## Climate, Habitat, and Genetic Factors Influencing Salmonid Success



A Concurrent Session at the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference held in Santa Cruz, California from April 19 – 22, 2022.

- Session Coordinators:
  - Rachel Shea, PE, *Michael Love & Associates*



## Presentations



- Slide 4 Minimum Flows to Support Smolt Outmigration During Drought, Brian Kastl, UC Berkeley
- Slide 24 California Drought Influences Steelhead Productivity through Impacts on Spring Smolt Conditions, Haley Ohms, NOAA SWFSC and UCSC
- Slide 64 Restoration Elements of the Klamath River Renewal Project, Dan Chase, RES
- Slide 108 Restoring Key Salmon Habitat in the Klamath River to Increase Population Resilience to Climate, Drought, and Wildfire Impacts, Will Harling, *Mid-Klamath Watershed Council*
- Slide 156 Running the Gauntlet: the Burdens of Aquatic Pathogens and River Conditions on California's Central Valley Chinook Salmon, Camilo Sanchez, UC Davis
- Slide 188 Conservation and Restoration of Adaptive Genomic Variation, Devon Pearse, *NMFS*
- Slide 207 Factors Affecting Spatiotemporal Variation in Survival of Endangered Winter-Run Chinook Salmon Outmigrating from the Sacramento River, Jason Hassrick, ICF Fish and Aquatic Sciences

#### Minimum flows to support coho smolt outmigration during drought Russian River watershed, California





Brian Kastl, Mariska Obedzinski, Sarah Nossaman Pierce, Elizabeth Ruiz, Krysia Skorko, Mia van Docto, Stephanie Carlson, Will Boucher, Ted Grantham Salmonid Restoration Federation Conference April 22, 2022



## Key messages

Outmigration may be an underestimated life history bottleneck

California coho have evolved to have a long outmigration window, and droughts alter that window

- Low flows contract the window
- Warm temperatures shift the window earlier

Smolts avoid shallow water depths, and their preferences vary by stream

## Predictors of outmigration timing

- Endogenous controls
- Environmental drivers:
  - Water temperature<sup>1</sup>
  - Streamflow<sup>1, 2</sup>
  - Lunar phase and photoperiod<sup>1,2</sup>
  - Gradient<sup>3</sup>
  - Productivity<sup>3</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Spence & Dick 2014 <sup>2</sup> Moyle 2002 <sup>3</sup> Johnson 2016

## Research questions

- How do seasonal streamflow and water temperature affect outmigration timing?
- What are water depth *preferences*, measured at the riffle crest thalweg (RCT)?
- Do shallow water depths *prevent* outmigration?



# Methods

- 7 streams located in the lower Russian River basin (ancestral and unceded land of the Pomo, Wappo and Miwok tribes)
- Passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag antenna arrays, located in lower tributaries



- Outmigration season: March 1 July 3, 2008-2020
- Outmigration duration: 5-95% cumulative outmigration
- Runoff: calculated from one representative USGS gage and scaled to precipitation and drainage area
- Degree-days: sum of daily mean water temperature



## Drought effects



Dry years:

- hasten the outmigration end date
- contract outmigration duration

#### ✤ Warm years:

- hasten the outmigration start date
- shift the outmigration period earlier

## Drought effects

#### Top performing linear mixed effects models



- Three models attempted for each response variable
  - 1. Additive (degree-days & runoff)
  - 2. Runoff only
  - 3. Degree-days only
- Higher degree-days shift outmigration earlier
  via earlier start and end dates of outmigration
- Low runoff contracts outmigration duration
  - by delaying the outmigration start and advancing the outmigration end

## Drought effects



#### <u>Runoff</u>

- A decrease from **4.5 to 0.5 mm/day** March April runoff:
  - delays the start by **12 days**
- A decrease from **1.8 to 0.2 mm/day** March June runoff:
- hastens the end by **11 days**
- contracts the duration by 23 days (31% decline)

#### **Degree-days**

- An increase in mean daily water temperatures from 10.2 to 12.8 °C:
  - hastens the start by 24 days
  - hastens the end by 20 days

## **Drought implications**

- Low-flows may hasten end dates via:
  - barriers or deterring movement, due to increased risk of mortality from predators
  - behavioral adaptations to avoid even lower late season flows and river mouth closure
- Early outmigration end dates could lead to the outmigration of small fish, associated with low survival<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Ward et al. 1989

## Phenological mismatch risks

- The timing of upwelling is highly variable among years along the California coast<sup>1</sup>
  - St. dev. 30 days
- A long outmigration period for coho salmon in California reflects an adaptive response to this natural variability in upwelling timing<sup>2</sup>
- A contracted outmigration window *during drought* increases the risk of the entire population entering the ocean outside of periods of abundant food resources

<sup>1</sup> Ainley et al. 1995 <sup>2</sup> Spence and Hall 2010



## Riffle crest thalweg depth (RCTd)



- **Each stream-day:** 
  - 12 riffle crest thalwegs (RCTs) measured per stream-day
  - 1 discharge measurement
  - > 16 stream-days per stream



