

Fall Flow Update

September 12, 2005

Report by the Technical Modeling and Analysis Group

Trinity River Pulse Flow Implementation Criteria

Primary criteria focus on assessments of expected conditions in the Klamath River below Weitchpec, California. Secondary and tertiary criteria focus on real-time monitoring of temperature, fish population density, and fish behavior. At any time secondary or tertiary criteria can alert scientists and managers to developing adverse conditions.

Primary Criteria

The primary criteria evaluated were predictions of fall-run Chinook abundance, and discharge at Terwer.

1. Indications from tribal harvest, sport fishery and weirs are that in 2005, the fall chinook run size is below average.
2. Discharge at Terwer on September 12, 2005 was over 3,400 ft³/s. A minimum discharge of 2,200 ft³/s (combined Hoopa and Orleans USGS gage discharges) was recommended by the DFG based on discharge/water temperature regression analyses contained in their 2002 Final Report. This recommendation is very similar to the Yurok Tribe's recommendation of a minimum discharge of 2,500 ft³/s at the Terwer Gage.

Secondary Criteria

1. Temperatures at Terwer. Water Temperature < 22°C after September 1 and < 20°C after September 15 at Terwer. Temperatures are at 18.5°C on September 12 and have been on a downward trend since September 7, 2005.

Tertiary Criteria Considered (Real Time Monitoring)

1. Disease monitoring at Blue Hole last week indicated that no ich or columnaris was found. However, 12 of 13 fish had reddened vents.
2. Reconnaissance surveys for dead fish. Redd surveys and carcass surveys began last week. No reports of high numbers of fish from USFS or CDFG.

Should There Be A Trinity River Pulse Flow in 2005?

Based on *Primary Criteria* of projected run size for fall Chinook, actual discharges at Terwer, and projected discharges at Iron Gate Dam, at this time an adult fish die-off is unlikely in 2005.

Therefore, at this time we do not recommend a Trinity River pulse flow in 2005, unless conditions relative to the primary criteria substantially change.

Updates from the Klamath Fish Health Assessment Team (KFHAT) can be found at the Klamath Fishery Portal <http://ncncr-isb.dfg.ca.gov/KFP>.