).

551           Differences in environmental variables may account for the differences in fish  
552 responses between fall 2005 and spring 2006, and between the two netpen sites in 2006.  
553 Both pH and DO were much more variable at UKL than WR (Figures 7 & 8), but mean  
554 daily values were similar between seasons and locations (Figure 9). On the contrary,

555 while water temperatures were also more variable at UKL than WR, average values at  
556 both sites were significantly higher in the spring 2006 (about 12 to 20° C; Figure 8) than  
557 in the fall 2005 (about 6 to 11° C; Figure 7). In 2006, fish transferred from the hatchery  
558 (temperature = 14° C) to the WR were subjected to initial water temperatures (~ 18° C)  
559 greater than those experienced by the UKL fish (~16° C; Figure 14). Water velocities  
560 may also have varied between the netpen sites and seasonally at the WR site. Wood et al.  
561 (2006) reported that water velocity at several locations in UKL varied between 0 and 30  
562 cm per second ( $\text{cm s}^{-1}$ ), but averaged about 5 to 10  $\text{cm s}^{-1}$ , during the summer 2003. A  
563 USGS gaging station in the WR near the mouth of the Sprague River (about 14 km up  
564 stream of our netpens) reported that the average daily discharge for May 16 - 30, 2006  
565 was 2621 cubic feet per second (cfs) as compared to just 545 cfs during October 17 – 31,  
566 2005 (data from USGS NWIS; <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/inventory> for  
567 streamgaging station number 11502500). Based on a discharge-to-velocity relation that we  
568 derived from 10-years of quarterly velocity measurements at this station, the water  
569 velocities in fall 2005 and spring 2006 were about 29 and 73  $\text{cm s}^{-1}$ , respectively—3- to  
570 12-fold higher than in UKL.

571         Although these measures of velocity were not taken directly at the netpen  
572 locations, they do suggest differences in the WR versus the UKL. Another  
573 environmental factor that may have contributed to these spatial and temporal differences  
574 in fish responses is the presence of natural food available as drift into the netpens. Wood  
575 et al. (2006) documented nitrogen (as nitrates or nitrites) and ortho-phosphate  
576 concentrations in UKL that were 100-fold higher than those reported in the WR (USGS  
577 NWIS data; <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/inventory>). Although these measurements  
578 were taken 40 years apart, they confirm the hypereutrophic condition of UKL as  
579 compared to the WR and the high likelihood that planktonic drift would be available to  
580 fish in the UKL netpens.

581         To summarize, in the spring 2006 fish at both netpen sites were exposed to high  
582 water temperatures (~20°C), which would have increased the fish's basal metabolism as  
583 compared to fish in the same location in the fall 2005 when water temperatures were  
584 lower (~10°C). The fish at the WR site would also be required to expend more energy in  
585 the spring than in the fall (and perhaps as compared to fish at UKL in the spring) due to

586 higher water velocities. Natural fish food (i.e., planktonic drift) was more likely  
587 available to fish in the UKL netpens than the WR netpens by virtue of the 100-fold  
588 greater nutrient loads in the lake than the river. Thus, fish in the WR netpens experienced  
589 a negative energy budget (increased bioenergetic demand and decreased food  
590 availability) and lost weight, while those in UKL had a positive energy budget (less of an  
591 increased demand and increased availability) and actually gained weight. Another  
592 significant factor when comparing fish in the fall 2005 and spring 2006 was the almost  
593 10-fold greater weight of fish used in the fall. A 1- or 2-g change in weight would not  
594 have been significant (biologically or statistically) to a 50-g fish, but most certainly  
595 would be to a 5-g fish.

596 Results from the pathogen exposure portion of this study demonstrated that *C.*  
597 *shasta* was present in the WR and was sufficiently abundant—especially considering the  
598 10-fold increase in spores in the water between May and June (Table 1)—to cause high  
599 mortality in a known susceptible strain of rainbow trout. Chinook salmon exposures  
600 conducted in the upper WR, lower WR, and UKL suggest that this species is sufficiently  
601 resistant to survive exposure at these sites during the spring. When Chinook salmon were  
602 exposed in the lower Klamath River in June, however, they did suffer significant  
603 mortality and infection. Experimental exposures of Chinook salmon in the upper Klamath  
604 Basin have never resulted in the detection of the pathogen in the fish (Stocking 2006).  
605 Preliminary analysis of *C. shasta* infecting salmonids from both locations shows  
606 evidence for different genetic strains of the parasite; however at this time we don't have  
607 supporting data to clearly link these to differences in host specificity (S. Atkinson and J.  
608 Bartholomew, Oregon State University, unpublished data). Other causative factors may  
609 explain the differences in juvenile salmon mortality related to *C. shasta* observed  
610 between the lower Klamath River and the upper Klamath Basin above Upper Klamath  
611 Lake.

612 These results provide a pilot comparison of two potential restoration approaches  
613 at two locations for one stock of fall Chinook salmon. Under these conditions, results  
614 suggest that yearling (age 1+) releases in the fall may not result in fish that are  
615 physiologically ready to outmigrate at this time of year. In contrast, the results suggest  
616 that age 0+ Chinook salmon released in the spring in UKL continued smolt development

617 and physiological readiness to outmigrate. For this same age group, the release in the  
618 lower WR may result in less physiological readiness to outmigrate. However, this does  
619 not mean that individual elements of the WR release location scenario could not be  
620 successfully matched with other variables. For example, had these fish been released  
621 directly into this area of sub-optimal (but not lethal) conditions, they could move in  
622 search of more appropriate conditions. Alternatively, in order to facilitate imprinting,  
623 which is necessary for spawning adults to find their natal stream, fish could be held in  
624 larger netpens in areas where temperature, flow, and prey are more optimal.  
625 Furthermore, the effects we documented on age 0+ fall Chinook salmon may not  
626 adequately represent impacts on spring Chinook salmon. Sauter et al. (2001) documented  
627 that the temperature preferences of fall and spring Chinook salmon differ as they go  
628 through the process of smoltification, and Maule et al. (1988) found differences in how  
629 fall and spring Chinook salmon in the Columbia River Basin respond to stress during  
630 their migrations to the ocean. In conclusion, these results provide initial documentation  
631 of differences in the response of one stock of fall Chinook placed in netpens at different  
632 sites in the Upper Klamath River Basin in the spring. The results suggest that age 0+ fall  
633 Chinook salmon continued smoltification and that this transformation was more  
634 pronounced in UKL than in the WR. These results would not preclude the consideration  
635 of the reintroduction of fall-run Chinook salmon in the WR, but should be a point of  
636 departure for future investigations into the best approach to the restoration of fall run  
637 Chinook salmon stocks into the Upper Klamath Basin.

