

SRSP Science Webinar – Sacramento River Fish Trends  
March 29, 2024

# Winter-run Chinook Salmon in the Upper Sacramento River in 2023

Carcass and Redd Surveys  
Methods, Analysis, and Results

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## Winter-run Chinook past and present

- Originally existed only in the Sacramento River system that included the Little Sacramento, Fall, Pit and McCloud Rivers and Battle Creek.
- Require cool clean fresh water under 56 degrees over the summer months.
- Only exist in this area....no where else in world... genetically unique
- Livingston Stone was a federal biologist who developed the Baird Hatchery on the McCloud River and eggs from this hatchery were sent around the world.
- Currently only occur in the Sacramento River watershed below Keswick Dam. Shasta Dam blocks all access to winter-run habitat upstream. Winter-run spawners downstream of Keswick first noted in May of 1945 after completion of dam. Cool tailrace water substituted for headwater springs transferring habitat upstream of Shasta to the Redding area.
- Listed as Endangered in 1989 as drought, pollution, water diversions, and fishing pressure impacted their survival.
- Planning for winter-run includes the ongoing re-introduction above Shasta Reservoir and jumpstart reintroduction in Battle Creek.

Big 8-Page Special: Where and How to Camp

MARCH 1970 50¢

# Outdoor Life

March for the Kings  
'New' Salmon Run

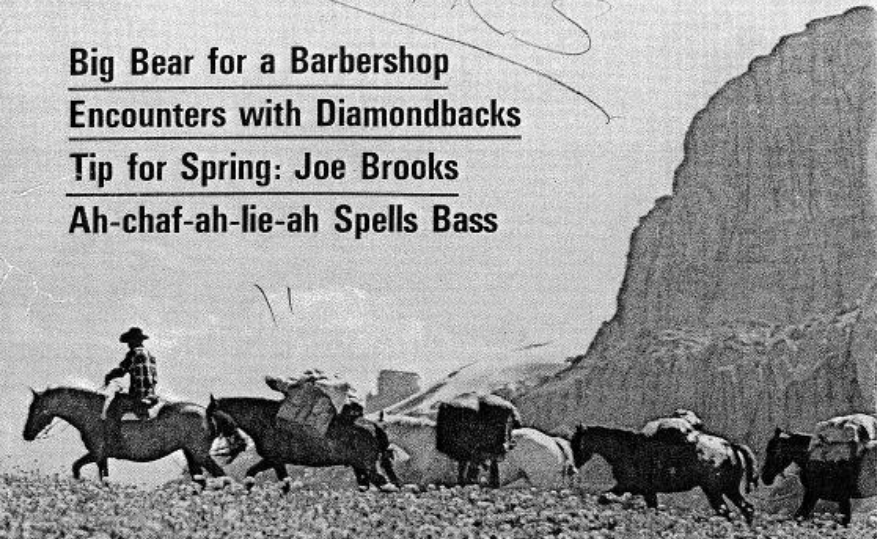
Raccoons Go West

Chug Up Lake Trout  
Ice-Fishing Boom

The Turkey Madness

Big Bear for a Barbershop  
Encounters with Diamondbacks  
Tip for Spring: Joe Brooks  
Ah-chaf-ah-lie-ah Spells Bass

*Handwritten signature*



Walter Kauk grimaces as he nets John Reginato's king in replay, for camera, of action we got on upper Sacramento River, California



A key to success: plug sweetened with sardine

## March with The Kings

By MIKE HAYDEN

Nobody is sure how this winter run started or why it's growing. But anchor-fishermen love these royal salmon

WITH COLD, numb fingers I flipped open the ball on my spinning reel and made my first cast from Walter Kauk's outboard-powered runabout. My lure was a large banana-shaped plug baited with a sliver of fresh sardine.

I remained on my feet long enough to watch the silver plug rocket a short distance through drifting tendrils of morning mist before it plunged and vanished in a glassy slick downstream. Then I planted myself in the stern beside John Reginato and gratefully accepted a cup of hot coffee from Walter Kauk, who sat up front at the wheel.

