

**TRRP Fish Workgroup Meeting Summary**  
FWS Office, Arcata, CA  
Friday, November 18, 2016

**Participants**

Core members: Todd Buxton (FWS), George Kautsky (HVT), MC Kier (CDFW), Seth Naman (NOAA)

Others in attendance: Shane Quinn (YT), Dave Hillemeier (YT), Billy Matilton (HVT), Joe Polos (FWS), Jennifer Norris (FWS)

Note taker: Todd Buxton

**New Actions Items**

- For January meeting, members will provide list of items for FWG to focus on in 2017.
- Kautsky will provide his argument for continuing random scale sampling at TRH to Buxton by December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

**Work Group recommendations/decisions**

- None

**Notes**

A discussion on the harvest weir the Hoopa Valley Tribe (HVT) operates at TishTang was removed from the agenda because the HVT will give a presentation on the weir to the TAMWG in its December meeting.

A discussion on whether to continue random scale sampling at Trinity River Hatchery (TRH) failed to reach consensus. Kautsky and Matilton favored continuing random scale sampling at TRH, and while most of the rest of the FWG was in favor of discontinuing the sampling, Kier agrees with Matilton that if the number of naturally-produced fish in the system increases (as should be the case with continued restoration) the importance of taking those scales will increase as well. The FWG consulted the Workgroup Manual for guidance on resolving the impasse, and it was decided that Polos' memo recommended discontinuing the random sampling will be the argument in favor, and the opposition opinion will be drafted by Kautsky. Both sides of this issue will be presented by Buxton to Norris (Science Coordinator) and Mike Dixon (Implementation Branch Chief), who will follow guidance on pages 11 and 12 in the manual to resolve the issue.

Naman gave a presentation of analyses to predict hatchery juvenile steelhead to adult survival, which indicated that fish length (mm) and cumulative river flow (cfs) during the outmigration period were the most significant factors in the statistical model. From his analyses, Naman concluded that potentially more adult steelhead can be produced for less cost if TRH releases fewer fish at larger size.

The group briefly discussed what can and cannot be discussed at FWG meetings. Kautsky argued that issues that are under the management purview of the TRRP should be the priority for the group. Broadening the agenda of the TRRP's FWG should not detract from time allocation for primary functions such as work plan development. Polos retorted that if such were the case, the FWG would not consider harvest monitoring projects in the Trinity and Klamath Rivers. Buxton argued that anything that influences fish populations and riverine habitats in the Trinity River should be open to discussion in FWG meetings. The Workgroup Manual only restricts topics of discussion in workgroup meeting to areas within the technical scope of the workgroup, which the FWG has and will continue to practice in the future. The IDT intends to realign workgroup roles and responsibilities in the near future.

A discussion on modifying the Willow Creek weir to use video to make a population count for validating mark-recapture estimates of escapement was had by the group. The group decided that such modifications should occur, and will prioritize this work during the FY18 work planning process.

Norris gave a presentation on how work planning will proceed for FY18. The FWG then reviewed the FY18 project list for prioritization in its next meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup> in Weaverville from 10-4p.