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<u>Presentation Title</u>: Recent Issues in the Idaho Steelhead Fisheries and Use of an Integrated Population Model to Address them.

Abstract for the 2021 Pacific Coast Steelhead Management Meeting

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Idaho Department of Fish and Game recently completed the ESA consultation on steelhead fisheries in Idaho which included updates and public comments on our Steelhead Fisheries Management and Evaluation Plan (FMEP). Here we briefly review the issues raised by the public during our FMEP review and the research that is helping inform our understanding of the biological significance of the issues. Using juvenile and adult steelhead abundances from 1992 to 2020 in Fish Creek, a major spawning area for the wild Idaho Lochsa River steelhead population, allowed us to develop an integrated population model to test the effects of minimum escapement thresholds prior to opening the fishery, variable encounter rates in the fishery, and increased catch and release mortality rates on the projected steelhead adult returns. The combination of a long time series of data and the integrated population model has enhanced our understanding of the biology and management of wild steelhead in Idaho.