

Regional Water Quality Control Board  
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report  
Thursday, February 8, 2018  
Regional Water Board Office  
Santa Rosa, CA

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: State of Salmonids II: Fish in Hot Water – Status, threats and solutions for California salmon, steelhead and trout (*Dr. Peter Moyle and Dr. Robert Lusardi, UC Davis*); Regional Water Board actions to support salmonid populations (*Jonathan Warmerdam, Regional Water Board*).

BOARD ACTION: Information only; no action needed.

BACKGROUND: The future for California's native salmon, steelhead and trout populations looks dire unless immediate actions are taken to improve their habitats and make conditions more suitable to their long-term survival.

In 2017, the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences and California Trout (CalTrout) collaborated to produce a report on the status of native salmon and trout titled *State Of the Salmonids II: Fish in Hot Water – Status, threats and solutions for California salmon, steelhead, and trout* (SOS II Report). The report explores the following questions:

- What is the status of all California salmonids, individual species and collectively?
- What are major factors responsible for their present status, especially declining species?
- How can California's salmonids be saved from extinction?

The SOS II Report takes a comprehensive review of the stressors affecting populations, with primary focus on climate change and 15 other human-caused threats. The report finds that if present population trends continue, 45% of California's native salmonids are likely to be extinct in the next 50 years. The effects of climate change on California salmonids are considered the major, overarching threat affecting salmonids in California, including the following impacts: lack of cold water, low and variable streamflow, constricted habitat, reduced habitat suitability, food web alteration, and rising sea levels.

DISCUSSION: This information item will begin with a presentation by Dr. Peter Moyle and Dr. Robert Lusardi of the UC Davis Center for Watershed Studies, during which they will present on the findings of the SOS II Report, including a plan to return populations to resilience. Afterwards, Regional Water Board staff will provide an overview of various restoration, recovery, planning, and conservation actions occurring in the North Coast Region to help support and recover anadromous salmonid populations. The purpose of this information item is to facilitate a discussion of potential actions within the Regional Water Board's jurisdiction to further protect salmonid populations.

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

SUPPORTING MATERIALS: SOS II Report web address: <http://caltrout.org/sos/>  
Excerpts from SOS Report: [Enclosed]