Lower Trinity Outmigrant Monitoring at Willow Creek Trap Site

2015 Catch Summary Update –July 21st

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 July 17th, 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) until hatchery fish arrived on June 5th. Average fork length has gradually increased over the season, but weekly mean Fulton’s K condition values 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 releases decreased (week 19). Numbers of natural Chinook continued to decline from week 20 to 22, while hatchery fish inflated the catch in early June. Total Chinook numbers have declined steadily the last four weeks. Efficiency calibrations were conducted with freeze-branded hatchery Chinook salmon when flow levels allowed. Recapture rates ranged from 0.71% to 19.28%.

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. Age-1 wild steelhead numbers peaked in week 15, decreasing to a few fish per week lately. Age-0 wild steelhead numbers peaked in week 23, followed by a linear decline. Hatchery smolts peaked in weeks 16-20 followed by a decline, and none have been captured the past five weeks.

Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) numbers remain low with moderate fluctuations for wild fish, both YOY and age-1. Hatchery coho marked with a right maxillary clip (RMAX) first appeared in the catch during week 12, and peaked quickly in week 13, with only a few fish being captured the past few weeks. Only one coho has been seen the past three weeks.

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

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