

MEETING SUMMARY

San Joaquin River Restoration Program Fisheries Management Technical Feedback Group Meeting

Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA
Thursday, September 29, 2011
10 a.m. – 12 noon

I. Meeting Overview

On September 29, 2011, the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) Fisheries Management Technical Feedback Group (TFG) held a meeting in Sacramento.

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Discuss progress on development of the Donor Stock Collection Plan for the reintroduction of salmon into the San Joaquin River
- Solicit technical input on specific topics regarding the Donor Stock Collection Plan

A list of meeting participants may be found in Appendix A. A copy of the meeting agenda may be found in Appendix B. Links to the PowerPoint presentations given during the meeting are located on the SJRRP website at www.restoresjr.net.

II. Overview of the Donor Stock Collection Plan

Following introductions and a review of the meeting agenda, Kim Webb, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, provided a brief overview of the Donor Stock Collection Plan and progress on its development. She explained that the Donor Stock Collection Plan is an annual plan that compiles, coordinates, and makes transparent the work of the Conservation Facility subgroup, the Reintroduction Monitoring subgroup, and the Donor Stock Collection Plan work group.

III. Conservation Facility Subgroup

Paul Adelizi, California Department of Fish and Game, provided a brief update on the work of the Conservation Facility subgroup. Comments and discussion topics followed Mr. Adelizi's presentation. The presentation and discussion included the following:

- The purpose of the Conservation Subgroup is to provide the status of the Conservation Facility, to recommend dry-run activities in preparation of spring-run collections, and to develop detailed protocols for Conservation Facility activities.
- The Program is developing a captive rearing program where eggs and juveniles will be collected from donor streams and reared to adults and spawned in the Conservation Facility.
- An interim facility was developed to practice conservation hatchery practices. Experimental Merced River Hatchery fall-run were spawned in 2010 and eggs from 55 crosses were selected as broodstock. A minimum of 50 crosses from each

donor system will be used as a minimum per year to ensure sufficient genetic diversity.

- Warm Springs Hatchery, which captive-rears Coho, will serve as an important model for the Program.
- The subgroup recommended two dry-run activities: (1) Conduct a mock spawning of spring-run at Feather River Hatchery during the 2011 spawn, and (2) collect wild fall-run and conduct short-term rearing. Both activities are designed to refine hatchery and collection practices.
- Future collections of Feather River Hatchery spring-run will consider the following:
 - Proper fish health screening
 - Achieving genetic diversity
 - Strategies for marking and tagging
 - Selecting donor fish with a proven spring-run phenotype heritage
- Literature is being reviewed to identify the most appropriate conservation hatchery practices for use by the Program.
- The annual reports are the best source of information to track progress and the evolution of the development of the Donor Stock Collection Plan.

If Fisheries Management TFG members have additional input or questions regarding the work of the Conservation Facility subgroup, they are encouraged to contact Paul Adelizi at PADELIZI@dfg.ca.gov.

IV. Reintroduction Monitoring Subgroup

Zac Jackson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, provided a brief update on the work of the Reintroduction Monitoring subgroup.

Collection and Transport Study:

- Ten fish is the target density for the trucks that will be used for the collection and transport study. If there is good success on the initial test, then larger densities may be tested.
- Fish tested for the study will be a random sample (i.e., not identical) of the fall-run Chinook salmon that enter the Feather River Fish Hatchery. The study is designed to evaluate the effects of transportation on direct mortality and egg viability and compare this to rates of mortality and egg viability of fish that undergo normal hatchery handling procedures. This study will help inform decisions regarding the advisability and expected success of transporting adult salmon.

Fish Health Assessment Study:

- An evaluation of the health of potential donor stock fish will be necessary before reintroduction can occur. Procedures for the collection of donor stock for fish health evaluations and associated quarantine need to be developed to streamline the collection and reintroduction process while ensuring that diseased fish are not transferred between watersheds. A fish health assessment study will be conducted, the goal of which is to develop and refine fish health assessment, handling, and quarantine procedures.

Real-time Data Collection Study:

- Real-time data describing relative abundance and temporal distribution of potential donor stocks is critical to informing donor stock collection requests. This study will

consist of funding CDFG to implement rotary screw trap monitoring on Butte Creek; future needs may include snorkel and carcass surveys and video and hydroacoustic monitoring on potential donor stock streams.

Marking and Genetic Tissue Collection Study:

- Individual identification will be an important component of the donor stock collection and reintroduction processes because of genetics concerns. To accomplish this, we need to determine the most appropriate marking and tissue collection techniques that will facilitate genetic analysis to inform donor stock selection without causing significant impacts to donor or reintroduction stocks. The marking and genetic tissue collection study will evaluate marking and genetic tissue collection methodologies in a stream-side environment using individual enclosures.

Comments and discussion topics following Mr. Jackson's presentation included:

- Consider taking additional samples to track specific fish characteristics so that common characteristics can be identified among fish that do not survive.
- Each treatment for the transport study will be a one-truck trip.
- Fish will not be held long (e.g., maximum of 5 days) in the holding tank due to limited space at the fishery facilities and anticipated survival rate.
- A protocol for fish health evaluations and quarantine procedures needs to be developed and tested. The fish health assessment study will do this. If fish are to be held in this study, they would be held at the collection location in the river.
- It is important to track the fish and get tissue samples now so the process can be refined and other variables can be tested later. This way, if there is some pattern for why fish are dying, information will be available to help to determine the cause.
- Success of the holding tank transport study may be dependent on the type of equipment being used.
 - If the appropriate truck and equipment are being used, other factors like the type of road the truck is driven on and the amount of agitation of the tank are less consequential.

