



# California Fish Passage Forum

## Spring 2019 Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2019 Sacramento, CA

**Attendees:** Bob Pagliuco, Javier Linares, Stan Allen, Damon Goodman, Tom Schroyer, Jon Mann, Sandi Jacobson, Megan Sheely, Brett Holycross, Anne Elston and Alicia Marrs

**Remote Participants:** Anna Halligan, Holly Eddinger, Jim Walth, Melinda Molnar, Natalie Stuafter-Olsen, Sam Jenniches, and Jocelyn Tutak.

### Overview of Action Items

- Jocelyn will distribute the document they've developed tabulating the comments received during Beta testing and how they will/can/cannot respond.
- Jocelyn/Ecotrust will provide the Forum an estimate for the cost to make FISHPass queryable by PAD ID.
- Brett will develop guidance to for querying projects in FISHPass by PAD ID.
- The Science & Data Committee will discuss changing the defaults for log jams in FISHPass.
- Anne and Brett will send the email with template language soliciting cost data for FISHPass to the Forum. If Forum members and/or their organizations have data that could be useful in further building out this input data, please reach out to Brett directly.
  - Forum members are also asked to let Brett/Anne know if they are aware of other organizations with data that may also be useful.
- Forum members are asked to review the [Strategic Framework](#) and provide any comments on ways it may need to be updated/revise to Bob and Alicia by May 15.
- Alicia will draft language for the Forum's 2020 MSCG proposal reflecting the steering committee's discussion in support of pursuing a California Fish Passage Summit in 2020, as well as the development of additional outreach materials, travel support etc. and submit by March 29.
- Forum members will send Alicia an email if they are interested in participating in any of the inter-FHP working groups/steering committee being established to help guide the MSCG 2019 Tidal Connectivity project.
- Forum members should create an account and/or reactivate their existing account to access the Forum's intranet (click "Sign up/Login" on the upper right corner of the [Forum's website](#))

- Alicia will continue posting project status updates to the Forum intranet and public website.
- The Governance Committee will explore how the RFP process can be improved by reaching out to the practitioners (applicants) and other FHPs.
- Alicia will work with Science & Data Committee to identify 2-3 potential projects/sites for case studies.
- Alicia, Brett and Anne will work with the Science & Data Committee to develop language describing the best uses and limitations associated with FISHPass.
- Alicia will add updating and promoting the Forum's existing story map to both the Science & Data and Education & Outreach Committee work plans.
- Alicia will add Anna to the Governance Committee emails and update the website with her name.
- Alicia will reach out to Sam and Michael of the CCC to obtain any cost data the CCC might have to help the FISHPass tool.

## Meeting Minutes

### FISHPass Demonstration

Jocelyn Tutak walked the Forum through the new user interface Ecotrust has developed for FISHPass. The tool has recently been migrated to PSMFC's server and can be accessed at [www.fishpass.psmfc.org](http://www.fishpass.psmfc.org). Ecotrust has been working closely with Brett, Anne and Van throughout this final development phase (their contract officially ended March 31, 2019), and incorporated as much of the feedback received during Beta Testing from the Science & Data Committee as possible. This feedback, and Ecotrust's subsequent response, will be provided to the Forum in addition to other supporting documentation including a User Manual, and a more detailed manual for backend administration (to be used by PSMFC to update the tool moving forward).

Following Jocelyn's demonstration, Forum members discussed the tool and what/how additional changes can be made as it is handed off from Ecotrust to PSMFC. Discussion points included:

- **Querying project by PAD number:** Many Forum members agreed this would be especially useful to compare a group of projects (ie projects responding to the Forum's annual RFP). As the tool is currently designed, this is not easily done, but guidance could be developed to walk users through a work around. This will also be added as a top priority to the list of additions/updates to be made to FISHPass in the future.
- **Cost data:** Anne, Brett and Alicia have worked with the rest of the Science & Data Committee to refine the cost data collection template originally developed by Lisa and Anne in 2018. The Science & Data Committee has decided to reach out directly to specific stakeholders and Forum members that may have this information and ask for access to their data sets, rather than asking them to fill in the excel template. Template email language for this "ask" has been developed by Anne, and is being used to streamline this process.
  - Forum members were asked to reach out to Brett and Anne directly if they have (or know of) cost data that can be used to help improve this input data in FISHPass.
- **Conveying FISHPass' Limitations (particularly cost data):** Alicia, Brett and Anne will work with the Science & Data Committee to update the language on the welcome page to add a disclaimer and link back to a yet to be developed sub-page that will include more detailed information on what goes into the tool, recommended uses, and limitations to the information it conveys.