Method adapted from Rossi et al. 2021

## RCTd rating curves



Flows required to reach RCT depth targets vary

Calculate the diversion reductions/augmentation, needed to reach minimum RCTd



## Geomorphic influence on rating curves



## RCTd rating curves

Converted continuous streamflow into continuous RCTd



### Disparities between available and used water depths



#### **Depth preferences**



- To account for variability in the frequency of depths *experienced*, divide:
  - water depth *during detections, by*
  - water depth *throughout* season

(Maki-Petays et al. 1997)

## Minimum water depth policies support outmigration





- The end of the outmigration season is prolonged by an extended period of suitable depths
- A greater number of days below a depth requirement *may* increase the number of days without outmigration

## Take-aways



- Low-flows contract outmigration duration, and high cumulative thermal experience hasten the outmigration season
   each up to 3 weeks
- Drought increases the risk of phenological mismatches
- Water depth preferences of coho can be reached, using environmental flows

## Acknowledgements

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## California drought influences steelhead productivity through impacts on spring smolt conditions

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# Droughts!

2012-2016





### Final blow?



## Drought impacts on juveniles

- Lost connectivity
- Higher competition
- Higher metabolic costs
- Lower growth

(Hakala and Hartman 2004, Harvey et al. 2006, Woelfle-Erskine et al. 2017, Grantham et al. 2012, Goertler et al. 2017, Vander Vorste et al. 2020)



## Juvenile impacts -> fewer spawners?

How have recent droughts influenced the number of spawners?



## Study question

Did 2012-2016 drought lead to fewer steelhead spawners on the north-central California coast?



# Study populations

- 8 populations
- Winter-run, north-central coast
- Spawner estimates
- 2002-2019



# Study approach

- Identify life stages affected and time lags
- 2. Fewer spawners in those years?
- 3. Attribute patterns to drought?



## Drought affects different life stages





## Drought affects different life stages o years 2012-2016 drought -> 2012-2019 impact 2-4 years 1-2 years Juvenile Smolt Spawners freshwater Outmigration

# Below average spawners caused by drought?



- Many below average
- But, not lower than previous years

# Correlations with environmental conditions?



## Dynamic Factor Analysis

- Estimates linear relationship between covariate and each population
- Also, fits a shared trend (or trends) to the population timeseries residuals
  - Indicates trend 'left over' after accounting for the covariate
- Gives: effect size, shared trend(s), loading
- We fit 28 models, 1-2 trends, each with single covariate
### Transform spawners to productivity



 Spring-smolt flow most consistent correlation



• No effect of summer juvenile flow









- Spring-smolt flows appear to control most of the shared population dynamics
- Lower spring-smolt flows during drought led to lower productivity
- BUT, productivity wasn't as low as we thought given the extremity of the drought
- ??? Hmmm...









## Groundwater buffering



# Groundwater buffering



# Groundwater buffering



# Results round-up

- Drought appears to have caused lower steelhead productivity by lowering spring-smolt flows
- 2. Part of a long-term correlation between steelhead productivity and spring-smolt flows
- 3. Spring-smolt flows an apparent regional driver of productivity



# Results round-up

- Drought appears to have caused lower steelhead productivity by lowering spring-smolt flows
- 2. Part of a long-term correlation between steelhead productivity and spring-smolt flows
- 3. Spring-smolt flows an apparent regional driver of productivity
- 4. Yet, despite this relationship, productivity wasn't that low after the drought

# Results round-up

- Drought appears to have caused lower steelhead productivity by lowering spring-smolt flows
- 2. Part of a long-term correlation between steelhead productivity and spring-smolt flows
- 3. Spring-smolt flows an apparent regional driver of productivity
- 4. Yet, despite this relationship, productivity wasn't that low after the drought
- 5. Drought flows were not as low as we expected
- 6. Flows appear to be buffered from droughts



# Conclusions

- 1. California steelhead were vulnerable to drought
- 2. Hydrologic buffering was key to minimizing impacts of drought
- 3. Without that, productivity would have been lower
- 4. Identify, preserve watersheds with groundwater capacity

# Thank you

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- Roy Mendelssohn
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- Tim Kahles
- Karlee Liddy

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### Transform covariates





# Below average spawners caused by drought?



# Groundwater buffering?







# 2012-2016 California Drought

- Low rainfall, high temperatures, long duration
- Extremity varied state-wide
  - Unprecedented for southern and Central Valley (Kwon and Lall 2016)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> most severe for north coast (Deitch et al. 2018)





# Below average spawners caused by drought?

- Spawner correlation with drought variables?
- Spawner correlation with non-drought variables that could mask drought impacts?

# Groundwater buffering?



# Groundwater buffering?



#### **Restoration Elements of the Klamath River Renewal Project**

Salmonid Restoration Federation April 22, 2022

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Daniel Chase Senior Fisheries Biologist



### **Presentation Overview**

- Introduction
  - Who is RES?
  - Role on the KRRP project
  - Background
- Restoration Activities
  - Goals
  - Vegetation
  - Priority Restoration Areas
  - Design Approach and Elements
  - Restoration Activities
- Monitoring Performance



### Who is RES?

#### RES is restoring a resilient earth for a modern world, project by project.



- Founded in 2007, inspired by notion that restoration can be a win/win for both humanity and the environment
- Nation's largest ecological restoration company, creating ecological uplift by doubling down on nature's own processes
- Pioneered how to make environmental mitigation markets work with a turnkey, totalstewardship business model
- Innovative ecological problem solvers dedicated to being long-term stewards of the earth



The ecological uplift of a mitigation project helps offset unavoidable impacts of infrastructure projects like highway expansions.

