

Southern Steelhead Fish Passage Advisory Committee (FishPAC) Charter

Salmon, steelhead and other aquatic life depend on healthy rivers and streams. Some of the characteristics needed for healthy populations of salmon and steelhead include unobstructed migration, spawning and rearing habitat, cold water, and natural meandering channels. Many instream barriers at road crossings were constructed in alignment with current laws in an era when fish migration was not a major concern. However, those barriers restrict migration and passage of aquatic organisms, and have contributed to the decline of fish populations in California. Providing unimpeded fish passage for aquatic species requires the collective expertise of federal and state agencies, tribes, and nonprofit entities to create a remediation strategy. FishPAC members work together to creatively, effectively, and efficiently assess and prioritize barriers considered for remediation to nominate priority barriers that would provide the most benefit to fish. Efforts also include partnering to develop, design, and permit projects as well as post-construction assessments of outcomes of strategic fish passage barrier remediation to promote progress and support of remediating other barriers.

PURPOSE

The Fish Passage Advisory Committee (FishPAC) is a collaborative effort among the two organizing and supporting members—California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) —as well as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), state conservation agencies, Trout Unlimited, tribal partners, and other interested advocates of fish passage efforts.

The purpose of the FishPAC is to cooperatively share science and data related to known fish barriers, and to develop methods to consider and prioritize a) locations for needed assessments and b) biological priorities for remediating. The FishPAC tracks the status of active and funded fish passage barriers until they are remediated, and will assess and document post-construction fish passage effectiveness to ensure that the solutions are effective for migrating salmon and steelhead.

FishPAC MISSION

The mission of the FishPAC is to identify and prioritize barriers to fish passage, and to support the implementation of effective solutions for fish passage projects within the FishPAC geographic area. The FishPAC will recommend technical solutions, explore options for accelerated delivery of projects, identify potential funding mechanisms for new barrier removal projects, and support the long-term monitoring and maintenance of existing fish passage facilities.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

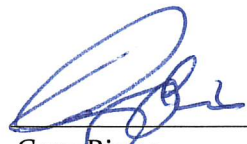
Participation in the FishPAC is voluntary. Each member will strive to create an effective working relationship among the partners, seeking to identify and seize opportunities to achieve mutual fish passage barrier remediation goals, and to contribute to the necessary science and data that is associated with prioritizing fish passage barrier locations and biological priorities. All members of the FishPAC will share information regarding passage priorities and potential funding opportunities, help scope effective solutions for remediation efforts, assist with permitting issues on individual passage improvement projects, and explore options for accelerated delivery of projects as well as opportunities to increase the ecological value of barrier removal projects. Specific tasks will be assigned to meet the FishPAC goals.

The FishPAC will meet quarterly. It is expected that FishPAC members will contribute time, in addition to quarterly meetings, to achieve the goals of the FishPAC; some of this non-meeting effort may require assistance from other agency staff to complete specific tasks. The FishPAC may, as needed, report more frequently or convene with participating agency management, to achieve its goals.

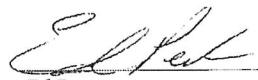
Caltrans and CDFW will convene meetings of the FishPAC.

Nothing in this Charter shall obligate any of the signing parties to expend state or federal funds to support the FishPAC. The term of the FishPAC Charter is through December 31, 2023. Upon consensus of the FishPAC, the Charter may be amended by the Committee during this term to include additional Committee members, new agency partners, or to better reflect the goals of the FishPAC and participating agencies.

_____ Date: _____
John Bulinski
Caltrans District 7 Director
Director

 Date: 4/30/19
Cory Binns
Caltrans District 11

 Date: 12/14/18
Gerardo DeSantos
Acting District 12 Director

 Date: 3-22-18
Ed Pert
Region Manager
CDFW Region 5