As I turned to take the steaming cup with my right hand, the cork butt of my seven-foot glass rod suddenly sprang skyward and threatened to catapult from the grasp of my left hand. For an instant I froze, caught with my arms crossed awkwardly. Then, in one uninterrupted motion,



Mt. Shasta forms backdrop in this view of anchor-fishermen at Ball's Ferry

# Monitoring of Winter-run: Adults

- No long-term monitoring prior to the 40 years of the Red Bluff Diversion Dam (RBDD) 1967-2008.
- Balls Ferry Weir (1940's) lasted only 3 years.
- Carcass surveys begin in 1990's and become "official" for winter-run in 2001.
- CURENT YEARS: 2003-2023
  - Boat based carcass surveys begin in late April and run into September.
  - Helicopter surveys to count salmon redds occur weekly- May to August.
  - Keswick trap removes adults for LSNFH from February through June.
  - Redd dewatering monitoring begins in June and goes into November- began 2013.
  - Colusa Basin Drain monitoring now regularly occurs on salmon straying into irrigation canals



**Aerial Redd Survey:** Used to determine the timing and extent of spawning in the river. The proportion of redds outside the carcass survey (if any) is used to expand the carcass survey numbers. Redd location and timing also inform water temperature management actions.



# Winter-Run Aerial Redd and other data available to public in Excel spreadsheets at CALFISH.org

**Year 2023 Aerial Redd Counts (New redds only)**

This draft data has not yet undergone a final quality control process by CDFW to confirm or otherwise verify its accuracy. As a result, this draft data should not be used, relied upon, or referenced in any way until finalized by CDFW. Upon data finalization by CDFW, the draft data will be superseded and should be deleted. This draft is

NUMBER OF NEW REDDS VIEWED BY AERIAL OBSERVATIONS																				2023									
DATE	5/16/2023	5/22/2023	5/30/2023	6/5/2023	6/12/2023	6/20/2023	6/26/2023	7/3/2023	7/10/2023	7/18/2023	7/24/2023	8/2/2023	8/9/2023	10/2/2023	10/26/2023	11/9/2023	11/27/2023												
Aircraft	helo	helo	helo	helo	helo	helo	helo	helo	helo	helo	helo	helo	helo	helo	helo	helo	helo												
Visibility	good	fair	fair	fair	fair	good	fair	good	good	excellent	excellent	excellent	excellent	poor	good	fair													
FLOW (noon) from Keswick (KWK)	12,583	12,879	10,086	10,164	9,682	9,423	10,008	11,079	11,325	11,095	11,062	10,948	6,710	6,807	4,900	4,900													
Rate	Winter	Winter	Winter	Winter	Winter	Winter	Winter	Winter	Winter	Winter	Winter	Winter	Winter	Spring	Fall	Fall	Fall												
Keswick to A.C.I.D. Dam.	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	10	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	20	Late-Fall	83	74.4%	17	4.2%	0	0.0%	21	32.8%	131	15.8%	Keswick to A.C.I.D. Dam.
A.C.I.D. Dam to Highway 44 Bridge	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	1	3	19	4	0	0	0	2	0	10	% Dist.	11	8.8%	32	7.9%	0	0.0%	2	3.1%	45	5.4%	A.C.I.D. Dam to Highway 44 Bridge
Highway 44 Br. to Airport Rd. Br.	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	2	7	0	0	0	1	2	0	27	WINTER	8	6.4%	15	3.7%	1	100.0%	2	3.1%	26	3.1%	Highway 44 Br. to Airport Rd. Br.
Airport Rd. Br. to Balls Ferry Br.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	6	% Dist.	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	7	10.9%	7	0.8%	Airport Rd. Br. to Balls Ferry Br.
Balls Ferry Br. to Battle Creek.	0	n/s	n/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	9	SPRING	1	0.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	11	17.2%	12	1.4%	Balls Ferry Br. to Battle Creek.
Battle Creek to Jellys Ferry Br.	0	n/s	n/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	3	% Dist.	2	1.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	7.8%	7	0.8%	Battle Creek to Jellys Ferry Br.	
Jellys Ferry Br. to Bend Bridge	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	0	n/s	0	n/s	0	n/s	n/s	0	0	2	4	% Dist.	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	n/s	n/s	2	3.1%	2	0.2%	Jellys Ferry Br. to Bend Bridge
Bend Bridge to Red Bluff Diversion Dam	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	0	n/s	0	n/s	0	n/s	n/s	0	0	2	5	Fall	2	1.6%	0	0.0%	n/s	n/s	2	3.1%	4	0.5%	Bend Bridge to Red Bluff Diversion Dam
Red Bluff Diversion Dam to Tehama Br.	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	0	2	8	7	ALL	8	6.4%	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	10	15.6%	18	2.2%	Red Bluff Diversion Dam to Tehama Br.
Tehama Br. To Woodson Bridge	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	0	2	3	% Dist.	0	0.0%	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	2	3.1%	2	0.2%	Tehama Br. To Woodson Bridge	
Woodson Bridge to Hamilton City Br.	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	0	0	2	% Dist.	n/a	n/a	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	Woodson Bridge to Hamilton City Br.	
Hamilton City Bridge to Ord Ferry Br.	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	9	% Dist.	n/a	n/a	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	Hamilton City Bridge to Ord Ferry Br.	
Ord Ferry Br. To Princeton Ferry.	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	2	% Dist.	n/a	n/a	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	Ord Ferry Br. To Princeton Ferry.	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>106</b>	Late-Fall	125	100.0%	64	15.8%	1	100.0%	64	100.0%	254	30.7%	
HELICOPTER HOUR ACCOUNTING-PSMFC only	14.8	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.6	0.9	1.7	1.1	1.6	1.0	0.9	2.1			#Redds Above	112	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
																		#Redds Below	112	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
																		Split Above	112	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
																		Split Below	112	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
																		Split Refers to the section the survey ended in											
																		This data from raw data binders at Red Bluff											
																		# Redds is sum of sections without											
																		need to divide section due to carcass survey											
																		Downstream is below carcass survey area											