### **RES Today**

Understanding the needs of the resource, client, regulators, and stakeholders at the nation, regional, and local levels.

- In-state teams with locally experienced, industry-leading talent
- Backed by national experts across the ecological disciplines
- Over 900 dedicated staff in 40 operational hubs





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### Restoring our land and waters





406

Mitigation sites

22,900,00

Trees planted



73,932

Acres of restored and protected lands



**292** Tons of water quality nutrient reductions



**607** *Miles of streams restored and conserved* 



**20,200** Acres of special-status species habitats



- Restoration Designer
- Restoration Contractor
- Regulatory approval support
- Implementation of biological conservation measures
- Long term monitoring and maintenance to meet performance criteria
- Performance guarantee



### **RES' Performance Guarantee**

- How is success defined for Klamath (and other RES projects)?
  - Progressive Design-Build with Performance Guarantee
    - Preliminary design to advance permitting
    - Restoration contractor input on design and permitting
    - Success criteria and timeline developed by RES through collaboration with regulatory agency
    - Construction self-perform or experienced subcontractors
    - RES is responsible for liability/success
    - Monitoring & maintenance performed by RES
    - RES liable until success criteria are achieved and approved by regulatory agencies





### Cultural Significance

Dams continue to impact cultural ceremonies, practices, and culturally-significant resources






# **Project Purpose**

# Achieve dam removal, a free-flowing condition on the Klamath River, and volitional fish passage.

# **Project Purpose**

- Deconstruction of four hydroelectric dam facilities on the Klamath River:
  - J.C. Boyle Dam
  - Copco No. 1 Dam
  - Copco No. 2 Dam
  - Iron Gate Dam

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These dams do *not* provide flood control, water for agriculture, or drinking water.







**es** 5/3/2022

#### Project Vicinity Map Klamath River Renewal Project

# **Ecological Issues**

- Reduced water quality
  - Toxic algae blooms in reservoirs
  - Below dams, increased temperature and decreased oxygen
  - Increased prevalence of fish health issues [e.g., *Ceratonova shasta, Ichthyopthirius multifiliis* (ICH), bacterial pathogen columnaris (*Flavobacter columnare*)]
- Imperiled Fish Populations
  - Threatened and endangered species
  - Tribal, commercial, and recreational fishing closures







# **Ecological Benefits**

- Improve water quality, water temperature, and flow
- Significantly reduce nuisance algae
- Sediment and debris transport
- Significantly reduce disease
- Restore access to historical habitat



Coho salmon Photo: Karuk Tribe; from: klamathrenewal.org



# **Ecological Significance**





# Restoration Activities





# **Schedule Periods**

Period	Actions	Duration
Pre-drawdown	Preparation Actions and Pre-drawdown Construction	1-year period*
Restoration Construction	Drawdown, Dam Removal, and Restoration Construction Years 1 and 2	2-year period*
Monitoring and Maintenance	Maintenance and Monitoring Actions	5-year period**
	*=pending timing of FERC/Gov Approvals in pl **= anticipated year performance criteria will b achieved	

### **Pre-Drawdown Fisheries Work**



#### Salvage and relocation of Lost River and Shortnose Suckers



Lost River Sucker – C'waam



Shortnose Sucker - Koptu

Mainstem salvage of overwintering juvenile Coho Salmon



Coho salmon parr



River seining



### Drawdown Fisheries Work

Juvenile Salmonid Capture and Relocation







# Water Quality Monitoring





Declarer: This decoment has been prepared based on Information provided by others as clear in the Notes Jacobia lacebaak has not welfed the accuracy and/or complements of this Information and shall not be responsible for any errors or omissions which may be incorporated. Health as been based on Information provided by others as clear in the Responsible for any errors or omissions which may be incorporated. Health as been based on the Notes Jacobia for any errors or omissions which may be incorporated.



#### **Restoration Goals**

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# Free Flowing River: Fish Passage Monitoring







#### **Restoration Elements**



#### **Sediment Stabilization & Habitat Enhancement**

- 1. Seed Collection and Yield Increase
- 2. IEV Treatment

- 3. Reservoir Area & Tributary Restoration
- 4. Large Wood Placement



### **Seed Collection & Propagation**



- Collect seed directly from the watershed
  - Seed collection began in 2018 and continues
  - Seeds collected from +/- 29 native, species present in the watershed
- Purchase geographically & genetically appropriate seeds to supplement
- Goal is to collect 40-60K seeds/~9 billion seeds!
  - Enough to seed newly exposed reservoir footprints, twice
- Target application rate of 80 seeds/sq.ft.

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Seed Collection Team



Seed Cleaning



Klamath plum (Prunus subcordata)

### **Native Plant Palette**

- Collect native species from the watershed
- Select species for propagation or direct dispersal



Рорру



Royal Penstemon



Lupine



Ceonothus



Turkey Mullein



Lomatium sp.



