



February 17, 2006

Fish and Game Commission
Attn: John Carlson, Executive Director
Sent via email: fgc@dfg.ca.gov

RE: Proposed Trinity River Fishing Season Date Change

Dear Executive Director Carlson:

California Trout (CalTrout) is requesting that the Commission adopt a rule change to open the "Fly Water" (Trinity River main stem from 250 feet below Lewiston Dam to Old Lewiston Bridge) on the Trinity River on *April 1* instead of the current date (Last Saturday in April) or the currently proposed January 1. CalTrout also requests that the Commission adopt this on an *emergency basis* so that fishing may be allowed as of April 1, 2006 and not be delayed for an additional year.

We recommend the following change be made effective immediately:

Subsection 7.50(b)(91.1)(F) 6. Body of Water: Trinity River and tributaries.

a. Trinity River main stem from 250 feet below Lewiston Dam to Old Lewiston Bridge.

Open Season and Special Regulations: ~~Last Saturday in April~~ *April 1* through Sept. 15. Only artificial flies with barbless hooks may be used.

Daily Bag limit: 0

As a result of our recommendation to the Commission (dated Jan. 31, 2006) CalTrout met with representatives of the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to discuss the most appropriate opening date for this section of the Trinity River. There was unanimous consent that April 1 is the best alternative. CalTrout had hoped to make this regulation consistent with other steelhead season openers throughout the state (many rivers have a January 1 opening date). It was determined that the Trinity has unique circumstances and April 1 is more appropriate in order to adequately protect salmon and steelhead populations.

CalTrout appreciates the willingness of both DFG and NMFS to meet and come to consensus on this issue. We request that the Commission enact this change immediately so anglers are not forced to forego another season of opportunity as a result of high flows intended to restore the Trinity River fishery. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Weseloh, Northcoast Manager

Cc: Mr. Neil Manji, Department of Fish and Game
Ms. Irma Lagomarsino, National Marine Fisheries Service