

Memorandum*Colusa Co.
Sacramento R.*

To : Nick Villa, Senior Biologist

Date : May 11, 1995

From : Department of Fish and Game - Region 2

Subject : Fish Rescue, Tisdale Weir

On April 22, 1995, floodflows from the Sacramento River stopped flowing into the Sutter Bypass over the Tisdale Weir. Immediately below the weir is a 50 yard wide and 300 yard long pool with depths of over ten feet in the deepest places near the weir. This pool has several large trees and other debris in it making fish rescue difficult.

On April 26, rescue of trapped fish was attempted by Mr. Fred Kopperdahl, Ms. Brenda Sweet, Mr. John Nelson, Lt. Bill McFarland, Warden Bill Ynclan, and three volunteers and myself. The only effective technique was using the portable electrofishing boat. Rescue was limited by the small holding tank on this boat. Future rescue attempts could be enhanced by having a transport boat with a large tank to carry electrofished adult fish to the transport tank on the shore. A large seine was used to net the northern 100 yards of the pond after electrofishing for three hours had theoretically herded fish into the area: caught was a smashed 55-gallon drum and one adult American shad.

All rescued fish were put into a 250 gallon tank on a trailer. Water was recirculated and oxygen was added continuously after the first fish was loaded. At the conclusion of four hours of rescue attempts, all fish were hauled to the south side of the weir and netted out of the tank and placed in the Sacramento River with no observed mortalities.

Rescued were 18 striped bass from one to fifteen pounds, three spring-run chinook salmon from six to twenty pounds, one adult American shad of about one pound, and two salmon fingerlings of about 3-4 inches. Lots of salmon fingerlings were observed jumping. Shocked but not captured were several striped bass including one of about 25 pounds, several adult American shad, squawfish, suckers, and carp. After this pool recedes, further rescue work may be warranted.



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