Lomatium seed





Smooth Blazing Star



#### Invasive Exotic Vegetation (IEV) Management Goals





Minimize IEV abundance at all restoration sites

- Control IEV dispersal into restoration areas after dam removal
- Maintain IEV-free zones around access roads and staging areas
- Ensure early detection and eradication of IEV within restoration sites



#### **IEV Control Methods**





- Grubbing (physical removal)
- Mowing or cutting
- Solarization
- Herbicides
- Other Possible Methods (Grazing/Tilling and/or disking)



#### **Restoration Approach**





- LiDAR and Photogrammetric Surveys
- Supplemental ground surveys
- 60% Design progressed to 90% Design postdrawdown
  - 90% Design progressed to FINAL Design
- Reservoir areas and high priority tributaries
  - JC Boyle: Spencer Creek
  - Copco No. 1: Beaver Creek
  - Iron Gate: Jenny Creek, Scotch Creek, Camp Creek



G. Troop

### **Restoring the Reservoir Footprint: Copco Example**







### **Pioneer Seeding**





# **Diversity Seeding**







# High Priority Tributaries – Camp/Scotch Creek



#### Restoration Considerations

- Fish passage
- Response at delta deposits
- Compatibility with new culvert designs
- Form (single- or multi-thread)



### Large Wood Placement





Helicopter Placement



Ground Based Placement



#### **Restoration Activities: Former Dam Footprint**







# Adaptive Design Feedback Loop







# **Monitoring Performance**



Restoration Plan Component	Monitoring Element
Riparian and Upland Revegetation	Native Vegetation
IEV Management	% IEV Vegetation
Reservoir Areas	Sediment Stability
riority Tributaries	Fish Passage
	Bank Stability
	Floodplain Connectivity
	Floodplain Roughness
	Channel Fringe Complexity
Klamath River	Fish Passage
Dam Footprints	Fish Passage



#### Additional Monitoring & Resource Measures



#### Monitoring

- Water quality
- Fish passage
- Fish presence
- Sediment stability
- Landscape photo points

#### **Management Plans (MP)**

- Reservoir Area MP
- Terrestrial and Wildlife MP
- Water Quality MP

#### **Resource Measures**

- Sucker (C'waam & Koptu) rescue and relocation
- Mainstem rescue and relocation of overwintering juvenile coho
- Juvenile salmonid rescue and relocation
- Spawning habitat availability

- Aquatic Resources MP
  - AR-6 Suckers (CA & OR)
  - Fish Presence Monitoring Plan
  - Juvenile Salmonid and Pacific Lamprey Rescue and Relocation Plan
  - Spawning Habitat Availability Report and Plan



#### **Restoration Activities: JC Boyle Rendering**







#### **Project Contacts**

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# Websites

Klamath River Renewal Corporation: https://www.klamathrenewal.org/

**RES Klamath Website:** <u>res.us/klamath</u>

FERC eLibrary Submittal Updated Management Plans: https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession\_num=20211214-5058

FERC eLibrary Submittal ALSA: https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?document\_id=14908104&acce ssionnumber=20201117-5191

Preparing the Klamath Basin for Dam Removal Story Map: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/8d96c0764ed44643bad392cb73ef

<u>Ac54</u>

Guardians of the River: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5lcP\_9ateE

# J.C. Boyle Restoration Areas





# **Copco Lake Restoration Areas**



# **Iron Gate Reservoir Restoration Areas**





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# **Project Contacts**

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Population Resilience to Climate/Drought/Wildfire Impacts








## NF Salmon River After 1987 Fires







Mid Klamath Watershed Council

MKWC and tribal partners are building a restoration-based economy in the Western Klamath Mountains. We are results oriented and work through developed partnerships to plan and implement projects based on traditional cultural knowledge and the best available western science.

2018 Natchez Fire

Happy Camp

2017 Oak Fire

- Burned 120,000 acres in 24hrs (30 mi. x 9 mi.)

a

- Over 230 homes burned
- Sustained 50 mph East wind with 3% humidity
- Three Deaths







## Spring Chinook Salmon - Lower Clear Creek

#### 2014: Boulder Gulch – NF Salmon River – Spring Chinook Rotting Under Ledge







# SOLASTALGIA

**Solastalgia** (<u>/\_sple'stæld3</u>) is a <u>neologism</u>, formed by the combination of the Latin words <u>solācium</u> (comfort) and the Greek root <u>-algia</u> (pain, suffering, grief), that describes a form of emotional or existential distress caused by environmental change. It is best described as the lived experience of negatively perceived environmental change.





