



CALIFORNIA FISH PASSAGE FORUM

Science & Data Committee Meetings

Present: Holly Steindorf, Gena Lasko, Emily Seigel, Van Hare, Anne Elston, Marisa Parish-Hanson

Absent: Tim Loux, Ted Masters, Adrienne Chenet, Mark Guard

Meeting attendance: [Meeting Attendance \(Google Sheets\)](#)

9/2/25 Agenda

- Project Presentations Update
- S&D Committee Chair impending changes
- International Fish Passage Conference Workshop
- Survey123 updates
- FISHPass Future
- Bringing Items to Governance Committee

9/2/25 Meeting Minutes:

Project Presentation Update

Holly will keep in communication with project sponsors to arrange project presentations at S&D meetings. Holly has reached out to Trinity County RCD to present on the Weaver Basin Fish Passage Assessments. We are still working out a date, but they will be present at one of the next few meetings. Holly will send the invitation in advance, so all Forum members are aware and welcome to attend.

S&D Committee Chair impending changes (Gena if available)

Emily will be acting as Committee chair as Gena transitions into Vice Chair role. We will be looking for an additional science and data co chair, State Parks Ted Masters said he was possibly interested but too busy now. As he is more available and we can involve him more, we will revisit the question.

Finding New meeting time

There was some confusion over the committee meeting times, especially since Ted is not regularly available at either Tuesday 10:00 AM or Wednesday 11:00 AM spots. We want to prioritize all committee members' inclusion. Holly will send out a new scheduling poll soon to identify the ideal meeting time for meetings, and work with Ted to find a recurring time that its likely to work once field season is wrapped up.

International Fish Passage Workshop

Holly has asked Ross if he would be interested in partnering on a workshop for the Fish Passage Conference.

9/3/25 update: Ross is interested but needs to confirm availability, since the SRF conference ends right before the Davis conference, and he doesn't think he can do both.

Science and Data Committee Meeting Agendas- Working Document- California Fish Passage Forum

Participant cap at 35 attendees. While the conference likely won't waive the registration fee for workshop volunteers, the Governance committee may approve travel assistance for members to assist in the conference workshop.

Action: Holly will add supporting travel to conference to Governance Committee Agenda

The Forum is interested in also recording an assessment of how-to video. We should budget in a day or half-day for filming an assessment being done outside the workshop and take footage of the workshop also.

Survey123 updates

Fan gave an update. He has been testing out different ways to allow access to Survey123 of the Rapid Assessment Form. Van confirmed that at least some agencies are willing to grant permissions for their employee users to input data, however that requires elevating accounts. SARP utilizes a public survey approach with a login that is given out sparingly. What would we like to prioritize? licensed users being able to add entries and own their own data or giving access to the survey to those with a free account who can add but won't be able to own their data, or (riskiest) edit other entries?

Question: can we do both? Yes, however, that may require two survey links.

Anne expects both groups to be valuable. Likely agency personnel for "licensed users" or dummy account for free account for RCD or restoration folks who don't have an ESRI account. Anne recommends focusing on the free version for now. Looking into how we can control this account to keep it secure. Possibly tracking the device ID and adding that user as a dropdown or name write in is something CDFW has done.

Van cannot work on this now, but can focus more effort in late fall and winter with goal of something to test in late winter/spring. This may coincide with American Rivers USFS workshops.

Keeping up with SARP

Developer of National Barrier Prioritization Tool SARP Tool Brendan Ward is bringing fish distribution data and baseline fish habitat layer into National Tool. Van has been staying in touch with Kat at SARP to ensure they have the most up to date data. We should follow up to confirm the data transfer between both groups is smooth and frequent. They may have some updates for us.

FISHPass Future

CalTrout and Stillwater Sciences Abel Brumo are working on a recovery plan for the Eel River and are in the planning stages of how to develop the plan. Marisa mentioned to Abel that FISHPass may be able to provide information to help them develop the barrier removal section of the plan and suggested he reach out to Anne.

Abel reached out to Anne about the status and usability of FISHPass. The committee suggestion has been to have a Forum member who has trained in the model run the tool on request and provide the outputs.

The committee refreshed our understanding of the status of the tool. The original model called OptiPass was run using excel. Damon worked to develop it into an R code, which we do have a beta testing video of, but doesn't have as much documentation as OptiPass, which has a full user guide.

Presuming the R code is essentially another way to run OptiPass and the output would be the same, the way the model is run should not matter as much to the output as the quality and completeness of the input data. The report from Ross and Damon testing FISHPass R code and online version in the Smith River can elaborate on the best practices for input data to allow for the most reliable and useful output.

Science and Data Committee Meeting Agendas- Working Document- California Fish Passage Forum

Next steps could include watching the beta testing video from the R code, finding the OptiPass model files, and confirming with Abel about their intentions and data.

Action: Anne will reach back out to Abel with questions about the status of the baseline fish habitat layer and PAD data in the Eel River, to assess the quality and completeness of the input data.

Items to bring to Governance Committee

Holly will bring several items back to Governance committee meeting this week on Thursday

- Funding for travel support for workshop
- Funding for FISHPass training?
- RCDs as signatories
- Confirm inviting TNC to join as a signatory