

TUOLUMNE RIVER TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DON PEDRO PROJECT - FERC LICENSE 2299

MODESTO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT
CITY & COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
U. S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE



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TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

07 March 2019 at 9:30 AM

Turlock Irrigation District, Room 152

Summary

1. INTRODUCTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Participants made self introductions.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

- Review/Revise agenda – No changes.
- Approve notes from December meeting – No changes were identified.
- Items since last meeting – A handout list posted at <http://tuolumnerivertac.com/> was reviewed.

3. MONITORING/REPORTS: (*Handouts were reviewed*)

- Seine and RST data indicate fry average 36-37mm to date and that salmon are present all the way down to the San Joaquin. Just under 20,000 fry have been captured and released at Waterford and daily catch at Grayson has been between 1 and 202 fish with a total of 1,642 captured to date (much better than average). Trap efficiency tests have been irregular due to fewer hatchery fish being available. The RST's are working well in higher flows. The Annual RST report will be on time for an April 1st submittal. However, due to changing and high flows the Seine report will be the last report prepared.
- The Annual Redd Survey Report will be on time for an April 1st submittal.
- Weir sampling concluded on 02/02/2019 due to high flows. The season total for Chinook salmon was 3,072. Two O. mykiss passed the weir this season. The Annual Weir Report will be on time for an April 1st submittal.
- The Annual Snorkeling Report is complete.
- Summer Monitoring – Thermographs will be downloaded as soon as flows allow.
- Snorkel surveys will be conducted as regularly scheduled unless flows are prohibitive.

4. FLOW OPERATIONS:

- Don Pedro Reservoir elevation is 802.3 feet above sea level, pre-flood releases are being made at 5,494cfs and will drop slowly to base flows sometime in July.

5. AGENCY/NGO UPDATES

- TRT is proposing a bass derby/fishing day on the Tuolumne River and has requested assistance from TID biologist Pat Maloney. It was suggested that fish be taken to homeless shelters, education should be a focus and that nonnative species education

be included.

- A question was raised about survival of parr in brackish to saline water. It was suggested that Anna Staret and Rachel Johnson may be able to shed some light on the subject with data from otolith studies.
- Changes were made to handouts such that titles were put in bold type and placed at the top dead center of the Fishbio graphics.
- The 2013 CFM report is now available.
- Due to a full reservoir TID offered free waters to farmers wishing to flood field's pre irrigation season with the intent of recharging the local aquifer.
- It was noted that 2 of 22 late run (January) Chinook were adipose clipped. Possibly late fall fish from Coleman Hatchery.
- Many in the group desire more flood plain inundation, but it is noted that much of the modern flood plain lies above the modern channel and that lowering of flood plains may be highly beneficial as will side channel restoration.
- JD suggested a restoration priority list by river mile that identifies the best locations for change. McBain and Trush prepared a habitat restoration plan in 1999: https://www.fws.gov/lodi/anadromous_fish_restoration/documents/tuolplan.pdf
- Allison requested that links to the TRTAC and FERC websites be on the front page of TID's home page. This request was made of TID Public Relations on 04082019.
- The TRTAC requested that a Restoration Group be formed.

6. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- None

7. NEXT MEETING DATES – JUNE 13, SEPTEMBER 12, DECEMBER 12, 2019.

TRTAC Meeting Attendees

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
1. Patrick Maloney	TID
2. Roger Masuda	Griffith & Masuda Law Firm (by phone)
3. JD Wikert	USFWS
4. Gordon Enas	MID
5. Allison Boucher	TRC
6. Chrissy Sonke	Fishbio Consulting (by phone)