Connected over 26,000 square feet of existing beaver ponds using Beaver Dam Analogues (BDAs) in Boise Creek to salmon





#### Off-Channel Habitat Construction for Juvenile Coho Salmon (2010 – Present)



- 2010: Stender, Buma, Alexander Ponds All on Seiad Creek
- 2011: Lower Seiad and West Grider Ponds
- 2012: May Pond on Seiad Creek
- 2013: Ponds on Tom Martin, O'Neil, Camp, and Stanshaw Creeks
- 2014: DeCoursey Pond (Middle Creek trib to Horse Creek) and Durazo Ponds on Seiad Creek.
- 2015: Goodman Pond on Middle Creek
- 2017: Lawrence Ponds on Horse Creek
- 2018: Fish Gulch Ponds on Horse Creek
- 2020: China Creek, Little Horse Creek
- Primary objective is to rapidly increase coho winter rearing habitat, however summer use has been documented in all ponds.
- Extensive Monitoring: water quality (DO, temp), snorkel surveys, mark/recap popn estimates, maintaining habitat connectivity.
- Shari Anderson MS thesis (2014) on coho growth, density, and abundance in constructed habitats, as well as tributary and beaver influenced habitats. HSU grad student Michelle Krall published MS thesis (2016).
- Funding: USFWS Partners Program, NFWF/PacifiCorp, FishAmerica/NMFS, Caltrans/USFS and CDFW.













#### Horse Creek – Spawning Coho – Dec 2015



# Goodman Pond, Middle Creek (trib to Horse Creek)





#### Fish Gulch Off-Channel Ponds & LWD Project

Converted old mining pond to fish habitat



#### Fish Gulch Mining Pond

#### Horse Creek at Fish Gulch

May Pond Temperature Data :2014-2017



# Some Lessons Learned (So Far)

- Deeper is better (2.5m min at summer base flow).
- Groundwater flow improves DO and stabilizes temps.
- Large wood is good but not essential.
- Short access channels that have small apertures at summer base flow and larger apertures at winter base flow ideal. These habitats are intended to keep coho genetics around while we work towards restoring larger floodplain processes. We have yet to saturate a coho stream with off-channel habitat. The fish are telling us they want more.

## Upper Horse Valley (February 4, 2022)

60 coho redds in the 2021-2022 season utilizing 12 installed wood structures

# Horse Creek Valley

Coho Spawner Survey Results: Horse Creek and Seiad Creek







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Map by Mid Klamath Watershed Council March 23, 2022

Horse Creek 2021/2022 Coho Survey Reach 2: Morgan Diversion to Fish Gulch



Reach start and end points


MID-KLAMATH
FLOODPLAIN HABITAT
ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

SISKIYOU COUNTY, CA

#### Stillwater Sciences 850 G ST, SUITE K ARCATA, CA 95521 P: (707) 822-9607

LEGEND		
	KLAMATH RIVER	
####+00 	STATIONING IN FEET	
	TRIBUTARIES	
•	CITY	
	SITE VIEW FRAME	

Code	Design Site	Site No.	Reach No.		
LHC	Little Horse Creek	6	6		
CC	China Creek	8	8		
TC	Thompson Creek	10	10		
SVA	Lower Seiad Valley	16A	16		
SVB	Mid-Seiad Valley	16B	16		
SVC	Upper Seiad Valley	16C	16		
CFA	Cherry Flat A	27A	27		
CFB	Cherry Flat B	27B	27		
LHA	Little Humbug Creek A	32A	32		
LHB	Little Humbug Creek B	32B	32		
VC	Vesa Creek	39	39		
AVC	Above Vesa Creek	40	40		
HCA	Lower Humbug Creek	45A	45		
HCB	Humbug Creek	45B	45		
HCC	Upper Humbug Creek	45C	45		





#### Creating a Social and Cultural Movement to Change How We Manage Fire

#### Current Fire Suppression Policy: Maximizing the Negative Impacts of Fire in the Klamath Mountains

- 98+ percent of all fire starts are suppressed.
- The few fires that escape suppression start at the hottest, driest times of year and turn into unstoppable megafires.
- > proportion of high intensity fire, > risk to firefighters and communities.
- Nearly 500,000 acres burned, \$550 million dollars spent on fire suppression in the Klamath Mtns in past decade.
- Despite devastating effects to Fire Dependent Ecosystems and Cultures, there has never been an environmental analysis of the effects of fire suppression. Disaster Capitalism's poster child.

2013 Salmon Complex Fire

### 2017 Klamath TREX Prescribed Burn



# **Offield Mountain**

Hardele Martin



### 2022 Klamath River Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TREX)



Three two week-long trainings this Fall: Oct 3 – 14, Klamath Women's TREX Oct 17-28, Oct 31-Nov 10

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- Restoration Warriors: Petey Brucker, Jim Villeponteaux, Rocco Fiori
- My Kids: Owen and Rory

## INFLAMED Deep Medicine and the Anatomy of Injustice



"I will tell you something about stories . . . They aren't just entertainment. Don't be fooled. They are all we have, you see, all we have to fight off illness and death. You don't have anything if you don't have the stories. Their evil is mighty but it can't stand up to our stories. So they try to destroy the stories, let the stories be confused or forgotten. They would like that. They would be happy. Because we would be defenseless then. He rubbed his belly. "I keep them here.""

