

Notes & Action Items from CFPF Science & Data Committee Call

November 13, 2019 1:00-3:00pm

Attendees: Holly, Sandi, Alex, Brett, Bob, Damon, and Alicia

Yellow = Individual or Group Action Items

Green = Decision items

FISHPass Rollout & Next Steps

FISHPass Rollout

Following a presentation at the 2019 AFS National Conference by Brett and Alicia, FISHPass was officially released on Oct 4 via an email blast to the Forum's listserve, on the Forum website. Brett, Alex, and Alicia held an introductory webinar on October 24. The recording is available on the Forum's website (www.cafishpassageforum.org/fishpass).

Feedback from users has been minor, but generally positive. Brett also is able to see some information on the users, as well as the runs they've attempted. As of Nov 13, there had been 22 new users (non-Forum members or FISHPass developers) that have used the tool, resulting in 40 model runs, about half of which were successful. In most cases where error screens were encountered when users selected too large of a region to analyze, or did not enter the cost data estimates correctly. In most cases the users were able to rectify these issues and the next run worked. He is working to collect this information in a way that it can be analyzed for future refinements of the tool.

There has been some inquiries into the data inputs, including a request from the Coastal Conservancy for cost data information. Brett shared what he could (primarily the list of sources and the cost data analysis document developed Summer 2019), but did not share specific information that was not already public per our agreement with those that we received data from.

One issue that has recently come to light is that FISHPass doesn't work as expected for resident populations. After consulting Dr. O'Hanley and Ecotrust, the issue is apparently that the OptiPass model was not designed to work with non-diadromous species/populations. Unfortunately, this was a feature discussed on the webinar. Damon pointed out that we are clear in the description of the tool various places on the website, that it is meant to be used for diadromous species, but the S&D Committee agreed it would be good to provide some clarification since that is an aspect the Forum had been advertising as a feature. This is primarily an issue in Southern California, and Brett noted that the BFH layer does still work throughout the rest of the state.

- Alicia will work with Alex and Brett to draft language/guidance to explain this discrepancy. This language will be added to the Forum website (where the webinar recording is posted), and will be incorporated into the User Manual and FAQ.
- The Science & Data Committee agreed to wait to host another webinar unless requests for individual webinars/trainings are made, or until an update/change has been made to FISHPass.
- The Science & Data Committee agreed to consider ways the issue with resident populations could be updated in a future iteration of FISHPass.

Alex and Brett analyzed the projects received through the Forum's FY20 RFP in FISHPass and discussed the results with the Review Panel. **this was only done out of curiosity. It was not used as a way to score/rank projects.*

Next Steps

Alex and Alicia are working with USFWS Fish Passage Program on developing an article/feature story for the national website.

Alicia plans to submit a short article to NFHP's next NFHaPennings newsletter.

The Forum's Education & Outreach Committee will continue to explore additional ways to promote FISHPass building off of the FISHPass Rollout Plan including seeking organizations (possibly starting with Forum member organizations) to host targeted trainings.

Alicia set up a google doc for the FISHPass Working Group to use to collect ideas/features/changes/updates that could potentially be incorporated into "Phase 2". There are no "limits" to what is included in this document, so it is best described as a "Wish List".

PAD Gap Analysis Update

Brett provided the S&D Committee with a brief update on the status of the PAD Gap Analysis (he'd taken a bit of a hiatus on its development while the BFH layer was being refined). Currently looking at transportation crossings that have unknown/unassessed status in PAD, or aren't in the PAD at all. Brett overlaid the results of that analysis in an ownership layer. Brett has compiled this work in an application so Forum members can explore the progress.

The Science & Data Committee can access the [PAD Gap Analysis Application](#) using the previous hyperlink and the following login information.

Username: cfpforum

Password: cfpf4fish

The Science & Data Committee agreed to not get too much further into this until Anne is back from maternity leave and can provide another PAD update. Once she can refresh the data, we'll dig into it to see where we're lacking and target those areas.