638

639

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745 **Table 1.** Results of 3-d or 10-d field exposures of rainbow trout (RBT) and fall Chinook  
746 salmon (FCS) in 2006 to *Ceratomyxa shasta* in the upper Williamson River (Upper WR;  
747 rkm 8), Lower WR (rkm 2), Upper Klamath Lake (UKL) and Klamath River (KR; 141  
748 rkm below WR mouth). After exposure fish were transported to Oregon State University  
749 and held at the John L. Fryer Salmon Disease Laboratory for 90 days to monitor disease  
750 progression. Mortalities (Mort), days-to-death [geometric mean + (SD)] and prevalence  
751 of *C. shasta* (Prev) based either on PCR or microscopic examination were determined  
752 for groups of 35 or 40 fish. Water temperature [Water Temp; mean + (SD)] and mean  
753 number of *C. shasta* spores in the water (Spores/L) were measured on-site during each  
754 exposure.

755

<i>Month/ Exposure Duration</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Mort (%)</i>	<i>Days-to- Death</i>	<i>Prev (%)</i>	<i>Water Temp (°C)</i>	<i>Spores / L</i>
April / 3-d	Upper WR	RBT	2.5	49	96.3	12.2 (1.1)	BD
May / 3-d	Upper WR	RBT	97.5	31.8 (5.4)	97.5	19.3 (1.0)	> 1
May / 3-d	Upper WR	FCS	0	0	0	19.3 (1.0)	> 1
May / 10-d	Lower WR	FCS	0.0	0	0.0	18.0	ND
May / 10-d	UKL	FCS	0.0	0	0.0	20.0	ND
May / 3-d	KR	RBT	92.3	52.0 (14.6)	100	18.2 (0.6)	> 1
May / 3-d	KR	FCS	0.0	0	0.0	18.2 (0.6)	> 1
June / 3-d	Upper WR	RBT	97.6	32.2 (4.5)	100	17.4 (0.3)	10
June / 3-d	Upper WR	FCS	0	0	0	17.4 (0.3)	10
June / 3-d	KR	RBT	96.2	37.9 (3.2)	98.1	20.0 (1.1)	10
June / 3-d	KR	FCS	16.7	46.1 (15.1)	37.5	20.0 (1.1)	10

756 BD = below detection; ND = not determined  
757

758 **Figure Captions**

759

760 **Figure 1.** Gill ATPase enzyme activity (top) and plasma thyroxine (T4) concentrations  
761 (bottom) (mean + 1 SEM) of experimental and production fall Chinook salmon sampled  
762 at Iron Gate Hatchery and after transport to the Upper Klamath Basin, October 2005.  
763 Bars with letters in common denote values for fish sampled in the hatchery that do not  
764 differ. Bars with numbers in common denote values for fish in the hatchery before they  
765 were transported to netpens in Upper Klamath Lake and Williamson River (indicated by  
766 arrows), and fish in the netpens after 3 or 14 d (last four bars) that do not differ from each  
767 other. Sample sizes are 18 to 20. Data were analyzed by 1-way ANOVA or General  
768 Linear Models (GLM;  $P < 0.05$ ). Based on a 2-way GLM ( $P < 0.05$ ), gill ATPase  
769 differed between fish based on location of the netpens, but not based on days in the  
770 netpens.

771

772 **Figure 2.** Gill ATPase enzyme activity (top) and plasma thyroxine (T4) concentrations  
773 (bottom) (mean + 1 SEM) of fall Chinook salmon sampled at Iron Gate Hatchery and  
774 after transport to the Upper Klamath Basin in May 2006. Bars with letters in common  
775 denote values for fish sampled in the hatchery that do not differ. Bars with numbers in  
776 common denote values for fish in the hatchery before they were transported to netpens in  
777 Upper Klamath Lake and Williamson River (indicated by arrows), and fish in the netpens  
778 after 3 or 14 d (last four bars) that do not differ from each other. All sample sizes are 14  
779 to 20, except on May 4, 2006 when sample size is 8. Gill ATPase data were analyzed by  
780 General Linear Models (GLM;  $P < 0.05$ ). Both variables differed (2-way GLM,  $P <$   
781  $0.05$ ) between fish based on location of the netpens, but not based on days in the netpens.

782

783 **Figure 3.** Plasma cortisol (top) and condition factor (bottom) (mean + 1 SEM) of  
784 experimental and production fall Chinook salmon sampled at Iron Gate Hatchery and  
785 after transport to the Upper Klamath Basin in October 2005. Bars with letters in common  
786 denote values from fish sampled in the hatchery that do not differ. Bars with numbers in  
787 common denote values from fish in the hatchery before they were transported to netpens  
788 in Upper Klamath Lake and Williamson River (indicated by arrows), and fish in the  
789 netpens after 3 or 14 d (last four bars) that do not differ from each other. Sample sizes are

790 18 to 20, except for plasma cortisol on the first date of sampling where sample sizes were  
791 7 for experimental fish and 10 for production. Data were analyzed by 1-way ANOVA or  
792 General Linear Models (GLM;  $P < 0.05$ ). Based on a 2-way GLM ( $P < 0.05$ ), plasma  
793 cortisol differed based on location of the netpens, but not based on days in the netpens.

794

795 **Figure 4.** Condition factor (mean + 1 SEM) of fall Chinook salmon sampled at Iron Gate  
796 Hatchery and after transport to the Upper Klamath Basin in May 2006. Bars with letters  
797 in common denote values in fish sampled in the hatchery that do not differ. Bars with  
798 numbers in common denote values from fish in the hatchery before they were transported  
799 to netpens in Upper Klamath Lake and Williamson River (indicated by arrows), and fish  
800 in the netpens after 3 or 14 d (last four bars) that do not differ from each other. All  
801 sample sizes are 14 to 20. Data were analyzed by 1-way ANOVA or General Linear  
802 Models (GLM;  $P < 0.05$ ). Based on a 2-way GLM ( $P < 0.05$ ), condition factor differed  
803 based on location of the netpens and number of days in the netpens.