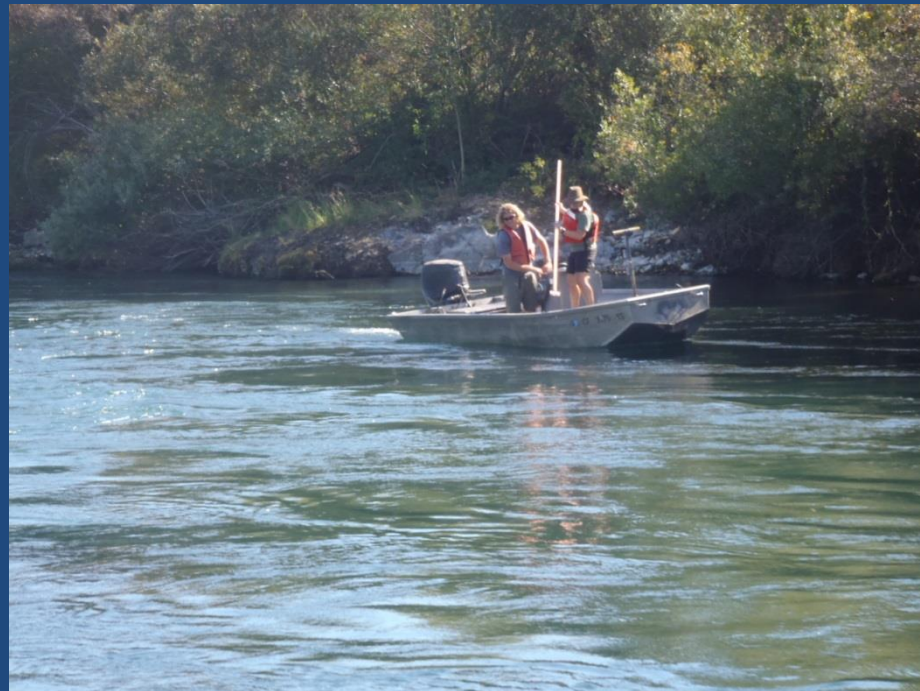
Late-Fall	% Dist.	Winter	% Dist.	Spring	% Dist.	Fall	% Dist.	ALL	% Dist.	RIVER SECTIONS
93	74%	17	27%	0	0%	21	14%	131	39%	Keswick to A.C.I.D. Dam.
11	9%	32	50%	0	0%	12	8%	55	16%	A.C.I.D. Dam to Highway 44 Bridge
8	6%	15	23%	1	100%	29	19%	53	16%	Highway 44 Br. to Airport Rd. Br.
0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	13	9%	13	4%	Airport Rd. Br. to Balls Ferry Br.
1	1%	0	0%	0	0%	19	13%	20	6%	Balls Ferry Br. to Battle Creek.
2	2%	0	0%	0	0%	8	5%	10	3%	Battle Creek to Jellys Ferry Br.
0	0%	0	0%	n/s	n/s	6	4%	6	2%	Jellys Ferry Br. to Bend Bridge
2	2%	0	0%	n/s	n/s	7	5%	9	3%	Bend Bridge to RBDD
8	6%	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	17	11%	25	7%	RBDD to Tehama Br.
0	0%	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	5	3%	5	1%	Tehama Br. To Woodson Bridge
n/a	n/a	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	2	1%	2	1%	Woodson Bridge to Hamilton City Br.
n/a	n/a	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	9	6%	9	3%	Hamilton City Bridge to Ord Ferry Br.
n/a	n/a	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	2	1%	2	1%	Ord Ferry Br. To Princeton Ferry.
<b>125</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>100%</b>	

