Lower Trinity Outmigrant Monitoring at Willow Creek Trap Site

2015 Catch Summary Update –June 8th

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 June 8th, 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. Average fork length has gradually increased over the season, but weekly mean Fulton’s K condition values of have not yet been calculated. Total numbers of Chinook salmon steadily increased from week 11 to 17; however, a noticeable drop in numbers occurred during the ramp up of dam releases (week 18), followed by a short pulse of fish as dam releases decreased (week 19). Numbers of natural Chinook continued to decline from week 20 to 23, and the first hatchery Chinook were captured on June 5th. Efficiency calibrations were conducted with freeze-branded hatchery Chinook salmon when flow levels allowed. Recapture rates ranged from 1.60% to 18.89%.

Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) YOY and smolts (age 1+) were present in the catch since the beginning of trapping, and hatchery steelhead marked with an adipose fin clip (ad-clip) first appeared in week 14. Natural steelhead numbers have fluctuated since week 12 with no discernable pattern, while hatchery smolts peaked in weeks 16-20 followed by a steady decline the past three weeks.

Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) numbers remain low with moderate fluctuations for wild fish, both YOY and smolts. Hatchery coho marked with a right maxillary clip (RMAX) first appeared in the catch during week 12. They peaked quickly in week 13, but are still being captured in week 23.

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

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