PAD Gap Analysis Discussion

Question: Has this been done for all of CA? **Answer:** about 90% of what we want, but not including resident populations

Question: What road layers were used? How tight was the resolution? **Answer:** The main source of the road data are from the US Census (TIGER/Line Shapefiles, <https://www.census.gov/geographies/mapping-files/time-series/geo/tiger-line-file.html>) Resolution is decent, but not perfect, and there is an opportunity to include more forest roads in particular. Anne also included a railroad layer. Brett will look into finding better USFS road layers when this is run a second time.

Question: Does the information included in the description of a given point include information on stream size? **Answer:** If you click on hydrography and BFH layer on the point it is there, but not easily extractable in this version.

Question: What are the anticipated next steps? **Answer:** When Anne is back in the office and gets settled she can do her part with the different road layers. Brett would like to include focus on areas in Southern California. When this information has been incorporated an analysis looking for hot spots, targeted

drainages, places that haven't been assessed can be done. Brett is also open to ideas/feedback on how to approach that. Damon recommended looking into other data sources that haven't been incorporated into the PAD. Brett also suggested considering using the habitat quality areas under development for the FISHPass input.

This project is something that the Forum has been working on for years, and many members of the S&D Committee expressed their appreciation for the great work that Brett and Anne have done. This is a huge step forward in helping look at patterns, and possibly an opportunity to do some outreach to areas where there are gaps to help refine it.

Monitoring & Evaluation of Fish Passage Restoration Effectiveness

Following the review and discussion of the Forum's strategic framework this year, Alex saw Objective 5 ("Facilitate plans to monitor and evaluate fish passage restoration effectiveness to ensure accountability") as something the Science & Data Committee can/should take on in some way, shape, or form. Many of the projects that the Forum funds have a monitoring component (it is also something we score proposals on), but it doesn't appear that the Forum has kept up collecting this information.

Bob provided the Science & Data Committee with a quick overview of the history of the Forum's efforts to promote increased monitoring and evaluation (primarily through a research project the Forum contracted Ross Taylor to do), and the recommendation from this report that the Forum encourage/require the use of the NOAA Tier 1 Monitoring Form after completion of applicable projects and do additional analysis of the information received.

Sandi's recommended the following three steps as path forward, and the rest of the S&D Committee agreed to:

1. Reach out to as many of the completed Forum-funded projects as we can to request monitoring data. (One-one follow up will likely be necessary.)
 - Alicia will develop a proposed template for these asks, and provide to the S&D Committee for their approval.
 - Other suggested information to request includes:
 - Photos
 - Information to help inform passability in FISHPass.
 - Alicia will start reaching out to Forum-funded projects where contract information is available.
 - Alicia will work with Alex, Bob, and possibly Stan to find contact data/original proposals/final reports for projects where information is lacking.
 - Alicia will continue to post these proposals/reports as their collected to the Forum intranet, and update the NFHP Project Tracking Database as needed.
2. Get the Tier 1 forms filled out for as many of these projects as possible.
 - Alicia will work with project POCs to collect this information.
3. Initiate an effort to screen the databases of other grant programs to see what applicants are asked to complete/provide in terms of monitoring when they complete a grant. Consider ways to encourage the use of the NOAA Tier 1 Monitoring form by these other programs, and how that information might be collected/analyzed by the Forum.
 - Sandi offered to help with this task. Alicia will help as well.
 - Alex also asked if there is a catalogue/database of angler data that could be used as well?

Update on Barriers to Tidal Connectivity (BTC) Project (MSCG 2019) with PMEP & PLCI

The Forum continues to work in partnership with the Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership (PMEP) and the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative (PLCI) on the Barriers to Tidal Connectivity project which was awarded \$60K in 2019 MSCG funding to be spread across all three FHPs. PMEP continues to be the lead FHP on this project, and Alicia continues to work with Joan Drinkwin (PMEP), Christina Wang (PLCI), and Van Hare (PSMFC) to coordinate this project. Brett, Damon and Alicia recently participated in the first BTC Inter-FHP Working Group call. The Working Group will help guide the evolution of this project.