804

805 **Figure 5.** Weight (top) and fork length (bottom) (mean + 1 SEM) of experimental and  
806 production fall Chinook salmon sampled at Iron Gate Hatchery and after transport to the  
807 Upper Klamath Basin in October 2005. Bars with letters in common denote values from  
808 fish sampled in the hatchery that do not differ. Bars with numbers in common denote  
809 values from fish in the hatchery before they were transported to netpens in Upper  
810 Klamath Lake and Williamson River (indicated by arrows), and fish in the netpens after 3  
811 or 14 d (last four bars) that do not differ from each other. Sample sizes are 18 to 20. Data  
812 were analyzed by 1-way ANOVA or General Linear Models (GLM;  $P < 0.05$ ). Based on  
813 a 2-way GLM ( $P < 0.05$ ), neither variable differed based on location of the netpens nor  
814 days in the netpens.

815

816 **Figure 6.** Weight (top) and fork length (bottom) (mean + 1 SEM) of fall Chinook  
817 salmon sampled at Iron Gate Hatchery and after transport to the Upper Klamath Basin in  
818 May 2006. Bars with letters in common denote values in fish sampled in the hatchery  
819 that do not differ. Bars with numbers in common denote values from fish in the hatchery  
820 before they were transported to netpens in Upper Klamath Lake and Williamson River

821 (indicated by arrows), and fish in the netpens after 3 or 14 d (last four bars) that do not  
822 differ from each other. All sample sizes are 14 to 20. Data were analyzed by 1-way  
823 ANOVA or General Linear Models (GLM;  $P < 0.05$ ). Based on a 2-way GLM ( $P <$   
824  $0.05$ ), both variables differed based on location of the netpens and days in the netpens.  
825

826 **Figure 7.** Water quality [temperature, pH and dissolved oxygen (DO)] at the netpens in  
827 Upper Klamath Lake (top) and Williamson River (bottom) monitored hourly in 2005  
828 using YSI 600 XLM data sondes deployed 1 m off the bottom at each location.  
829

830 **Figure 8.** Water quality [temperature, pH and dissolved oxygen (DO)] at the netpens in  
831 Upper Klamath Lake (top) and Williamson River (bottom) monitored hourly in 2006  
832 using YSI 600 XLM data sondes deployed 1 m off the bottom at each location.  
833

834 **Figure 9.** Mean (+ SE) daily water quality [temperature (Temp), dissolved oxygen (DO),  
835 pH ] at netpens in Upper Klamath Lake (UKL) and Williamson River (WR) monitored  
836 hourly in 2005 and 2006 using YSI 600 XLM data sondes deployed 1 m off the bottom at  
837 each location. Values are for the first three days (3 d) and full 14 days (14 d) that fish  
838 were held. Bars within each four-bar group with letters in common do not differ  
839 (Kruskal-Wallis test followed by Dunn's multiple pairwise comparisons,  $P < 0.05$ ).

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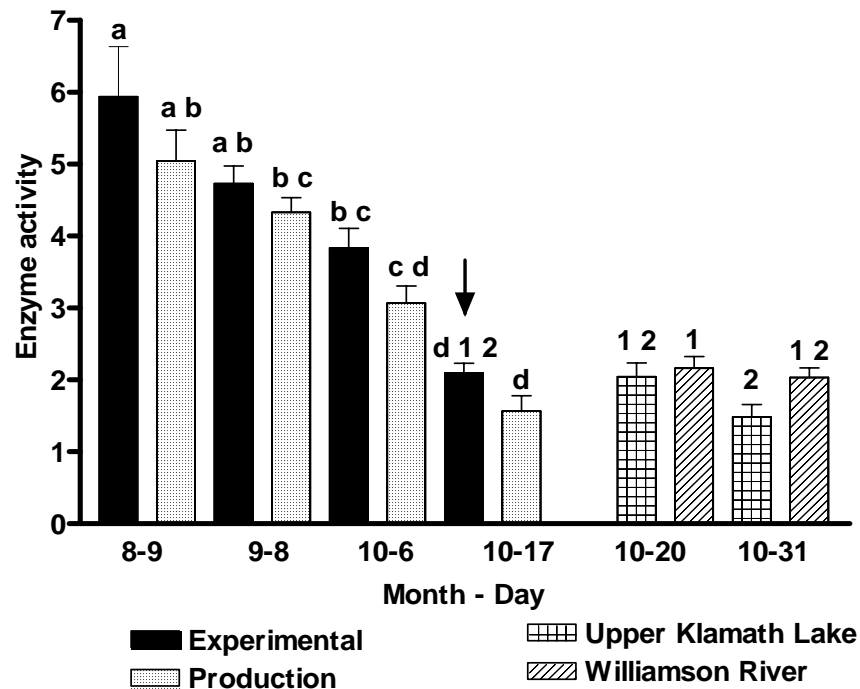
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Plasma T4

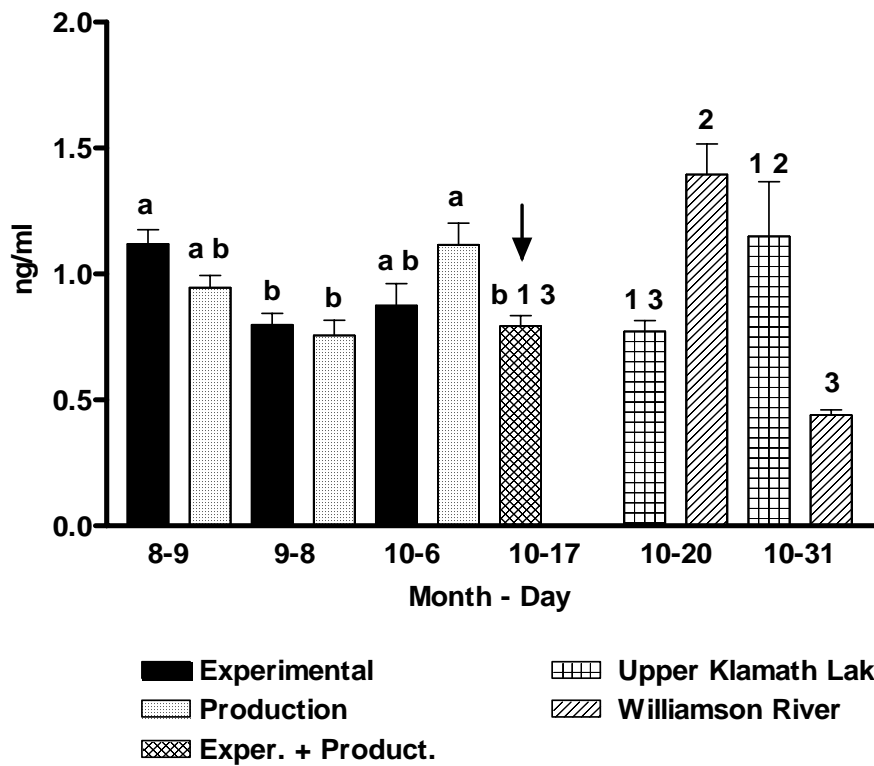


Figure 1.

