



CALIFORNIA FISH PASSAGE FORUM

Science & Data Committee Meetings

Present: Holly Steindorf, Gena Lasko, Emily Siegel, Holly Eddinger, Andrew Hampton, Sandi Jacobson, Tim Masters

Absent: Van Hare, Mark Guard, Marisa Parish, Bob Pagliuco, Alex Jones

Meeting attendance:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NApL93PWEhVy2thUfWbRoe0ILJVullm5_YTjQfazKil/edit?usp=drive_link

8/7 Agenda

- Presentation – San Joaquin White Sturgeon Telemetry Project – Paul Cadrett (20 minutes)
- Holly's quick updates (Steering Committee Meeting(s), 2025 Workplan status)
- Discuss 2024 Workplan Items: Task 5.1, Task 5.2 (Finalize proposal for Effectiveness Assessment and explore funding options) as time allows – Holly and Sandi
- Decision to submit a workshop/session/ field tour at 4/29-5/2 2025 SRF in Santa Cruz? (due to SRF by 8/26)
- PAD plans for Anne's absence (Andrew)- if time allows.

8/7 Meeting Minutes:

Presentation – San Joaquin White Sturgeon Telemetry Project – Paul Cadrett (20 minutes)

Paul and Gabi of USFWS presented on the 2024 results of the White Sturgeon Telemetry project on the San Joaquin. The recording and slides are posted to the Forum Intranet. The project synopsis is as follows:

Since 2012 107 white sturgeon have been tagged with 10-year tags. The US Fish and Wildlife Service Lodi Office has also been working with the CDFW LaGrange office, who have some receivers which increase the range where a surgeon can be detected.

The field work consists of using gill and trammel nets (and hook-and-line if staffing allows) to capture white sturgeon, take size and sex, implant a pit tag and an acoustic tag, and release the fish. Staffing shortages and lots of water have made netting sturgeon difficult. Out of 300 hours of fishing effort, only one sturgeon was captured by USFWS, though 6 were captured by fish bio, which were able to be tagged. The receiver data is downloaded every 3 months.

Preliminary movement results suggest high variability in fish movement throughout the system. There is a peak migration season, with most fish leaving the system by June and returning in October through December. March through May is peak movement. Fish presence and field work is limited by high temperatures. The highest observed sturgeon of 2024 was a fish detected at Kelly

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Rock Wier at the ESBCS. This project continues to fill in the gaps about the movement behavior of white surgeon, though there are still a lot of information we do not know about where these fish are going.

Limited by staffing changes, the USFWS is interested in maintaining partnerships with other organizations to examine the big picture of white surgeon movement, which includes the Bay Delta CDFW office, as well as others doing telemetry in large water systems through ocean tracking network (OTN).

Ongoing work includes putting in additional receivers upstream of ECBCS, analyzing data, preparing for next season by purchasing equipment, and increasing outreach, especially with tribal partners.

Holly's quick updates (Steering Committee Meeting(s), 2025 Workplan status)

Steering Committee Meetings of 2024

- October 9th, 2024: 10-12pm virtual steering committee meeting.
- December 5th, 2024: In-person steering committee meeting in Sacramento (hybrid).
- December 6th, 2024: field tours in the Sacramento area.

2025 Work Plan Status

- Holly has taken the groups (science and data committee, governance committee) ideas for the 2025 work plan, and synthesize them into a draft work plan format in Google Drive. The committee will review this work plan at our September or October meeting and the Steering Committee will finalize it at the December meeting. Aka- we will have a finished work plan before the end of 2024! Yay!
- 2025 Draft Work Plan:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HFiTk6yx2z1gtjhYe0q32u27lreYHGp3XBHSSJxzqAo/edit?usp=sharing>

Discuss 2024 Workplan Items: Task 5.1, Task 5.2 (Finalize proposal for Effectiveness Assessment and explore funding options) as time allows – Holly and Sandi

Sandi will distribute the latest effectiveness assessment proposal to the group. It is Sandi's assertion that the proposal is finalized and ready to be submitted for funding. No objections from the group on that. Sandi mentioned she has submitted the proposal for a few funding opportunities and has reached out informally to inquire about funding it. No traction yet, sometimes research or effectiveness analysis is not top priority on funding opportunities. Holly will reformat the latest proposal once received (formatting (font/color) changes, no content changes) and add it to the Forum website.

Decision to submit a workshop/session/ field tour to 2025 SRF

2025 Salmonid Restoration Federation Conference will be held in Santa Cruz 4/29/25- 5/2/25. Submissions for workshops sessions field tours are due by 4/26/ 24. The group brainstormed if the Forum wants to host something at SRF 2025. Gena suggested a workshop on utilizing the Fish Passage Incidental Field Form or other rapid assessment protocol to assess passage at a barrier, inquiring if Ross Taylor is available to help run the workshop, and combining a classroom portion

about assessment with an interactive component, where the group heads to some barriers around Santa Cruz to assess their ability to provide passage. The group was in favor of this workshop proposal and meets the criteria recommended by SRF for workshop proposals. Since this is due to SRF by 8/26, Holly will draft the submission document, and reach out to Ross Taylor to see if he's available and send that to the group for review before the 8/26 deadline.

About the Fish Passage Incidental Field Form

<https://www.cafishpassageforum.org/methods-protocols-guidelines/>

“To standardize first-pass data entry sheets and to help with collecting fast and incidental in-stream structure information, the Fish Passage Forum developed a California Fish Passage Forum-Fish Passage Incidental Report. This one-page form is not intended to replace any approved protocols for fish passage at road crossings; rather it should serve to collect barrier data while performing general stream assessments and restoration work, and for inventorying for fish passage of structures other than culverts.”

PAD plans for Anne's absence (Andrew)- if time allows.

The committee did not end up having time for this agenda item. We will save this for our September meeting, where the potential of utilizing fish pass to help CA State parks determine barrier priority for cannabis watershed remediation is likely to be a major agenda item, and thus PAD and FishPass will be discussed.

8/7 Action Items:

- Sandi Send out latest version of effectiveness assessment proposal to the science and data committee.
- The group to review the draft 2025 work plan on the Google Drive.
- Holly to draft our submission to 2025 SRF and inquire if Ross Taylor is available to help lead the workshop, send that to the committee to review.