

# **SOUTH-CENTRAL CALIFORNIA STEELHEAD RECOVERY PLAN**



**West Coast Region  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Long Beach, CA**

**December 2013**

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This document should be cited as: National Marine Fisheries Service. 2013. South-Central California Coast Steelhead Recovery Plan. West Coast Region, California Coastal Area Office, Long Beach, California.

Cover Photograph: South-Central California Steelhead, San Carpoforo Creek, San Luis Obispo County, California April 17, 2007. Mark H. Capelli, South-Central/Southern California Steelhead Recovery Coordinator, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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Final recovery plans can be downloaded from the NMFS website:

[http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/protected\\_species/salmon\\_steelhead/recovery\\_planning\\_and\\_implementation/south\\_central\\_southern\\_california\\_coast/south\\_central\\_southern\\_california\\_salmon\\_recovery\\_domain.html](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/protected_species/salmon_steelhead/recovery_planning_and_implementation/south_central_southern_california_coast/south_central_southern_california_salmon_recovery_domain.html)

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

NMFS wishes to thank and acknowledge Dr. David A. Boughton (NMFS's Southwest Fisheries Science Center, Sana Cruz) who chaired NMFS's South-Central/Southern California Steelhead Technical Recovery Team (TRT), and under whose leadership the scientific foundation and framework of the South-Central California Coast Steelhead Recovery Plan was developed.

Thanks also are due to the members of the TRT who contributed their time and expertise to the development of the National Marine Fisheries Service's Southwest Fisheries Science Center's Technical Memoranda that have extended our understanding of the distinctive biology and ecology of South-Central California steelhead: Dr. Peter B. Adams, Dr. Eric C. Anderson, Dr. Craig A. Fusaro, Dr. Edward A. Keller, Dr. Elise Kelley, Leo D. Lentsch, Dr. Jennifer L. Nielsen, Kathleen Y. Perry, Dr. Helen M. Regan, Dr. Jerry J. Smith, Dr. Camm C. Swift, Dr. Lisa C. Thompson, and Dr. Fred G. R. Watson. Mary L. Larson, Senior Fisheries Biologist with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 5, contributed materially to the TRT discussions. Jennifer Nelson, Environmental Scientist (Region 3 Steelhead Specialist), California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Dr. Robert G. Titus (Senior Environmental Scientist) California Department of Fish and Game, also provided valuable assistance throughout the recovery planning process.

Dr. John Carlos Garza and his colleagues on the Southwest Fisheries Science Center's Molecular Ecology Genetic Analysis Team have developed significant insights into the population structure and distribution of steelhead in South-Central California. Heidi Fish, Research Fish Biologist, and Associate Fisheries Biologist, Kerrie Pipal, with the Fisheries Ecology Division of the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, were instrumental in the collection of many of the fish samples used in this genetic work.

The Recovery Plan also benefited from the independent scientific reviews of Dr. J. A. Hutchings, Dr. E. Eric Knudsen, and Dr. T. Potter, and from the co-manager and public comments received on the initial draft of the Recovery Plan. Dr. Scott D. Cooper, Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology, University of California, Santa Barbara, and Dr. David Jacobs, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Los Angeles, also provided valuable comments at various stages of the recovery planning process. NMFS also would like to acknowledge the staffs of NMFS's former Southwest Regional offices (West Coast Region, California Area Office) for their review of the Draft Recovery Plan, particularly Jonathan M. Ambrose, Joyce E. Ambrosius, Devin M. Best, Joel M. Casagrande, Joseph C. Heublein, John P. McKeon, Anthony P. Spina, William L. Stevens, and R. Craig Wingert. Charleen A. Gavette prepared the maps and compiled the data on the physical and land-use characteristics of the South-Central California Steelhead Recovery Planning Area. Laura Riley of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission prepared the preliminary fish passage maps based on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Passage Assessment Data Base (subsequently up-dated by Charleen Gavette).

The South-Central California Coast Steelhead Recovery Plan has drawn on the work of Kier Associates - Fisheries and Watershed Professionals, and Hunt & Associates - Biological Consulting Services for the identification of threats and recovery actions. Paul D. Hoobyar and his staff at Watershed Initiatives effectively facilitated the workshops and public meetings on the threats and recovery actions elements of the Recovery Plan. Nancy Tosta and Kirsten Durance at Ross Strategic assisted with the public hearings on the Recovery Plan. Mark H. Capelli (NMFS's South-Central/Southern California Steelhead Recovery Coordinator) served as lead author for the Recovery Plan.

Finally, NMFS would like to recognize the many public officials and private individuals who have worked to preserve and recover South-Central California steelhead. The South-Central California Coast Steelhead Recovery Plan builds on the dedication of these individuals and their efforts to preserve a species whose varied life histories uniquely reflect the diverse aquatic and terrestrial habitats of South-Central California watersheds.



# Steelhead

Incipient summer, scorch of the sun,  
And the great steelhead shows up in our creek.  
He lies in a pool, the shallow basin of a thin rock weir,  
Impassively waiting. Ten days go by  
And still he lingers. His presence  
Is inscrutable. No one around here  
Recalls such a thing: steelhead  
Landlocked in summer.

For the tag-end of April  
Sees the last of them. Unlike all salmon,  
Rising in winter to die at the spawn,  
Steelhead commonly wrig back to sea,  
Reclimbing the river-path year after year:  
Continuous the trek, the journey joined;  
Indomitable the will, the life-thrust.

Bull this? This aberration?  
What is its meaning, and why here?  
Deeper hideouts, below and above,  
Where salmon and steelhead alike at the spawn  
Await their time—those same deep holes  
Are perfect places to bide out the drought  
Were such his purpose. But no. Dangerously exposed,  
In window-pane water he lies alone,  
And waits. Inexplicably waits.

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William Everson