While Anne and Alicia plan to staff a booth during the poster session at SRF's Annual Meeting (April 25-26) to preview FISHPass, the Forum agreed to hold off on an official public launch of the tool until the cost data is further refined.

## Forum Administration

### Member Updates

- **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)**
  - [The Community Based Restoration Program](#) funding opportunity is open through April 16.
  - Recreational fishing grant opportunity – NOAA recently had a small recreational fishing grant opportunity. The Forum did not
- **US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)**
  - [USFWS National Fish Passage Program](#)'s 2019 grant solicitation ([F19AS00075](#)) is currently open. Javier encourages Forum members and their colleagues to contact their regional FWS fish passage program coordinator and work with them when submitting a project. If you have a question as to who the appropriate regional contact is, please reach out to Javier and he can help connect you.
- **California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW)**
  - CDFW updated their priority list for 2018. It has not been made public yet, but when it is Tom and/or Anne will share it out to the Forum. Anne will also be posting it on the PAD website.
  - Watershed restoration grants program PSN is expected to go out August 2019.
- **Caltrans**
  - Jim Walth is the new alternate for Caltrans.
  - Caltrans [Fish Passage 2017 Annual Report](#) was released October 2018
- **California Department of Water Resources (CDWR)**
  - The public comment period for the [draft guidelines and proposal solicitation package \(PSP\)](#) for the [Riverine Stewardship Program](#) (San Joaquin Fish Population Enhancement and Urban Streams Restorations Grants) closed on March 15. The solicitation is expected to open in concordance with the release of the final guidelines at the end of April.
  - CDWR has a few new positions opening up soon. Megan will send out the information to the Forum when they are public.

### Forum Chair Nomination

- Bob's current term as Forum Chair officially was originally intended to last one year and was scheduled to end in November 2018. (Per the discussion at the Forum's September 2017 meeting, the Bylaws were amended to stagger the Forum Chair and Vice Chair positions, and would last two years rather than 18 months. As reference, Damon's term as Vice Chair began in April 2018 and will run through April 2020.) Given the delays in holding this Forum meeting, Bob has continued to act as Chair.
- The call for nominations was discussed, and Tom nominated Bob, and Damon seconded the nomination. The Forum held a vote, and other than Bob who abstained, all Forum members present (in-person and on the phone) voted in favor of electing Bob to another term as Forum Chair through November 2020.

### **Review of Forum Strategic Framework**

- Bob reviewed the Forum’s objectives as currently described in the Strategic Framework (2018-2023). In preparation for a more detailed discussion about the Forum’s priorities and path forward at the next in-person meeting, Bob asked that the members review the document, and send any comments to Bob & Alicia by **May 15, 2019**. Alicia will send an email to the Forum with more specific instructions.

### **Multi-State Conservation Grants (MSCG)**

- **2019 Update – Tidal Connectivity**
  - In partnership with PMEP and the Pacific Lamprey FHP (PLFHP), the Forum applied for, and has been awarded, \$60k in 2019 MSCG funding to execute a project focused on tidal connectivity. This work will characterize and synthesize information available regarding the location of intertidal water crossing structures, and their impacts on estuarine fish and their habitats.
    - PMEP is taking the lead, but Alicia is working closely with Joan (PMEP coordinator) and Christina Wang (PLFHP coordinator) to develop the SOW.
    - Alicia is seeking volunteers and/or recommendations for participants for an inter-FHP working group that will help guide the evolution of this grant. Please contact Alicia if you are interested in participating. This could also be an opportunity to expand the Forum’s reach to new partners/stakeholders, so if there are individuals not yet involved in Forum activities that could/should be involved in any of these activities please reach out to Alicia directly with your thoughts.
- **2020 Project Brainstorming**
  - The Forum discussed project ideas (<\$25k) that fall under the 2020 umbrella theme of “Communications & Outreach” and decided to put forward two options: 1) California Fish Passage Summit 2) General Forum Outreach Materials
  - Alicia will draft the proposal and run by Bob and the Education and Outreach Committee before submitting on March 29, 2019.

