

No Flow – No Fish

Preliminary recommendations from the
Flow Technical Working Group
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Purpose

To develop a strategy to focus existing resources
on the improvement of in-stream flow
conditions in high priority watersheds for
coho salmon

Goals and Objectives

- Determine priority watersheds and critical reaches within each watershed
- Compile and assimilate relevant information
 - Location and need for flow gauges in each reach
 - Available flow studies for each reach
 - Available resources and regulatory actions
- Develop a list of priority actions for each watershed in a Flow Restoration Plan
- Coordinate efforts with other TWGs

Organization I

- South Coast Group
 - Region
 - Scott Creek
 - Waddell Creek
 - Pescadero Creek
 - San Gregorio Creek
 - San Lorenzo River
 - Lead
 - Corinne Gray (DFG)

Organization II

- Marin/Sonoma Group
 - Region
 - Redwood Creek
 - Lagunitas Creek
 - Walker Creek
 - Salmon Creek
 - Russian River
 - Gualala River
 - Lead
 - David Hines (NMFS)

Organization III

- North Coast Group
 - Region
 - Navarro River
 - All historical streams north to the ESU border
 - Lead
 - Jane Arnold (DFG)

Recommendations I: Spatial Priorities

- Evaluate all core areas
 - Include all occupied areas
 - Adjust with new distribution info
- Prioritize based on degree of hydrologic impairment. For example:
 - Green Valley Creek is the coho stream most developed with water intensive agriculture and rural residential, therefore it is the highest priority for action in the Russian River

Recommendations II: Flow Restoration

- Increase funding for flow restoration projects
- Promote and assist:
 - Winter storage infrastructure for existing diversions
 - Instream Flow Studies
 - Gauges
 - Watershed runoff retention restoration
 - Groundwater recharge projects

Recommendations III: Regulation

- Implement existing regulations, such as:
 - 1600 permits
 - Existing water rights
 - Watermaster requirements
- Support the State Water Resources Control Board in protecting public trust resources during the summer low-flow period by prioritizing development of offstream winter storage in coho streams.

Recommendations IV: Enforcement

- Identify illegal diversions
- Prioritize and coordinate enforcement action by stream priority and by most egregious diversions
- Utilize wide spectrum of options based on efficacy
 - County (DA's Office)
 - State (DFG and SWRCB)
 - Federal (NMFS)

Recommendations V: Outreach

- Promote, fund and assist watershed groups with flow-specific charters
- Develop and implement education forums for stakeholders on in-stream flow issues
- Get out of the office and engage people in the field

Recommendations VI: Improve Our Understanding

- Promote and assist in-stream flow studies
 - Update DFG's PRC 10004 list
- Fund, install, maintain and analyze new and existing in-stream flow gauges
- Use this new info to refine our priorities and recommendations

End

- Questions
- Comments