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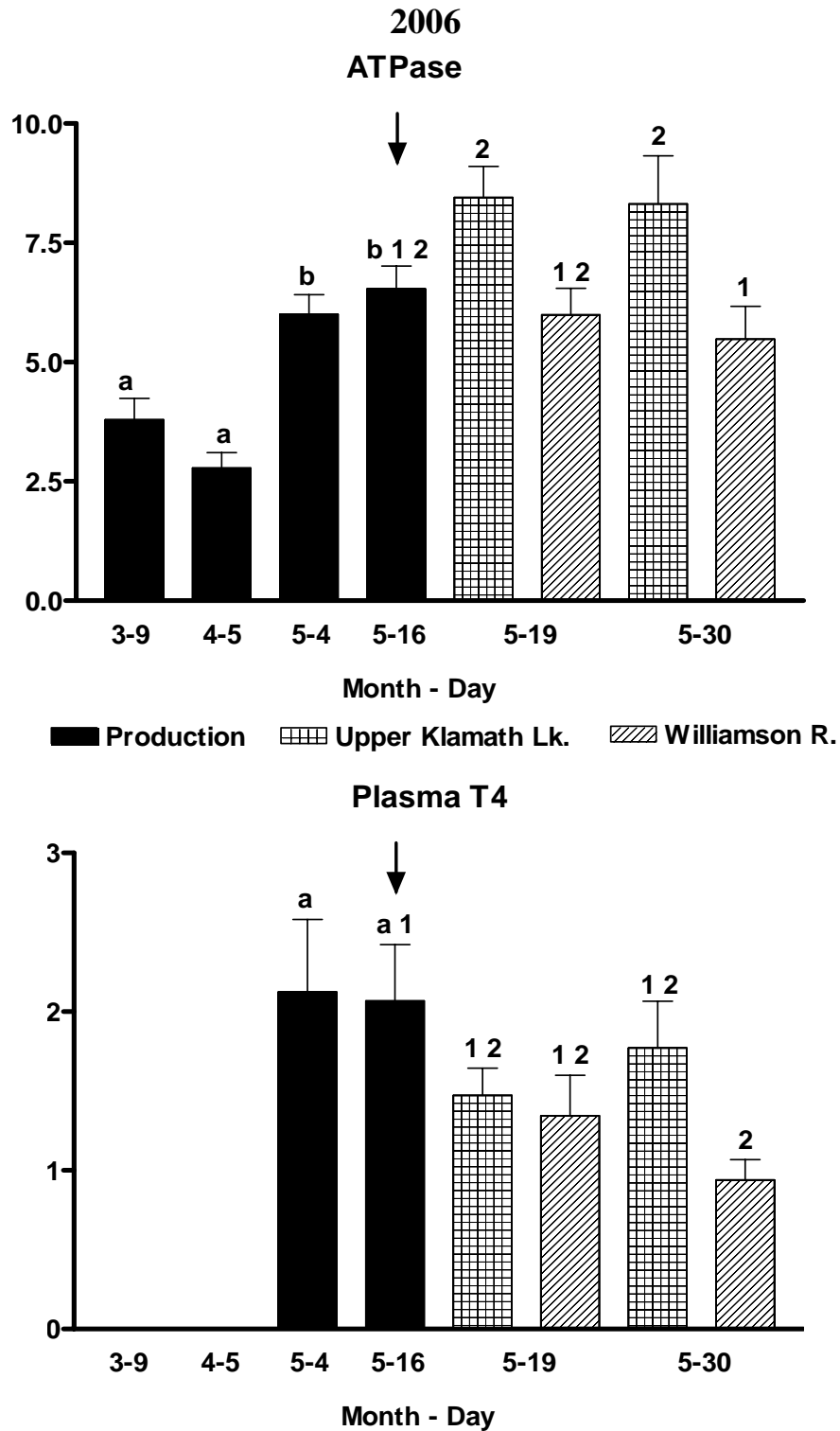
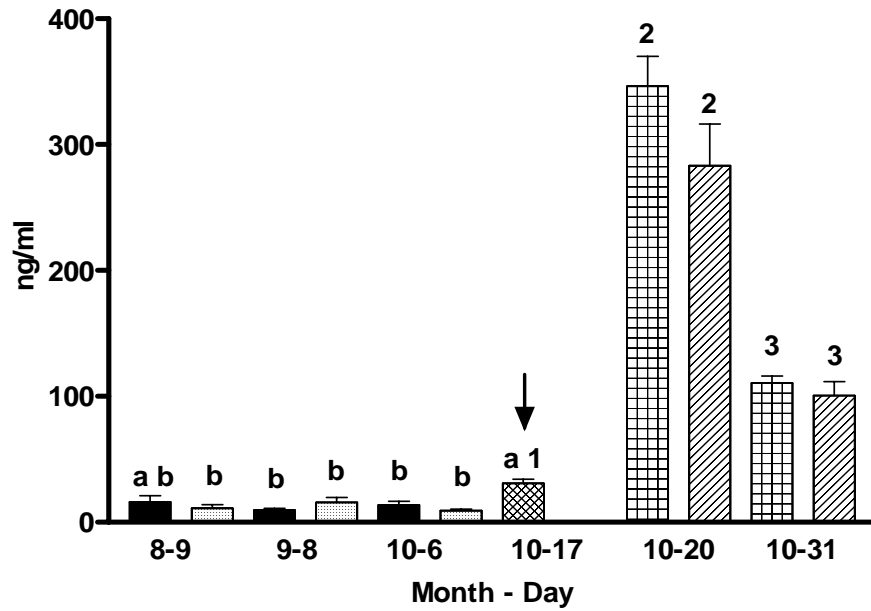


