



Workshop 2005
Leading the Way

Developing A Permanent Continental-Scale Acoustic Tracking Array For Marine Fisheries Research: The Goal And The Strategy

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The Census of Marine Life is helping to develop "POST", a permanent seabed acoustic array for tracking marine animals. Current plans involve the deployment of 30 or more permanent cross-shelf monitoring lines spaced along the West Coast of North America, each consisting of autonomous seabed nodes spaced at roughly 1 km intervals, which would be capable of measuring direction, speed of movement, depth, and survival for tagged animals even as small as salmon smolts. 2005 marks the second year of a two-year pilot phase for POST, involving tagging and tracking several thousand salmon smolts over a large-scale demonstration array. I will provide an overview of the results from the 2004 field season, focussing especially on the results for Squamish coho and steelhead, and relate these results to the continuing conservation crisis for many stocks of southern British Columbia salmon.