

THIS PRESENTATION
WAS GIVEN BY CAITLIN
BEAN, CDFW, AT A
MEETING OF THE
STATEWIDE COHO
RECOVERY TEAM, APRIL
15-16, 2014



A stylized, light-colored illustration of a plant with several leaves and a cluster of small, round buds or flowers, positioned on the left side of the slide against a dark brown background.

CALIFORNIA COHO
RECOVERY TEAM
MEETING

**Shasta and Scott
River Updates**

APRIL 15/16, 2014

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Coho Recovery Task Updates

- “Shasta Canyon Instream Flow Needs Assessment” prepared by McBain Associates has been finalized. For a copy please call Caitlin Bean at (530) 841-2562.
- The proposed Shasta River coho supplementation project has been postponed again. The previous FRGP grant request was awarded funding, however, landowners were unwilling to sign access agreements for monitoring activities unless or until a Safe Harbor program is in place. The supplementation monitoring proposal from HSU was resubmitted to FRGP. If the grant is awarded during this review cycle the proposed translocation of hatchery fish will fall on the year of the smallest coho cohort. The last time that this cohort showed up there were no surplus Natural Origin females at Iron Gate Hatchery.

Coho Recovery Task Updates (cont.)

- Weekly coordination is currently occurring between CDFW, Scott River Water Trust, Scott River Watershed Council, USFS, NOAA Fisheries, Karuk Tribe and the Siskiyou RCD to monitor timing of redd emergence and the potential need to relocate coho in the Scott River watershed due to the extreme drought conditions and low flows.
- MWCD has been releasing “environmental water” from Dwinnell Dam pursuant to the settlement agreement between the District, the Karuk Tribe, and River Keepers. CDFW staff have been monitoring the effect of the flows.
- NOAA fisheries will soon be issuing the Biological Opinion for the Hatchery Genetics Management Plan for Iron Gate Hatchery. Changes that have been implemented specifically for coho salmon have improved genetic diversity and surplus coho (fish not used in the spawning matrix and returned to the Klamath River) are being detected in both Bogus Creek and the Shasta River.

Coho Monitoring Results – Iron Gate Hatchery

- A total of 1310 coho showed up at Iron Gate Hatchery (IGH)
- 866 were PIT tagged and released (50 of those were Natural Origin)
- 44 were released without PIT tags
- 42 PIT tagged fish came back to IGH and were used for spawning
- 137 mortalities (~10% of total)
- 76 females and 145 males were used in the spawning matrix
- Of the PIT tagged fish:
 - 193 were detected going up Bogus Creek
 - 56 were detected going up the Shasta River

Coho Monitoring Results – Iron Gate Hatchery (continued)

- 28 surplus adult female coho were radiotagged and released back into the Klamath River
- 1 went to the mouth of the Scott River
- 1 went up Beaver Creek
- 3 went up Cottonwood Creek
- 3 went up the Shasta River
- 12 went up Bogus Creek
- 7 stayed in the mainstem Klamath between Shasta River and Bogus Creek
- 1 stayed at the base of Iron Gate Dam

Coho Monitoring Results – Scott River

- The video weir documented 2,731 adult coho
- The run started on November 19, 2013 and the last coho was observed going through the video weir on Feb 5, 2014
- Due to the drought, all the tributaries except for French Creek remained disconnected until Feb 13
- Most of the spawning took place in the mainstem in a 5 or so mile reach near French Creek.

Coho Monitoring Results – Shasta River

- The video weir documented 134 adult coho
- The run started on October 19, 2013 and the last coho was observed going through the video weir on December 4, 2013.
- The weir was blown out on December 9 due to ice and was never reinstalled
- After the video camera was removed PIT tagged coho from the hatchery continued to enter the Shasta River
- 30 PIT tagged fish showed up after December 9, 2013
- The total count of adult coho entering the Shasta River, including the PIT tagged fish, was 151
- 56 of the 151 coho had PIT tags from IGH
 - Of the PIT tagged fish, 12 were detected at the top of the canyon
 - 6 made it up above Hwy A-12
 - Of those, 3 were detected going up Parks Creek and 3 were detected going up Big Springs Creek.
- 38 coho redds observed in the upper Shasta River and 34 of them were built on Parks Creek on property owned by Red Emmerson.
- 50% of the coho observed in hand were hatchery origin

Coho Monitoring Results – Bogus Creek

- The video weir documented 405 adult coho
- 41 carcasses were retrieved from Reach 1
- Therefore, the total return was 446
- The run started on October 25, 2013 and continued until January 29, 2014
- Of the 446 coho documented 359 (or 80%) were Hatchery Origin and 87 (or 20%) were Natural Origin.

Important Consideration:

- Surplus fish from Iron Gate Dam that are being returned to the Klamath River due to a change in hatchery policy pursuant to the Hatchery Genetics Management Plan are passively supplementing local populations of coho salmon