— Leslie Marmon Silko, Ceremony



Running the gauntlet: the burdens of aquatic pathogens and river conditions on California's Central Valley Chinook salmon

Mark Conlin SuperStock/Corbis **Camilo Sanchez**, Ben Atencio, Florian Mauduit, Amelie Segarra, Felix Biefel, Sascha L. Hallett, Stephen D. Atkinson, Richard Connon, Miles E. Daniels

# Why study salmonid pathogens?

Worldwide decline in salmonid abundance

- Southern salmon at a particularly high risk
- California's salmonids are the most at risk

#### Anthropogenic changes

- Change in hydrodynamics, water chemistry
- Habitat loss, degradation
- Climate change

# Anthropogenic factors and pathogens

- Produces increased pathogen abundance and decreased salmonid fitness
- Pathogens increasingly identified as stressors on North American west coast
- Changes in life-cycle dynamics

# Questions and hypotheses

- <u>Question 1</u>: What salmonid pathogens are found in these rivers? How does prevalence vary in space?
  - <u>Hypothesis</u>: Distribution and diversity of pathogens will not be uniform in space. These factors can be tied to locations and environmental conditions.
- <u>Question 2</u>: What is the expected abundance of, and mortality from, these pathogens and how does that vary in space?
  - <u>Hypothesis</u>: Hotspots for infection and mortality risk will be correlated to locations and will change with environmental conditions



# Study outlook and goals

- Sentinel fish caging study
- Assess pathogen prevalence
- Tie to infection risk
- Validation of monitoring methods

#### Coleman NFH

Red Bluff

Gridley

Wilkins Slough

Hood Rio Vista Stockton

> Mossdale Vernalis

- 9 total sites
  - 2 Feather sites
  - 4 Sacramento sites
  - 3 San Joaquin sites
  - Control

 Sentinel sites near DWR monitoring stations



# Methods

- Hatchery-reared fish in surface floating cages
  - Deployed for 14 days
  - Subsampled on days 7 & 14 for gill, kidney, and intestinal tissues
- Water samples taken concurrently with deployments



# Most Commonly Detected Pathogens



- Myxozoan parasites
  - Ceratonova shasta
  - Parvicapsula minibicornis
- Epithelial pathogens
  - Candidatus Branchiomonas cysticola
  - Dermocystidium salmonis
  - Ichthyoptherius multifiliis, "Ich"

# Myxozoan parasites

#### Ceratonova shasta

- Enters the gills
- Affects digestive tract, other organs, and muscle
- "Gut rot"
- Infection progression is temperature dependent
- Utilizes an annelid intermediate host
- Parvicapsula minibicornis
  - Affects gill, kidney
  - Utilizes an annelid intermediate host



Bartholomew Lab

## Myxozoan Parasite: C. shasta

- eDNA in  $\log_2 (\text{copy}#/L H_2O)$
- Tissue in log<sub>2</sub> (copy#/100ng DNA)



## Myxozoan Parasite: P. minibicornis

- eDNA in log<sub>2</sub> (copy#/L H<sub>2</sub>O)
- Tissue in log<sub>2</sub> (copy#/100ng DNA)



# Epithelial pathogens

• Candidatus Branchiomonas cisticola

• Dermocystidium salmonis

• Ichthyoptherious multifiliis, "ich"





Wiik-Nielsen et. al, 2017



USGS / Bob Olsen



Leah Mellinger

### Epithelial Pathogen: C. B. cysticola

- eDNA in log<sub>2</sub> (copy#/L H<sub>2</sub>O)
- Tissue in log<sub>2</sub> (copy#/100ng DNA)



# Epithelial Parasite: D. salmonis

- eDNA in log<sub>2</sub> (copy#/L H<sub>2</sub>O)
- Tissue in log<sub>2</sub> (copy#/100ng DNA)



# Epithelial Parasite: I. multifiliis

- eDNA in log<sub>2</sub> (copy#/L H<sub>2</sub>O)
- Tissue in log<sub>2</sub> (copy#/100ng DNA)



# Is there a correlation between eDNA and tissue detections?

# Research is ongoing!

- Incorporate data from intestinal tissue
- 3 months of 2021 sentinel studies
- Correlating to environmental parameters
- Year-round eDNA monitoring

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### END

### Myxozoan parasites



P. minibicornis

Day 0










# <u>Ceratonova shasta</u>

#### • <u>C.shasta:</u>

• Endemic to the Klamath river basin (several different genotypes)



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# Pathogens

• Ceratonova shasta:



- "Gut rot"
  Myxosporean parasite
- Affects digestive tract, other organs, gills, and muscle
- Infection progression is temperature dependent
- Utilizes a polychaete and salmonid host
- Flavobacterium psychrophilum:



- "Cold water disease"
- Bacterial
- Gill disease common in hatchery fish
- Ichthyophthirius multifiliis:
  - "White spot disease; Ich"
  - Protozoan, Parasitic cilia
  - Causes ulceration and loss of skin
  - Most common and persistent fish disease

- Parvicaposula minibicornis:
  - Myxosporean parasite
  - Affects gill, kidney
  - Utilizes a polychaete and salmonid host
- <u>Rickettsia-like organism</u>
  - "Cat scratch disease"
  - Bacterial
  - Causes abnormal swimming behavior



- <u>Tetracapsuloides brysalmonae:</u>
  - "Proliferative kidney disease"
  - Myxosporean parasite
  - Affects kidney, spleen, gills
  - Utilizes a bryozoan and salmonid host



# Sampling fish

### Capture two different datasets to inform population level impacts

Free ranging fish		Sentinel fish			
USFWS Arcata & Ca-Nv Fish Health Center		OSU, Bartholomew Lab			
Outmigrating juveniles		Caged juveniles			
Natural and hatchery origin		Hatchery origin			
Chinook		Chinook, coho, rainbow trout			
Moving through tl	ne system, history unknown	Set location and time, known history			
Killed upon captui	re, qPCR & histology	Observed 60 days, microscopy & PCR			

# Sentinel Fish Exposures











# Sampling fish - metrics

### Free Ranging Fish

- Prevalence of infection
- Severity of infection (disease?)
- amount of parasite DNA
- histopathology score

### <u>Sentinel Fish</u>

Prevalence of infection

Severity of infection (disease?)

