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**Presentation Title: California Steelhead: Management, Monitoring and Recovery Efforts**

Abstract for the 2018 Pacific Coast Steelhead Management Meeting

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California has six Distinct Population Segments (DPS) of steelhead as determined by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The Northern California (NC), Central California Coast (CCC), California Central Valley (CV), South-Central California Coast (SCCC) DPS are listed as threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Southern California Coast (SCC) DPS is listed as endangered under ESA and the Klamath Mountains Province (KMP) DPS is not listed. In 2016, NMFS completed 5-year reviews of the five listed DPS and recommended not to change their listing status. There has not been a formal NMFS review of the KMP DPS since 2001 and the listing status of the KMP DPS remains “not warranted”.

Based on limited census data on wild stocks, it appears that California’s steelhead populations range from stable to declining. However, monitoring efforts in California to assess steelhead population abundance and trends remain limited challenging our ability to evaluate stock status. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is working to expand the implementation of monitoring plans developed to assess both California Coastal and Central Valley steelhead populations.

The primary limiting factors for California steelhead remain low streamflow and barriers impeding access to former habitat. Other challenges to steelhead recovery include habitat degradation, urbanization, poor land use practices, water diversions, hatchery practices, and drought. Many populations are still recovering from a prolonged drought that not only reduced habitat quality, but also restricted passage of migrating smolts, adult spawners, and kelts for several years. Recent natural disasters, such as fires and mudslides, as well as, a dam failure have further impacted some steelhead populations.

Implementation of recovery actions for steelhead populations in California is critical. Current federal recovery plans exist for the five listed DPS (NMFS 2012, NMFS 2013, NMFS 2014, and NMFS 2016) and CDFW is updating the Steelhead Restoration and Management Plan for California (1996). Restoration efforts for steelhead have focused on priority recovery task recommendations in these documents. CDFW is also continuing to implement hatchery reforms identified by the California Hatchery Review Report (2012) and work with partner agencies to develop hatchery genetic management plans for steelhead programs.