Lower Trinity Outmigrant Monitoring at Willow Creek Trap Site

2015 Catch Summary Update –May 26th

The 2015 trapping season at the Willow Creek Trap Site (river kilometer 34) is conducted by the Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program (YTFP) on the mainstem Trinity River near Willow Creek, California. The season began March 16th, 2015 with the installation of all three traps. See attached catch summary for details.

This update includes data from March 16th to May 26th, 2015 and is *raw catch*, with no expansions yet calculated. High flows and heavy debris resulted in null sets, causing less than 15 trap days (3 traps x 5 days) in some weeks leading to variable effort over the season. Consequently, raw catch numbers should be interpreted with caution.

Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) were captured each day sampling occurred and most were wild young-of-the-year (YOY) to date. Weekly mean Fulton’s K values of Chinook salmon have not yet been calculated. Total numbers and average fork length of Chinook salmon have steadily increased over the season, with a noticeable slowing during the ramp up of dam releases, and a short pulse of fish as flows dropped before stabilizing again in week 20. Efficiency calibrations were conducted with freeze-branded hatchery Chinook salmon when flow levels allowed. Recapture rates ranged from 1.19% to 18.89%.

Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) YOY and smolts (age 1+) were present in the catch since the beginning of trapping, and hatchery steelhead first appeared in week 14. Hatchery steelhead catch numbers peaked in weeks 16-20, but appear to be dropping off in week 21. Wild steelhead smolts numbers were steady as well, with fewer captured weekly than hatchery smolts following week 15. YOY steelhead catch rates were low through week 20.

Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) numbers remain steady for wild fish, both YOY and age-1. Hatchery coho (R-max) first appeared in the catch during week 12, and peaked quickly in week 13, though steady numbers are still being captured in week 21.

If you have any questions regarding this summary, please contact Nate Harris at

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