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To: Howard Brown; Barbara Byrne - NOAA Federal
Subject: steelhead production

This is from the steelhead I&S (modified from CWF)-

An estimated 100,000 to 300,000 naturally produced juvenile steelhead are estimated to leave the Central Valley annually, based on rough calculations from sporadic catches in trawl gear (Good et al. 2005), compared to Nobriga and Cadrett (2001) who used adipose fin-clipped (hatchery) to unclipped (wild) steelhead smolt catch ratios in the Chipps Island trawl from 1998 through 2000 to estimate that about 400,000 to 700,000 steelhead smolts are produced naturally each year in the Central Valley. These smolts are predominantly originating from the Sacramento River basin. The Mossdale trawls, on the San Joaquin River conducted annually by CDFW and USFWS, capture steelhead smolts only in very small numbers. Those Mossdale recoveries, which represent migrants from the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced rivers, suggest that the productivity of CCV steelhead in these tributaries is very low.

Catches of steelhead at the fish collection facilities in the southern Delta are another source of information on the relative abundance of the CCV steelhead DPS, as well as the production of wild steelhead relative to hatchery steelhead (<ftp.delta.dfg.ca.gov/salvage>). The overall catch of steelhead has declined dramatically since the early 2000s, with an overall average of 2,705 smolts salvaged per year from 2004 to 2014. The percentage of wild (unclipped) fish in salvage has fluctuated, but has leveled off to an average of 36 percent since a high of 93 percent in 1999.

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