If Fisheries Management TFG members have additional input or questions regarding the work of the Reintroduction Monitoring subgroup, they are encouraged to contact Zac Jackson at Zachary_Jackson@fws.gov.

V. Donor Stock Collection Plan Work Group

Michelle Workman, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, provided a brief update on the work of the Donor Stock Collection Plan work group and its progress to date. Comments and discussion topics following Ms. Workman's presentation included:

- Much of the information found in the initial Donor Stock Collection Plan likely does not need to be included in subsequent annual Donor Stock Collection Plans. Perhaps the initial Donor Stock Collection Plan can be more thorough, but the annual reports can be briefer.
- Initially, the egg studies will be held in Reach 1A, but the long-term plan is to conduct studies in Reach 1B. Based on timing, these eggs will be put in the gravel in the River at base flows. For the juvenile studies, one release group will

experience the entire river (from Friant Dam downstream), while other releases will be determined based on specific study needs annually (below Chowchilla Bifurcation Structure during flood operations, timed with flow peaks, etc.). Flows will be evaluated to determine the best location for the release of fish.

- Fish released into the River last year did very well. Most fish went down Chowchilla from Friant Dam, as expected. The survival rate was about 50 percent for fish that used the Chowchilla and about 25 percent for fish that used the River channel. There is a draft report available on the SJRRP website on this study. A final report will be produced by the end of 2011.
- It is important to coordinate with other programs to ensure that the tags used are compatible.
- There are studies being conducted on the effectiveness of barriers to separate the fall-run from spring-run. The siting of a separation weir is being evaluated, based on physical features at a number of sites that are best suited for separation.
- There is interest in having a meeting to learn about and discuss the adaptive management program.

If Fisheries Management TFG members have additional input or questions regarding the Donor Stock Collection Plan, they are encouraged to contact Michelle Workman at michelle_workman@fws.gov.

VI. Next Steps

- The next Fisheries Management TFG meeting will be held in **January 2012**. This meeting will include an update on the Donor Stock Collection Plan and fisheries studies.
- The next Restoration Goal TFG meeting will be held November 1, 2011. This meeting will cover rule-making, and refinements of the Monitoring Assessment Plan.

Appendix A – Meeting Participants

Name	Agency/Organization
Paul Adelizi	California Department of Fish and Game
Elif Fehm-Sullivan	National Marine Fisheries Service
Benjamin Gettleman	Kearns & West (Facilitator)
Jason Guignard	Fish biologist
Rene Henery	Trout Unlimited
Josh Israel	Bureau of Reclamation
Zac Jackson	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Anna Kastner	California Department of Fish and Game
Ryon Kurth	California Department of Water Resources
Becky Lorig	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bill Luce	Friant Water Authority
Tracy McReynolds	California Department of Fish and Game
Briana Moseley	Kearns & West (Facilitator)
Bruce Orr	Stillwater Science
Rhonda Reed	National Marine Fisheries Service
Stephanie Rickabaugh	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jose Setka	East Bay Municipal Utilities District
Tom Taylor	Entrix
Stephanie Thies	MWH
Jeff Tupen	CH2M Hill
Kim Webb	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Michelle Workman	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Appendix B – Meeting Agenda



Fisheries Management Technical Feedback Group Meeting
Thursday, September 29, 2011
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825
Cafeteria Conference Room C1003

Meeting Objectives

- Discuss progress on development of the Donor Stock Collection Plan for the reintroduction of salmon into the San Joaquin River
- Solicit technical input on specific topics regarding the Donor Stock Collection Plan

Meeting Agenda

1. Introductions, meeting purpose, and agenda review
2. Provide Brief Overview of Donor Stock Collection Plan
3. Present and Discuss Status of Development of Donor Stock Collection Plan
 - a. Presentation and discussion of recent work of the Conservation Facility subgroup
 - b. Presentation and discussion of recent work of the Reintroduction Monitoring subgroup
 - c. Presentation and discussion of recent work of the Donor Stock Collection Plan work group
 - d. Additional technical input

Links to Relevant Documents (please review in advance)

- 10(a)1(A) Permit Application and supporting documents:
http://www.restoresjr.net/program_library/02-Program_Docs/10a1Application20100929.pdf
- Stock Selection Strategy: Spring Run Chinook Salmon:
http://www.restoresjr.net/program_library/02-Program_Docs/StockSelectionStrategy2010Nov.pdf
- Reintroduction Strategy for Spring Run Chinook Salmon:
http://www.restoresjr.net/program_library/02-Program_Docs/ReintroductionStrategyFinal20110228.pdf
- Hatchery and Genetic Management Plan:
http://www.restoresjr.net/program_library/02-Program_Docs/HatGenMgmtPlanSJRRP2010Dec.pdf

Meeting Contact

- Kim Webb
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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