\* Summary of: 1 late-fall-run, 13 winter-run, 1 spring-run, and 3 fall-run Chinook Salmon redd counting flights.

In 2023, there were 64 winter-run redds observed over 13 helicopter flights

**Carcass Surveys:** are used to develop the annual population estimate for four runs of salmon each year in the Sacramento River. The winter-run survey occurs from May to September, using two boats, seven days per week. It is a collaborative effort between the CDFW, USFWS and PSMFC staff.

Crews spear salmon carcasses with long poles and collect samples and data from each fish and return many of them to the river with a numbered jaw tag. Subsequent recaptures of the tagged fish form the basis of the “mark-recapture” methodology used to estimate how many winter-run salmon were in the population. Other data is simultaneously collected on the carcasses such as sex, length, pre-spawn mortality, scales, otoliths, tissues, cwt tags, and other information as needed.



Carcass survey results create a female in-river estimate, additional information from LSNFH and aerial redd surveys are utilized to expand the carcass mark-recapture effort. Once combined, all sources of winter-run data are then used to characterize the population for various management and research needs.

TOTAL POPULATION ESTIMATE		ESTIMATE	Adjustments	
Cormack Jolly Seber Calculation for Females from R <sub>1C23</sub> (2.5.8)	1,070	1,070.0	See Image of R summary calculations imbedded in this file below for details:	
Total FEMALES in-river after the Downstream Redd expansion	1,070	1,000.0	No redds below carcass survey location, (64 redds observed during 13 W/R surveys)	
Number large males (> 609 mm) in-river from Keswick Trap Data	823	0.7687	* Based on the ratio of large W/R males (>609) to total females at Keswick Trap: (N= 780, that includes 339 lg males to 441 females or 43.5% to 56.5%) vs. survey results for lg fresh males of 60, fresh females were 2	
Number of small males (<609 mm) in-river from carcass survey data	27	0.0333	Based on number of total males to large males (>609 mm) from carcass survey fresh fish sample (62 total fresh: 2 small to 60 large or 3.2% to 96.8%). Includes no 0.5555 and 3- 9999's fresh males and no mini-jacks.	
Total MALES in-river adding in Jacks from Carcass survey data (Jills in)	850		Sum of large and small males	
Number of Fish Removed from Population by LSNFH	507	507	Updated-10-26-23 USFWS Data from LSNFH Broodstock Collections 2023 = total of 818 W/R, of these 311 released back into Sac, leaving 507 REMOVED from Sac include: 382 spawned, 124 prespawm morts (19 fer	
Final MAINSTEM Estimate is	2,427	=	2,427	This is expanded Mainstem Sacramento Spawner Escapement Estimate
Other Mainstem Winter-run Observed on other Survey Efforts (late fall, fall run,	2,427	0	0 W/R carcasses found during LF carcass survey or in other creeks.	This number will be updated by any W/R determined to have spawned in other tributaries when this number is available.
		54	Battle Creek Jumpstart count as of 11-21-23 = 54 Draft per CS. Note in 2023 the 5th year of adult Jumpstart Battle Creek W/R, there were 42 trucked to LSNFH (31 f's and 11 m's), 0 that were videoed moving upstream	

