



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Southwest Fisheries Science Center  
Santa Cruz Laboratory  
110 Shaffer Road  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
July 14, 2004

Mr. Jim Yuricek  
Montana Fishtraps  
Ironwood Specialties *LLC*  
PO Box 185  
Noxon, MT 59853

Dear Jim;

We just wanted to write and express both our satisfaction with your product and our appreciation for the customer service you have provided throughout the whole process from design and fabrication to installation and especially the follow up discussions we have had regarding the continued use and design improvement of our fish trap.

The passive resistance board weir has proven to be the ideal solution for working in our central California coastal watershed. The quality construction of your product withstood the extreme variable and flashy conditions associated with winter storms and required only minimal maintenance. In addition the environmentally friendly design helped to facilitate the permits required for installing the trap in a watershed with two protected species of salmon.

We are working with central California steelhead and the southern most population of coho salmon in North America. Our work includes basic research on the ecology of these southern populations, studies of hatchery and wild fish interactions, a coho captive broodstock program and monitoring of population trends. Your fish trap enables us to pursue our research and management objectives at a new level and is allowing us to collect hard data on issues critical to the survival of these fish.

We thank you for a quality product and your continued support of our efforts.

Sincerely,

Sean A. Hayes, PhD  
R. Bruce MacFarlane, PhD  
Salmon Ecology Team  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Santa Cruz, California

