

Meeting Summary
FISH WORK GROUP
Wednesday February 14, 2018
USFWS Office, Arcata, CA

Wednesday, February 14, 2018: 9:00 AM

Participants

Core members: Ken Lindke (coordinator, CDFW), Kyle De Juilio (YTFFP), George Kautsky (HVTFFP), Joe Polos (USFWS), Seth Naman (NMFS).

Other participants: Mary Claire Kier (CDFW), Jenny Norris (Science Coordinator, USFWS, TRRP), Aaron Martin (YTFFP), Eric Peterson (via phone, USBR, TRRP), Bill Pinnix (USFWS), Damon Goodman (USFWS).

Action Items Derived During the Meeting

Action Item 1: Jenny Norris will make a final request to TMC members to provide feedback on what information they would like to see included in the Run size, stock projections, and harvest monitoring presentation to be given at the March TMC meeting.

Summary of Meeting by Agenda Item

Introductions/Agenda Review and Finalization

No additions to the agenda were proposed

Work Group Coordinator Election

Ken Lindke (CDFW) volunteered to coordinate the fish work group, and with no other members expressing interest, Ken was voted in unanimously.

Input on Fish Projects Performance Goals and Metrics

Joe Polos presented a spreadsheet of fish-related Program fundamental goals, means objectives intended to measure progress toward fundamental goals, and metrics intended to measure progress toward meeting means objectives. The spreadsheet was the result of an objectives refinement process undertaken by the fish work group several years earlier following a science retreat workshop in 2012. Seth Naman found background and supporting documentation of the process that was undertaken to refine objectives to the distilled version Joe presented. The group spend several hours discussing each objective and the metrics used to evaluate them.

Twenty objectives were reviewed, and metrics that are currently collected or have been in the past to inform objectives were identified. TRRP projects that either provided direct estimates of metrics or supported the development of metrics in some way were recorded. The group also recorded which synthesis reports, funded in FY2018, would address each objective and/or metric. The group agreed that quantitative objectives for fish habitat (both juvenile and adult) and water temperature need further refinement, which will be addressed at a future fish work group meeting. Three additional objectives were considered for juvenile salmonids: juvenile abundance, physical condition, and juvenile health. Three additional objectives were also considered for adult salmonids: distribution and abundance of redds, pre-spawning mortality, and the distribution and contribution of hatchery fish in natural spawning areas. Identification of associated metrics for these six new objectives was deferred to a later meeting. The group agreed that numerous existing objectives and metrics need further refinement.

Review and Input on Synthesis Report Outlines

The group discussed and provided the following feedback to Principal Investigators of four synthesis reports related to fish:

Cohort Reconstruction Report

Ken Lindke provided a description of the project, but no work had begun as of the time of this meeting. George Kautsky requested that the PIs identify the specific metric that will be used to characterize natural production for Trinity River fall-run Chinook, and suggested age-3 ocean abundance prior to exploitation. George also requested that contributions to dependent fisheries be parsed out to natural and hatchery origin. Kyle De Julio requested that Dave Hillemer be included in the draft review process.

Evaluation of Juvenile Chinook Salmon Production and Condition in the Trinity River: Compilation and Analyses of Multi-Year Dataset

Bill Pinnix provided an overview of the project and the current status of analyses. The project is on track with the proposed timeline. Seth Naman recommended splitting the report into two reports, one would present the methods and results for juvenile production and survival (Sections 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7 of the proposed outline), and another would present analyses that relate migration timing and fish condition to environmental conditions such as temperature and flow (Sections 3 and 4). Kyle De Julio said that the Yurok Tribe has contracted a consultant to prepare a report very similar to the intended content of Sections 3 and 4. Jenny Norris recommended that the PIs for these two efforts meet in the next month to coordinate efforts and resolve timelines.

A Synthesis of Changes to Salmonid Rearing Habitats from Trinity River Restoration Program Actions

Damon Goodman described three general categories of analyses that were proposed and are currently being worked on. The project is on track with the proposed timeline. The group briefly discussed alternative or additional analyses that might be interesting, but all agreed the scope of the project was too large to add additional work to. Joe Polos requested that the PIs coordinate with the PIs of the channel complexity synthesis report because one premise of TRRP restoration is to increase channel complexity, with the premise that increasing complexity would increase habitat.

Assessment of Adult Salmonid Spawning in the Trinity River

PIs have not begun work on the report as of the time of this meeting. Kyle DeJulio and Aaron Martin suggested adding an analysis of spawning habitat, but the recommendation went unresolved. The group debated whether an analysis of adult holding habitat should be added to the report, but the issue remained unresolved.

TMC request: Run size, stock projections, and harvest monitoring

As of the time of this meeting no TMC representative had provided feedback on what information they wanted included in this presentation. In the absence of input from TMC members, the group debated what information seemed most useful for TMC's general edification and decision making. George suggested that it may be important to highlight the role of TRRP projects in providing information on run size, stock projections and harvest for the Klamath basin as a whole and the Trinity River in particular. Jenny was tasked with soliciting TMC members one additional time, and the group considered whether any presentation was necessary if no feedback was received. George, Ken, and Steve Gough (USFWS) will collaborate on a presentation if one is prepared.

4:00 PM Adjourn