Figure 2

928 2005

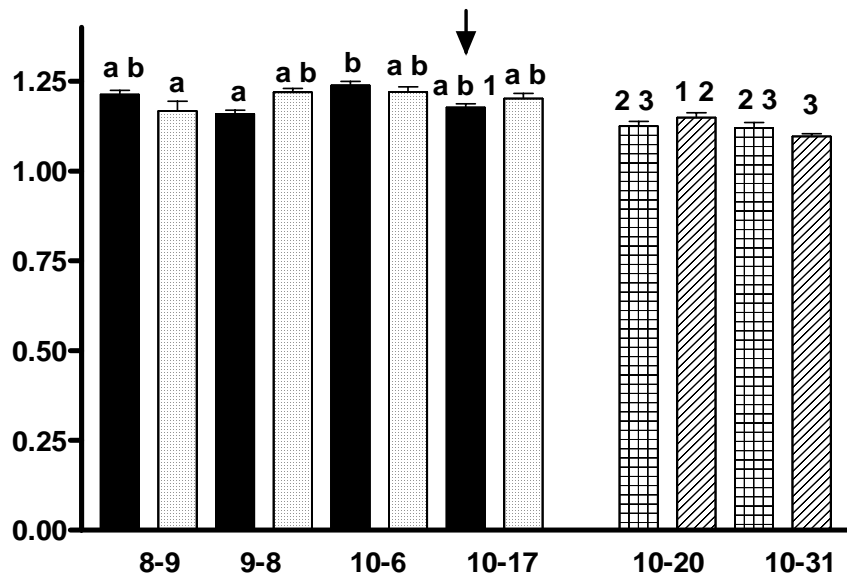
### Plasma Cortisol



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■ Experimental      ▨ Upper Klamath Lake  
▤ Production      ▩ Williamson River  
▧ Exper. + Product.

### Condition Factor



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Figure 3.



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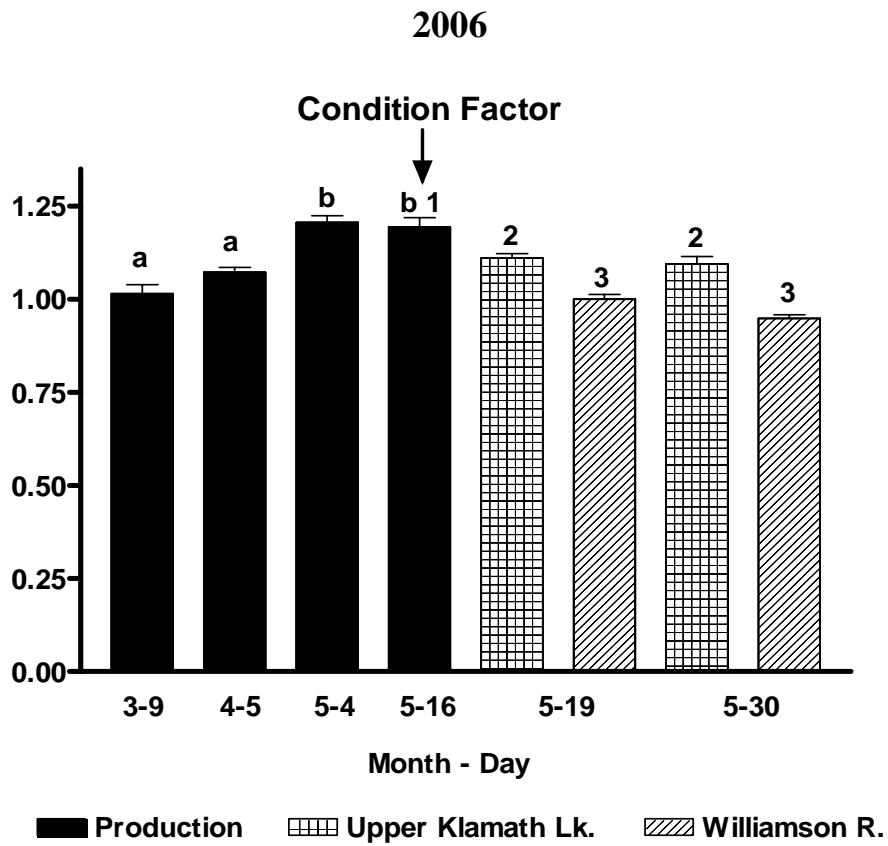


Figure 4

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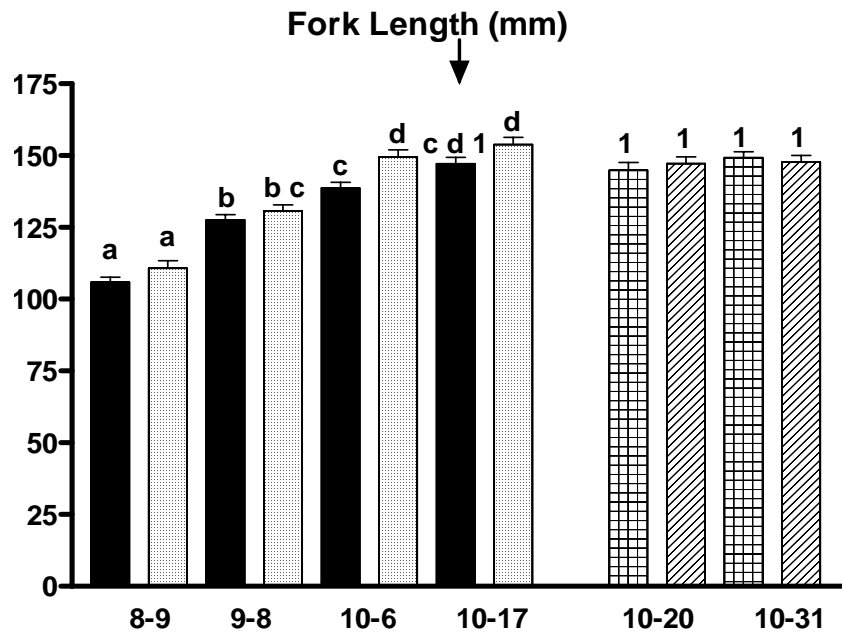
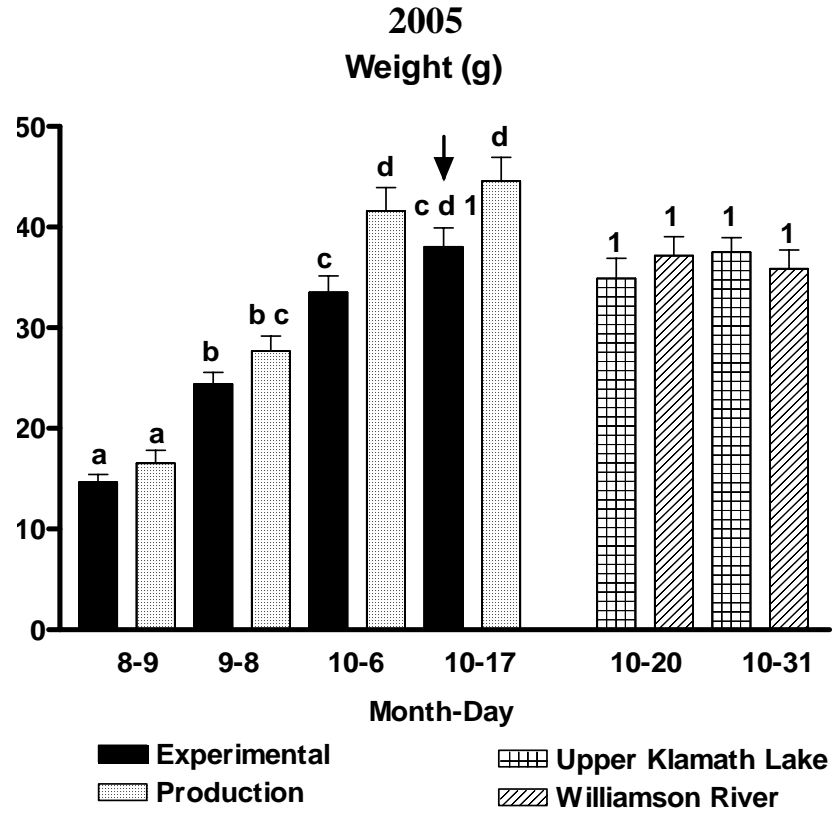


