Lower Trinity Outmigrant Monitoring at Willow Creek Trap Site

2016 Catch Summary Update – April 18th

The 2016 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 30th, 2016 with the installation of all three traps. See attached catch summary for details.

This update includes data from March 30th to April 15th, 2016, 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. High flows also postponed the start of sampling in 2016 by approximately two weeks.

Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) were captured each day sampling occurred and all 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 are currently low, with an average of five fish per trap per day. Efficiency calibrations were conducted with freeze-branded hatchery Chinook salmon when flow levels allowed. Recapture rates ranged from 0.41% to 5.72%.

Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) smolts (age 1+) were present in the catch at the beginning of trapping, while YOY steelhead were captured first in week 15 in small numbers. Hatchery steelhead have not yet been released from Trinity River Hatchery.

Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) numbers were low for wild fish, both YOY and age-1. Hatchery coho (R-max) were present in the catch from the start, as they likely were passing the trap site before sampling began.

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

(530) 629-3333 x1703.