



**IDAHO FISH AND GAME**  
600 South Walnut/Box 25  
Boise, Idaho 83707-0025

Dirk Kempthorne/Governor  
Steven M. Huffaker/ Director

February 4, 2004

Dr. John Stein, PhD.  
Salmon Science Coordinator  
Northwest Fisheries Science Center  
2725 Montlake Blvd. East  
Seattle, WA 98112-2097

Dear Dr. Stein:

Attached are comments by Idaho Department of Fish and Game to the series of Technical Memoranda produced by NOAA Fisheries to update information, and provide new information for the remand of the 2000 Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) Biological Opinion. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our comments. We had substantial uncertainty about NOAA Fisheries interpretation of several datasets, particularly regarding the effects of the FCRPS. A more collaborative effort, including more rigorous documentation of data and associated conclusions, would have ameliorated our uncertainty. We consider the attached comments preliminary and scoping in nature, in anticipation that a more collaborative effort could resolve many of the issues and concerns that we have identified.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our comments.

Sincerely,

Virgil Moore

C: Clay Smith, Idaho Attorney General's Office  
Jim Caswell, Idaho Office of Species Conservation