Figure 5

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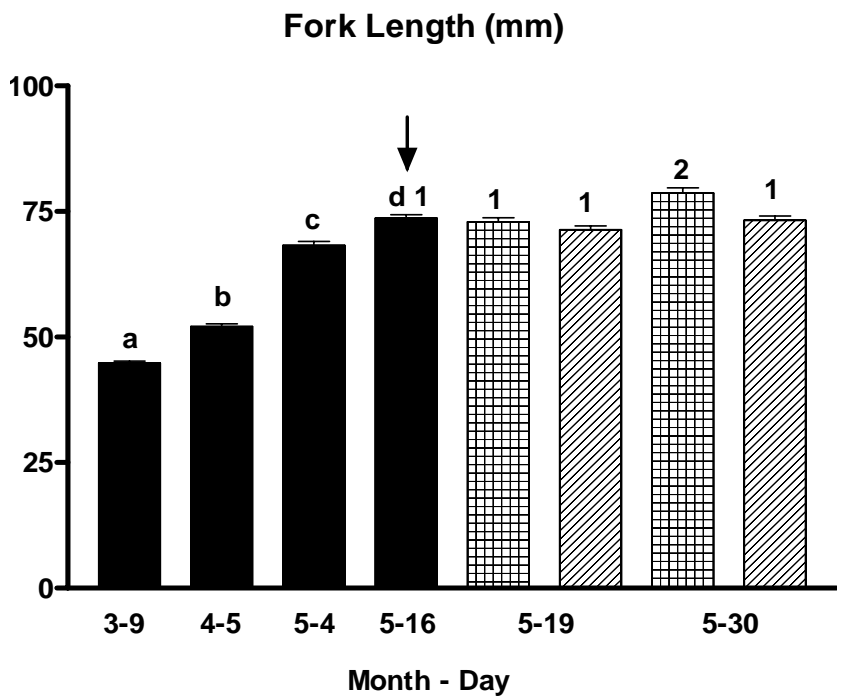
