Lower Trinity Outmigrant Monitoring at the Willow Creek Trap Site

2016 Catch Summary Update – May 16th

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 May 16th, 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 of Chinook salmon are currently low, with an average below 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 13.0%.

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 (Ad-clip) were captured shortly after release from the hatchery in week 16 and have made up the majority of the total catch over the last four weeks.

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, and their steady migration continues as of week 19 (dam releases and debris loads made sampling difficult in week 19).

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

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