- If other members of the **S&D Committee** would like to join this Inter-FHP Working Group please contact Alicia ASAP. The next call is Dec 5 from 1-2:30pm.

Brett shared the ArcGIS workspace managed by PSMFC with the S&D Committee (login information included in the summary below). This is a catalogue of the various datasets available where each of the FHPs (PMEP, PLCI, and the Forum) can contribute data if they have additional resources that have not yet been considered/collected by PSMFC. **Information does not have to be spatially explicit, if there are useful reports or other relevant resources that could assist in this analysis please let us know.**

Brett hasn't found a lot of California specific data outside of the Bay Area, and is looking for recommendations on state-wide, regional, local data sets that could help identify not just tide gates (though those are very important), but also tidal restrictions (transportation/levys etc.) to help build these datasets out. The overarching goal of this initial effort is to get a handle on what's out there right now.

Project Summary

A recap of the goals of the project and work currently underway and/or information needed from the S&D Committee/Forum is included below:

Goal: The goal of this project is to characterize and synthesize information available regarding the location of intertidal water crossing structures and their impacts on estuarine fish and their habitats. This project will identify existing efforts currently underway to document and map restrictions to tidal connectivity in U.S. West Coast estuaries. Part of this work is to identify key data gaps and spatial analysis methods for future exploration. PMEP will also incorporate the salient information from this effort into its broader spatial data management system, allowing experts in the field to access location-specific data on intertidal water crossing structures within the broader West Coast-wide estuary data framework. This information will be helpful to practitioners along the West Coast working to protect and restore tidal connectivity, and for those who are planning future studies. The following includes the overarching tasks currently planned as part of this project:

- **GIS Compilation** of available datasets from across the FHP regions
 - PSMFC is currently working on the existing GIS data compilation. They have set up an ArcGIS workspace as part of this process. S&D Committee members can access this workspace using the following information:
 - [Barriers to Tidal Connectivity Inter-FHP Working Group ArcGIS Workspace](#)
 - **Username:** cfpforum
 - **Password:** cfpf4fish

**this log-in information is the same as what is used for the PAD Gap Analysis which is housed on the same platform, but the direct link is specific to this project.*

- **Workshop/Summit** that will bring together experts from across the three FHPs to review the information collected and products developed through the GIS data compilation, share other local knowledge/expertise, and identify gaps and technical (science and data) information needed to address ways to reduce restrictions to tidal connectivity.
 - The Forum will need to start thinking of who we would like to have
 - Represent the Forum; and
 - Invite on behalf of the Forum
- **Report** summarizing the spatial data sources that were catalogued and the key data groups identified, as well as a description of the outcomes from the workshop.

Alicia will send the SOW for this project out to the group again. (*A no-cost extension was requested and received to continue this project through the end of 2020.)

S&D Committee is asked to consider other ways this information can benefit the Forum. Because this project is just getting underway, now is the time to voice the Forum's needs to ensure they're addressed as part of this effort.

Mining Information from Project Proposals for PAD/FISHPass

During the review of proposals submitted in response to the Forum's FY20 RFP, it was noticed that in multiple cases PAD information included was incorrect or missing (ie didn't include a PAD id when it existed, barrier didn't have a PAD id, or the PAD id or barrier status were incorrect).

The S&D Committee discussed setting up a task in the FY20 S&D Work Plan to review proposals received in the past, and a process to review those submitted to future Forum RFPs as a way to help QA/QC the PAD.

Alicia will work on proposed text for a new task in the 2020 Work Plan to relate directly back to the RFP review process. This will be contingent on discussions with Anne once she returns from maternity leave.

Science & Data Committee 2019 Work Plan Review & 2020 Planning

The S&D Committee agreed to move this discussion to the yet to be scheduled December S&D Committee call.

Alicia will attach the latest version of the S&D Committee 2019 Work Plan to the email distributing these meeting notes and post to the Forum intranet.

The **S&D Committee** is asked to review the 2019 Work Plan and come to the December call with updates, and be ready to discuss possible revisions for the 2020 Work Plan.

Other Updates?

None were discussed.