- percent mortality (moribund)
- rate of progression





- Hatchery-reared fish in surface floating cage
  - Deployed for 14 days
  - Subsampled on days 7 & 14 for gill, kidney, and intestinal tissues
- Water samples were taken concurrently with deployments



• C.B. cysticola Wiik-Nielsen et. al, 2017



### Conservation and Restoration of Adaptive Genomic Variation

### **Devon Pearse**

Molecular Ecology and Genetic Analysis Team



Fisheries Ecology Division/Southwest Fisheries Science Center and Adjunct Assistant Professor Dept. of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology University of California, Santa Cruz

> SRF, Santa Cruz, CA April 22, 2022





>Genetics 101:

### A LOCUS is a single piece of the genome.

Region, Gene, or Single Nucleotide (base) Polymorphism (SNP)

A single locus can have multiple ALLELES, e.g. A and a. multiple haplotypes-- SARS-CoV-2 variants!

Unlike SARS-CoV-2, in most animals these ALLELES combine within individuals into GENOTYPES: AA, Aa, aa



How is genetic variation—*biodiversity*— distributed among the fundamental biological units—individuals, populations, species?

How can we best conserve it given that knowledge?

### **Adaptive Genomic Variants**

are variable, and their connection with specific phenotypes varies





### **Genetics** $\rightarrow$ **Genomics:** data is now almost limitless.



### **Neutral vs Adaptive is not binary--really a continuum!**

mod. from Peterson et al. 2012, Plos One



### AGV associated with Salmonid Life-History traits:

>Age-of-Return: How many years at sea?
Vgll3: Early = 1 or 2 years Late = 2 or 3 years

>Run-Timing: When do adults migrate into freshwater?
Greb1L/Rock1: Early=Spring/Summer, Late=Fall/Winter

>Anadromy/Residency: Migrate to the ocean or not?
Omy05: O. mykiss: steelhead or Rainbow trout

>Many others, e.g. Larson et al. 2017 Beach/stream sockeye

**>AGV is ubiquitous!** What does this mean for conservation?





>Sex-dependent dominance

EL male = EE EL female = LL >Not associated with age-of-return in Pacific Salmon. (Waters et al. 2021)



### Greb1L: Early vs. Late Run-Timing in steelhead





### >Single locus of major effect?

>Explained 46% of trait variation.

*>Greb1L* conserved physiological functions across vertebrates.



### Early vs. Late Run-Timing in Steelhead & Chinook!!





#### Early vs. Late Run-Timing in Chinook Salmon: 1.0 A 9,170,403 million SNPs



LL=Late, Fall





## Sequence variation in the Greb1L/Rock1 region What is a LOCUS?



From Waples et al. 2022: Chinook data from Thompson et al. 2020, steelhead data from Micheletti et al. 2018



### **Genomic Basis of Anadromy/Residency**

### >Numerous studies on genetic basis of anadromy in *O. mykiss*:

Robison et al. 2001; O'Malley et al. 2003; Thrower et al. 2004; Leder et al. 2006; Phillips et al. 2006; Nichols et al. 2007, 2008; Haidle et al. 2008; Colihueque et al. 2010; Paibomesai et al. 2010; Easton et al. 2011; Le Bras et al. 2011; Martínez et al. 2011; Miller et al. 2012; Narum et al. 2011; Limborg et al. 2012; Hecht et al. 2012a,b; Hale et al. 2014; Pearse et al. 2014; McKinney et al. 2015; Baerwald et al. 2015; Leitwein et al. 2016; Apgar et al. 2017; Abadia-Cardoso et al. 2019; Arostegui et al. 2019; Pearse et al. 2019; Kelson et al. 2019a,b, 2020a,b,c; Fraik et al. 2021

### >Polygenic — multiple loci with environmentally-dependent effects.

>Chromosome Omy05 contains single locus of major affect for this trait.





## Genomic Basis of Anadromy/Residency: Omy05

Massive double inversion complex on chromosome Omy05

>50 million DNA base pairs>1,000 genesActs as a single locus 'supergene'.