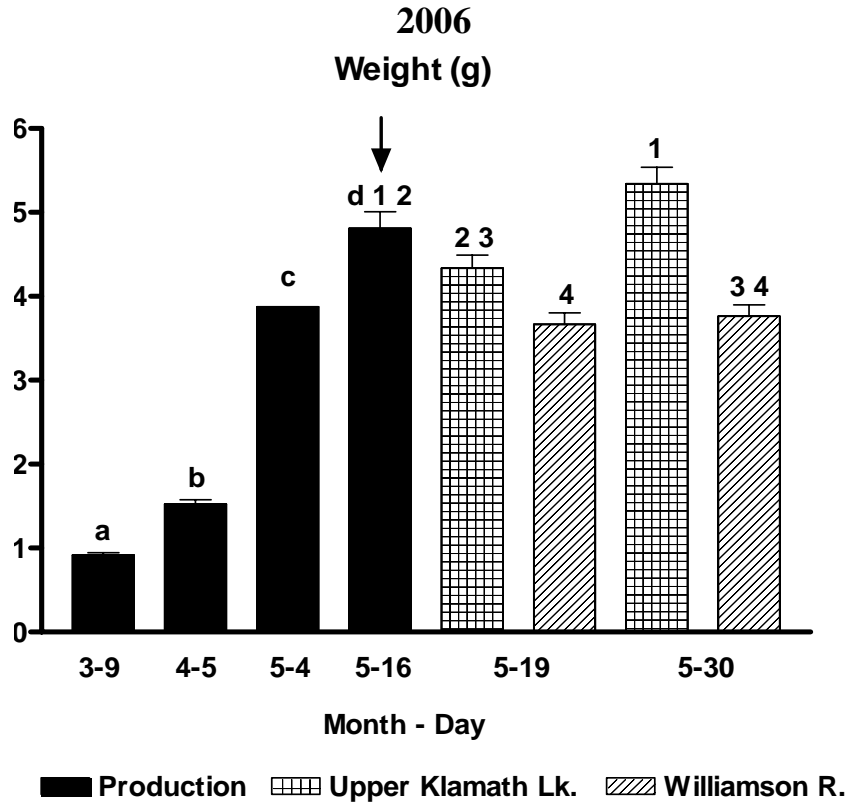
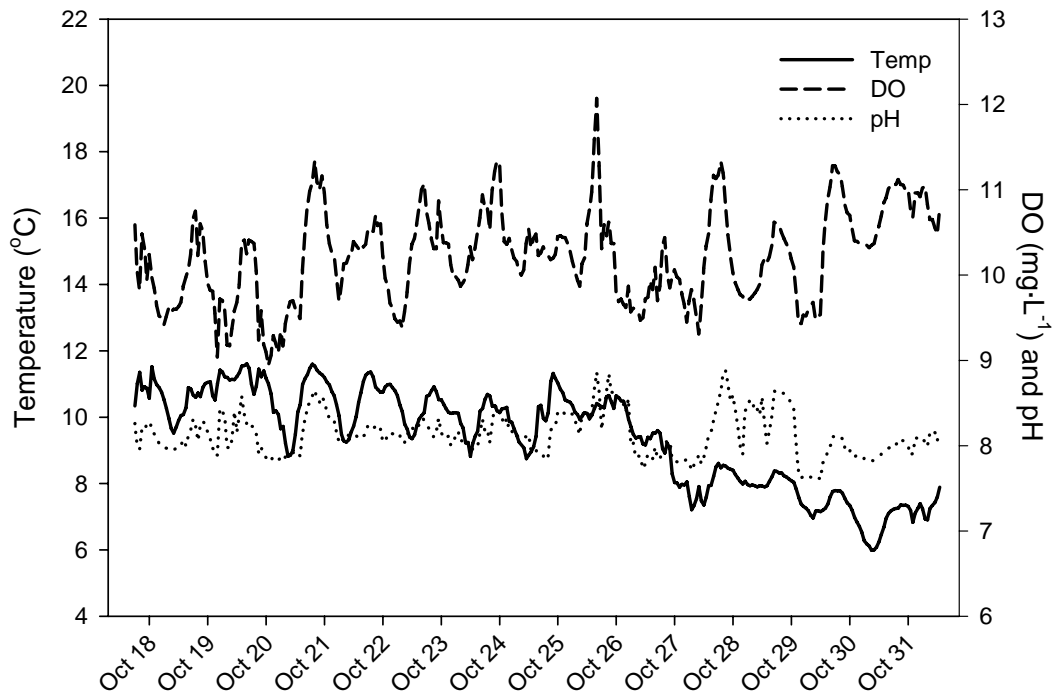
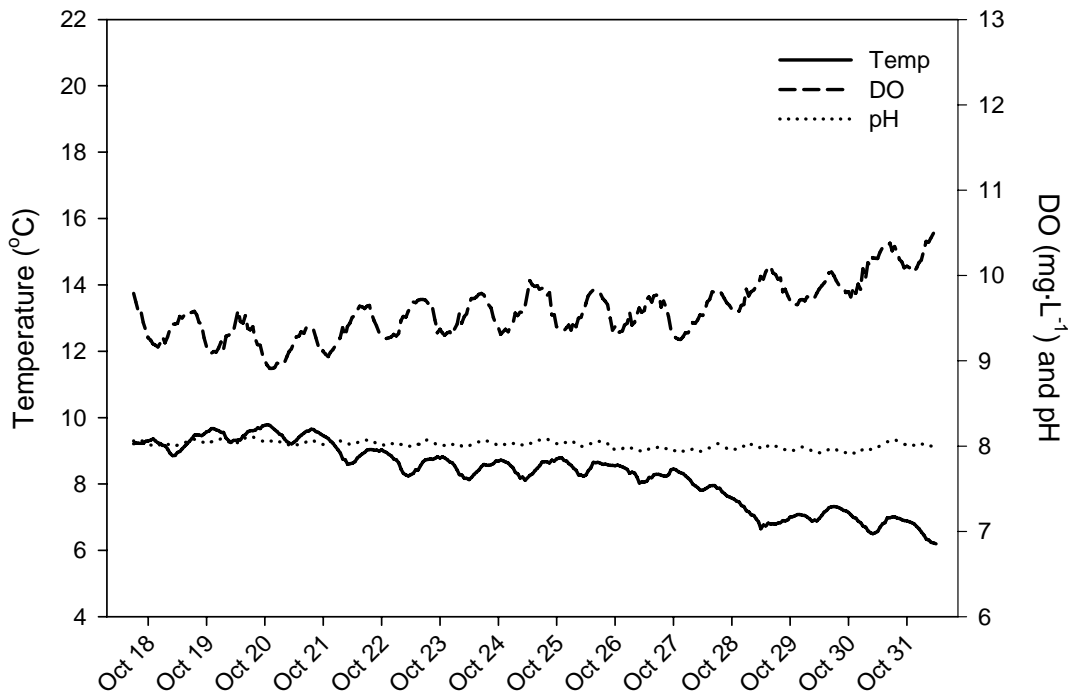