**NOTE TABLES BELOW CONTAIN INFORMATION USED TO DETERMINE THE FINAL ESTIMATE: DO NOT MOVE OR DELETE**

In-River totals	1,920	PERCENTS	In-River	PERCENT HATCHERY
Adult Females >2 yrs	1,065	55.5%	Total Adults	1,888
Adult Males >2 yrs	823	42.8%	Total Grilse	32
Female Grilse-2yr Old	5	0.2466%		
Male Grilse-1 and 2yr Old's	27	1.4%		
	1,920	100.0%		

Carcass Population Component Breakdown CATEGORY	HATCHERY FISH			NATURAL FISH			OVERALL		Number of Adult Females (>579 mm)	Number of Adult Males (>609 mm)	Number of Grilse Females (Jills <500 mm)	Number of Grilse Males (Jacks) (from 400 to 609 mm, an "micro's")
	In-River	LSNFH	Total	In-River	LSNFH	Total	Total	%				
Number of Adult Females (>579 mm)	353	85	438	1,147	114	1,261	1,699	70.0%				
Number of Adult Males (>609 mm)	67	162	229	333	119	452	681	28.1%				
Number of Grilse Females (Jills)	7	0	7	0	0	0	7	0.3%				
Number of Grilse Males (Jacks > 400 and <610mm)	7	27	34	7	0	7	40	1.7%				
See Females in Fresh Fish Table (update 2-20-24)	433	274	707.3	1,487	233	1,720	2,427	100%				

Hatchery Fish Estimate Calculation (USFWS)			
Count of hatchery fresh carcass recoveries	65	65.0	Based on sum of all fresh clipped and those calculated to be clipped (from cwt recoveries) of fresh carcasses (final ad-fin > 0.9)
Estimate of hatchery non-fresh carcass recoveries	54	54.2	Based on ratio of fresh hot carcass recovery rate (= 65 fresh hatchery /240 total non-fresh recoveries / 288 fresh recoveries) (note 33 actual NF hot fish observed on survey)