A = ancestral, anadromy R = rearranged, resident Individuals have genotypes: AA, AR, RR

Sex-specific phenotypic effects



Pearse et al. 2019, Nature ecology & evolution



### **Genomic Basis of Anadromy/Residency: Omy05**

Strong cline in steelhead (below barrier) populations:



Pearse et al. 2019, *Nature ecology & evolution* 





Journal of Heredity, 2022, 1–24 https://doi.org/10.1093/jhered/esab069 Invited Review Advance Access publication March 19, 2022

**Invited Review** 

### Implications of Large-Effect Loci for Conservation: A Review and Case Study with Pacific Salmon

Robin S. Waples, Michael J. Ford, Krista Nichols, Marty Kardos, Jim Myers, Tasha Q. Thompson, Eric C. Anderson, Ilana J. Koch, Garrett McKinney, Michael R. Miller, Kerry Naish, Shawn R. Narum, Kathleen G. O'Malley, Devon E. Pearse, "George R. Pess, Thomas P. Quinn, Todd R. Seamons, Adrian Spidle, Kenneth I. Warheit, and Stuart C. Willis"



### >Adaptive variants reflect ecological conditions

that favor the phenotypes they are associated with.

### >Relative reproductive success of individuals with different genotypes/phenotypes.

Science	REPORTS
	Cite as: Y. Czorlich et al.,

VgII3

### Rapid evolution in salmon life history induced by direct and indirect effects of fishing

#### Y. Czorlich<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>, T. Aykanat<sup>3</sup>, J. Erkinaro<sup>2</sup>, P. Orell<sup>2</sup>, C. R. Primmer<sup>3,5\*</sup>

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Science 10.1126/science.abg5980 (2022).

### >Adaptive variants reflect ecological conditions: Omy05.



>Create reservoirs above them.

>Can retain adaptive variation.



Photo: Alex McHuron

#### Omy05 A variant present in reservoirs in:

Coastal CA San Francisco Bay area Tuolumne and Merced American River Pearse et al. 2014, 2019 Leitwein et al. 2017 Pearse & Campbell 2018 Abadía-Cardoso et al. 2019



*modified from* Lindley et al. 2006

### >Adaptive variants reflect ecological conditions: Greb1L.



Butte Creek Spring Run Chinook. Photo by D. Pearse



### **Conclusions**

### >Advances in genomics provide tools for understanding, but

Lack of scientific knowledge is often not the limiting factor for conservation

### Complex variation and interactions among adaptive variants.

steelhead have both Greb1L/Rock1 and Omy05

### >Diverse, dynamic, connected habitats and the portfolio effect.

Focus on conservation 'units' creates challenges in the face of the biological diversity of nature



## Thank you!



... then he yelled "evolution!" and simply jumped out ...



# Factors affecting spatiotemporal variation in survival of endangered winter-run Chinook salmon outmigrating from the Sacramento River

Jason L. Hassrick | Arnold J. Ammann | Russell W. Perry | Sara N. John | Miles E. Daniels

First published: 21 January 2022

North American Journal of Fisheries Management

Article 🖻 Open Access 💿 🛈

Salmonid Restoration Federation



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## Timing is everything



Illustration: Robin Ade, 1997

# Why bother?



Diversions



## Takeaways

- 1. Life history traits for stopover behavior persist
- 2. Stopover behavior occurs in a key stretch of river with evidence for density dependent habitat availability
- 3. The effect of habitat covariates on survival changes
- 4. Flow matters in different ways, depending on scale
- 5. Implications for increased temps on survival of natural-origin fish



# Summary of Tagged Winter-Run

Release date	Number fish acoustic tagged	Weight in grams (mean ± SD)	Fork length in mm (mean ± SD)	Tag burden in % (mean, range)	Hatchery winter-run released	Flow at Bend Bridge in m <sup>3</sup> sec <sup>-1</sup> (mean, range)		
7 Feb 2013	148	10.3 ± 1.7	98 ± 5.0	4.3 (2.5-5.4)	166,967	168 (127-289)		
14 Feb 2014	358	9.4 ± 2.4	95 ± 7.7	3.9 (2.0-5.8)	190,905	187 (108-790)		
4, 6 Feb 2015	249, 318	10.5 ± 2.0	100 ± 6.1	3.2 (2.0-5.9)	590,623	197 (105-1,453)		
17-18 Feb 2016	285, 285	9.3 ± 1.6	96 ± 5.1	3.6 (2.3-5.3)	415,865	432 (151-1,603)		
2 Feb 2017	569	9.1 ± 2.4	93 ± 7.5	3.7 (1.7-5.7)	141,388	1,315 (385-2,832)		

\* Bend Bridge (USGS 2021)











## Median travel time per reach



# Off-channel habitat




### Habitat-Survival depends on fish behavior and where they are



### Habitat-Survival depends on fish behavior and where they are



## Association of covariates with survival



Beta estimate (95% CI)



# Flow-survival relationships

**A**. Survival as a function of mean annual flow

**B**. Effect of the reach x annual flow interaction

C. Survival as a function of reach flow

#### Winter-run don't go with the flow





# Summary

- 1. Fixed habitat variables unevenly distributed and the effect of habitat variables on survival changed as fish moved from holding to outmigrating.
- 2. Fish exhibited higher mortality in the middle section of the Sacramento, even when survival was scaled by travel time.
- 3. The top-ranked model included indirect associations with predator exposure, particularly with revetment and reach velocity.
- 4. Pulse flows are more important for improving reach survival in low flow years.
- 5. Temperature impacts on natural-origin fish outmigrating in the fall are likely to me more severe.

# Questions?

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