Figure 6

Salmon Reintroduction Study 2005 -- Water Quality  
Upper Klamath Lake Cages

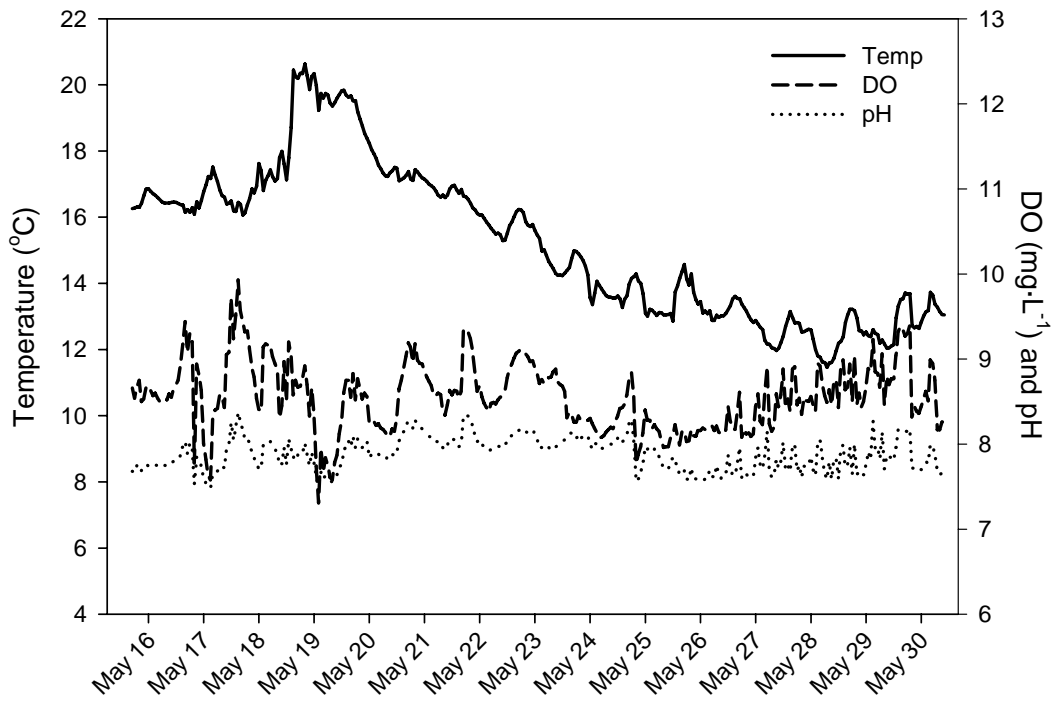


Salmon Reintroduction Study 2005 -- Water Quality  
Williamson River Cages



1084 Figure 7.

### Salmon Reintroduction Study 2006 -- Water Quality Upper Klamath Lake Cages



### Salmon Reintroduction Study 2006 -- Water Quality Williamson River Cages

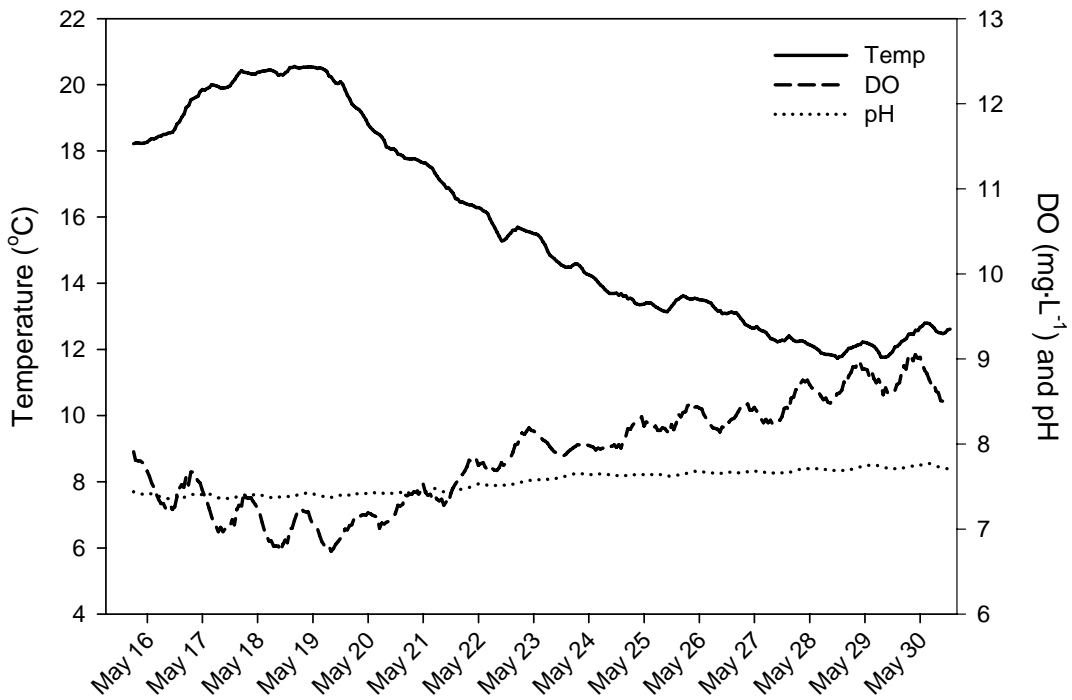
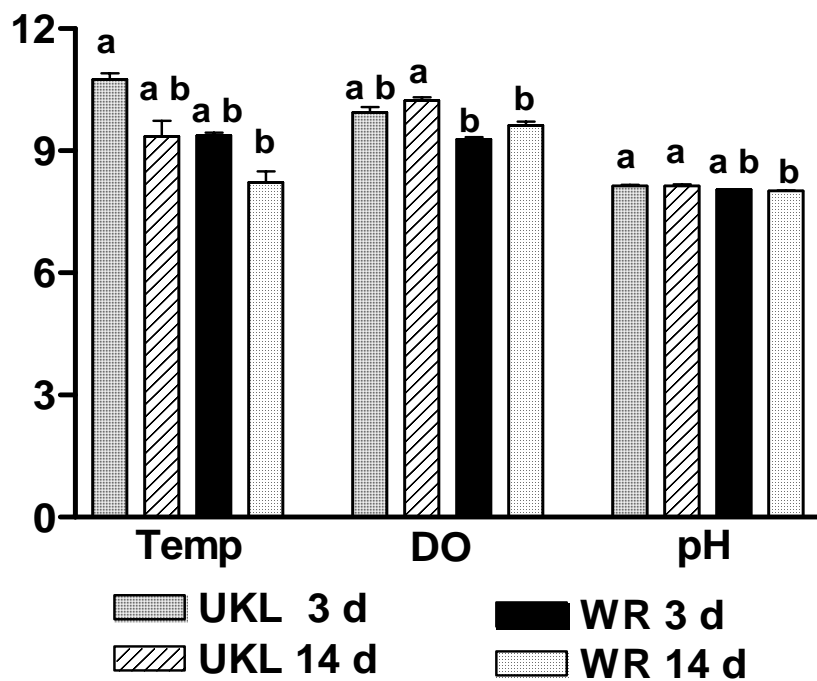


Figure 8.

## Water Quality 2005



## 2006

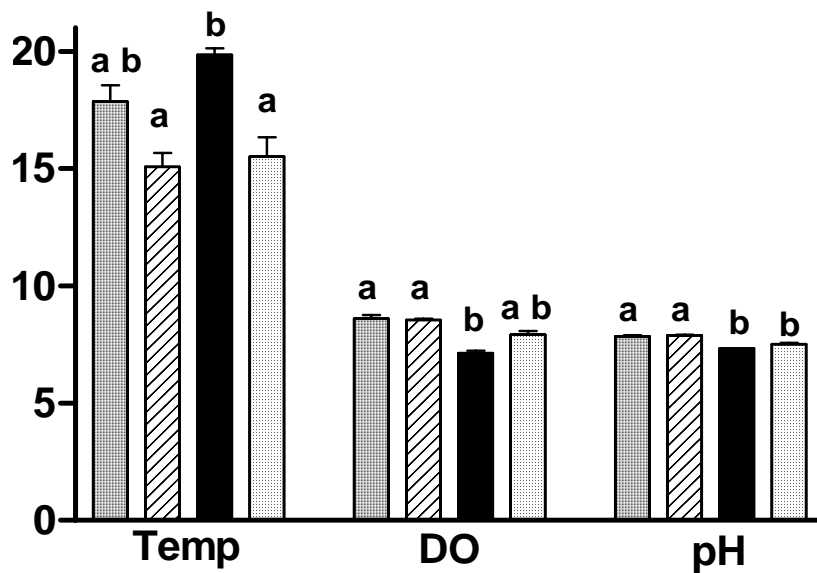


Figure 9.