### **2019 Project Selection Update**

- Bob presented the five projects the Forum plans to recommend to NFHP for funding, and provided a quick overview of the process behind their selection. Javier and Alicia have reached out to all seven applicants to update them on their ranking, the anticipated funding process, and timeline.

### **Forum-funded Project Status Updates**

- Bob led a discussion on the current status of Forum-funded projects. All projects that received FY17 funding (Benbow Dam, Pennington Creek (still waiting for final report), and Upper Green Valley Creek) have been completed. Mid Klamath is underway, and the Forum-funded portion of Davy Brown is nearing completion. Anna Halligan provided updates on Cooper Mill and Neefus Gulch (both Trout Unlimited projects). Central California Traction Railroad Bridge (CCTR) (FY16) is underway, but construction is on track for 2019 pending the CVFPB and USACE permits. Dinner Creek (FY14) was recently completed, but Kelly Gulch (FY14) has yet to be completed.
- The latest reports (progress and/or final) are available for further review on the [Forum’s intranet page](#).

### NFHP Legislation & Funding

- The National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act, which aims to codify NFHP, was introduced in both the U.S. Senate ([S.754](#)) and U.S. Congress ([H.R. 1747](#)) on March 12, 2019 and March 13, 2019 respectively by Senators Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) and Ben Cardin (D-Maryland) and Representatives Marc Veasey (D-Texas) and Rob Wittman (R-Virginia). While bills containing this or similar language have been introduced many times in the past, this is the first time bills have been introduced in the House and Senate simultaneously. Read the NFHP news story [here](#).
- The Forum has yet to receive the guidelines and template from the USFWS for the annual work plan and accomplishments report. The results of this report will dictate the level at which the Forum is funded (in 2018 the Forum was scored a Level 2 (out of 3)), and how many projects the Forum can fund from its FY19 Funding Announcement.

### Forum Budget Update

Stan Allen provided the following overview of the Forum’s current budget status.

#### CFPF NFHP Budget Status (USFWS)

1072.17 ;.18; .19	Budgeted	Spent	Remaining
Personnel	\$ 38,793	\$ 10,912	\$ 27,881
Rents	\$ 1,700	\$ 386	\$ 1,314
Supplies/Software	\$ 6,712	\$ 240	\$ 6,472
Sub-Contracts (*)	\$459,253	\$309,149	\$150,104
Travel	\$ 10,270	\$ 1,706	\$ 8,564
Sub-Totals	\$516,728	\$322,393	\$194,335
Indirect	\$ 20,465	\$ 10,440	\$ 10,025
Totals	\$ 537,193	\$332,833	\$204,360

#### Sub-Contracts to Date

Western Fishes (Pacific Lamprey; 17-44)	\$20,000 (completed)
Trout Unlimited (Pennington Creek; 18-08)	\$40,000 (completed)
Forum Coordination (Creative Resource Strategies; 18-07)	\$36,000 (completed)
CA State Parks (Benbow Dam; 18-25)	\$58,499 (completed)
Gold Ridge RCD (Upper Green Valley; 18-26)	\$30,089 (completed)
Ecotrust (FISHPass User Interface; 18-90)	\$63,500 (nearing completion)
Earth Island Institute (Davy Brown;18-96)	\$44,538 (in progress)
Forum Coordination (Alicia Marrs; 19-30)	\$50,000 (in progress)
Harvey Diversion	CANCELED
Neefus (Trout Unlimited; 19-25)	\$39,513 (in progress)

Cooper Mill (Trout Unlimited; 19-61)	\$65,782 (in progress)
Mid-Klamath	\$38,680 (directly funded by USFWS)

End Date: 9/30/20 (new 5-year agreement that started 8/8/16)

#### CFPF Multi-State Grant Budget Status

1121.19	Budgeted	Spent	Remaining
Personnel	\$10,752	\$ 2,283	\$ 8,469
Mtgs/Workshops*	\$ 2,000	\$ 0	\$ 2,000
Supplies	\$ 550	\$ 0	\$ 550
Sub-Contracts	\$	\$ 0	\$
Travel	\$ 519	\$ 0	\$ 519
Sub-Totals	\$	\$ 0	\$
Indirect	\$ 2,180	\$ 360	\$ 1,820
Totals	\$ 16,000	\$ 0	\$ 13,357

End Date: 12/31/19 (was extended)

\*Note: \$2,000 for meetings/workshops is for WNTI Coastal Cutthroat

### 2018 FHP Evaluation Update

As a member of the NFHP Partnerships Committee, Stan was also one of the leads of the team reviewing the FHP Evaluations. Overall, the 2018 FHP evaluation process was improved from past years. All 20 of the FHPs completed their evaluation reports, and final scores ranged from 28 to 43 out of 44 possible points (mean 37.9).

