

Angela Moran

Adjusting the Total Dissolved Gas allowance to 125% to increase spill over the dams would provide significant benefits to Chinook salmon, and therefore increase the prey available to the Southern Resident orca. Although increasing spill levels does not come without its risks to salmon, these have been deeply analyzed and the benefits of spill have been found to greatly outweigh them.

The Fish Passage center employed a working group to determine what would be the most optimal level of spill to employ of the Snake River dams with the most minimal chance of causing Gas Bubble Trauma (GBT) to fish, a phenomenon known to occur as fish spill over dams. Of the four scenarios they investigated, they concluded that raising the gas cap to 125% would significantly increase juvenile survival without causing GBT.

I am in favor of this ruling for the protection of orca, salmon, and the communities that are dependent upon them.