Lower Trinity Outmigrant Monitoring at the Willow Creek Trap Site

2016 Catch Summary Update – Final

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 August 26th, 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) until week 23. Total numbers of Chinook salmon were low until week 21, when numbers increased to over a thousand per week before peaking at over 10,000 unmarked Chinook in week 28. Hatchery Chinook (25% marked with an adipose fin clip) arrived in week 23, following the start of volitional release on June 1st. Total unmarked and marked Chinook reached their highest total in mid-July (week 28). 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 made up the majority of steelhead caught from week 16-22. Numbers of YOY steelhead surpassed 100 per week from the end of June until the end of July, while age-1+ (both hatchery and natural) numbers declined to less than ten per week by late June.

Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) numbers were low for wild fish, both YOY and age-1, peaking at a total of 21 fish in week 26 before declining to zero coho in three of the final four weeks. Hatchery coho (R-max) were present in the catch from the start, as they likely were passing the trap site before sampling began, but they were absent from the catch by the end of June.

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

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