The Forum's initial score was 37.8. However, following a debrief call with Stan and Gary Whelan (both reviewers of the first version of the Forum's report), the Governance Committee elected to revisit the report and resubmit for rescoring. The Forum received its updated and final score in March 2018 of 41.5, ranking the Forum second out of the 20 other FHPs. The NFHP Partnerships Committee is generating a final report on this evaluation process that will be submitted to the NFHP Board later this year. The next FHP Evaluation will occur in 2021.

Some areas where the Forum could still improve its score in the future included outreach and education, and engagement with decision makers. Forum members are being asked to think about these areas when reviewing the Strategic Framework (see section above re Strategic Framework for more information).

### Forum Committee Updates

Each of the chairs of the Forum's three Committees (Governance, Science & Data, and Education & Outreach) walked through their Committees' respective work plans and provided an overview of 2018 accomplishments and plans for 2019. Updated work plans are available on the Forum intranet page (see below for more information). Additional highlights from each Committee's discussion include:

- **Governance Committee:** Bob, thanked Melinda for her time on the Committee, but in light of her departure raised the need to add at least one non-Federal representative. Bob asked the Forum for non-Federal volunteers, and Anna Halligan (Trout Unlimited) volunteered to join and was welcomed to the Governance Committee.
- **Science & Data:** Sandi Jacobsen and Alex Jones have recently agreed to step in as the new co-chairs of the Science & Data Committee. FISHPass continues to be the primary focus of the Committee. Ecotrust will be finishing their contract on March 31 and handing the tool off to PSMFC and the Forum to run. The highest priority next step is to finish gathering cost data (see earlier FISHPass discussion) before the tool can be publically launched. The Committee asked that any Forum organizations with cost data that could aid in making this layer of the tool more robust reach out to Brett and Anne who are leading the collection and integration of this data into FISHPass.
- **Education & Outreach:** Alicia gave a quick overview of the new Forum intranet that will serve as an internal sharedrive for the Forum. Resources include documents associated with Forum-funded projects (original project submissions, progress and final reports when available), past and current versions of Forum administrative documents (in Word and PDF when available), and meeting notes and other associated documents from Forum Committee calls/meetings. Alicia is working with Alex to collect other archived/historical Forum documents, and Forum members are asked to reach out if they have access to missing documents or if there are things that they would like to see housed on this site as well.
  - If Forum members have not yet created a log-in, please use this link to do so or reset your password. Reach out to Alicia if you have any questions, or if you need assistance accessing it.

### **Fish Passage on the State Highway System**

Melinda Molnar (Caltrans) walked the Forum through a presentation on Caltrans' accomplishments advancing fish passage on the state highway system including their efforts to bring together biologists and engineers to improve understanding of biological requirements in engineering design. Caltrans is in the process of evaluating the 42 barriers that have been either partially or fully remediated since 2006 to better understand the effectiveness of these solutions. Much of the information discussed can also be referenced in Caltrans' annual [Fish Passage Report](#) to the legislature released in October 2018.

### **Pacific Lamprey & the Forum**

Damon Goodman (USFWS) provided an overview of ways the Forum has supported Pacific Lamprey-related efforts to date, an update on the First Pass Barrier Assessment in the Sacramento Basin and the steps/resources needed to implement the next phase of the project, and initiated a discussion to brainstorm ideas on how the Forum can support better integration of Pacific Lamprey and their specific passage needs into decision making, design, planning and implementation of fish passage removal and remediation. Some ideas generated in the brainstorming session included developing a lamprey-focused barrier removal case study, a fact sheet outlining lamprey-specific passage needs, and associated outreach to permitting practitioners, grant makers and other decision makers. Please contact Damon if you have questions or additional ideas.

### **Next Forum Meeting**

Sandi Jacobson volunteered to host the next in-person meeting in San Diego, CA. Alicia and Sandi will explore possible venues and dates (in July and August) and send out a doodle poll to the Forum.