In 2023 there were an estimated 2,427 winter-run salmon in the Sacramento River

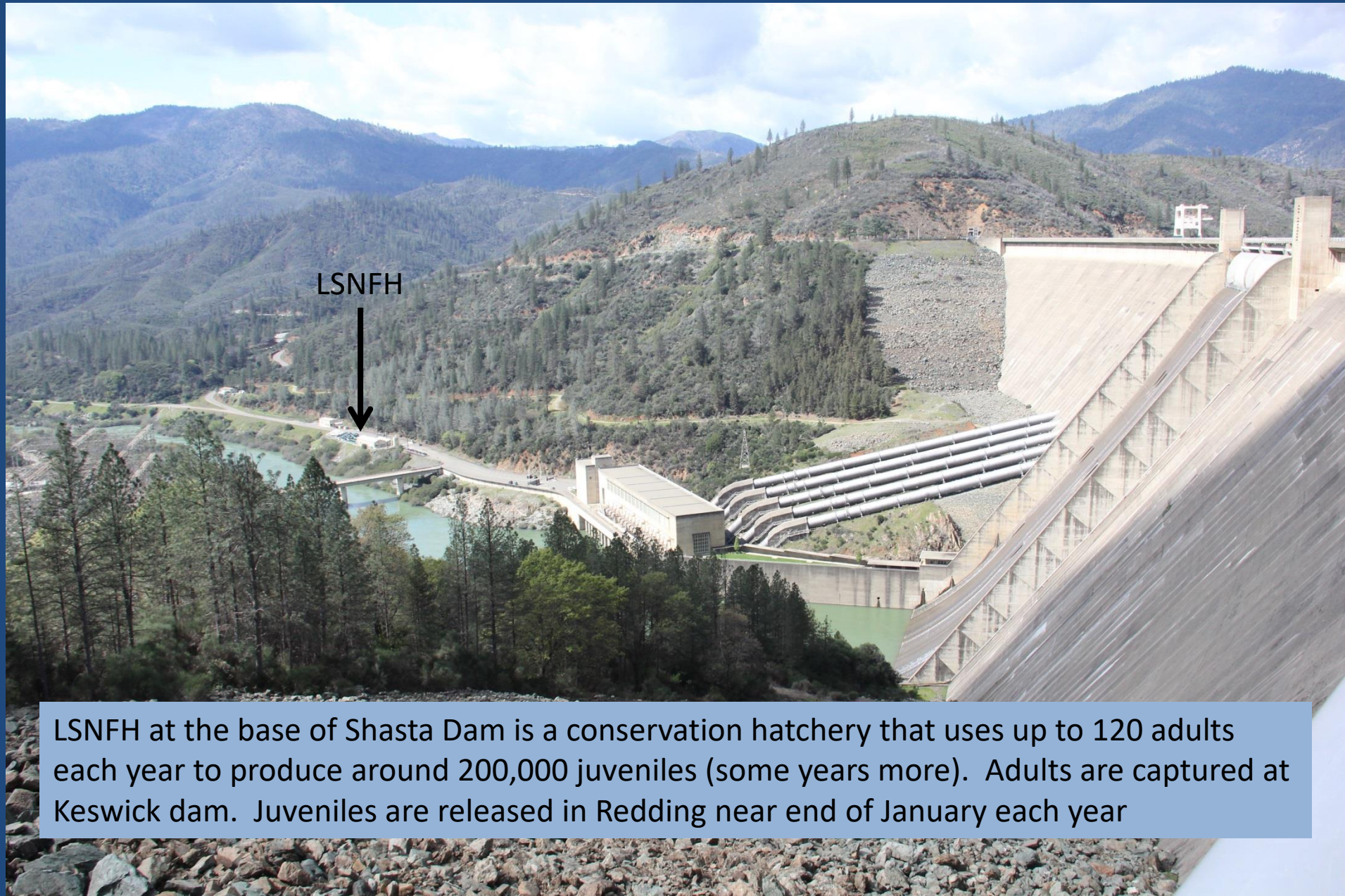
Following the creation of the annual population estimate the annual data is available in a summary table providing winter-run data for categories of interest for various users.







Other Winter-Run Data: Carcass survey data is combined with data from Livingston Stone National Fish Hatchery (LSNFH) to create the annual population estimate.



LSNFH



LSNFH at the base of Shasta Dam is a conservation hatchery that uses up to 120 adults each year to produce around 200,000 juveniles (some years more). Adults are captured at Keswick dam. Juveniles are released in Redding near end of January each year

# KESWICK DAM

352 miles from ocean



Fish ladder leads to a trap

Each year winter-run adults are collected by USFWS at the Keswick fish trap and trucked to the LSNFH where they are sorted and hatchery broodstock fish are selected and tanked until ready for spawning in the summer.

Shallow/Dewatered Redd Monitoring: In concert with the carcass surveys this effort monitors winter-run redd dewatering annually. Dewatered redd surveys begin in June for winter-run. They are designed to identify shallow water redds that may become dewatered if flows are lowered later in year. Depending on water temperatures Chinook redds can take between 70 and 100+ days for juvenile salmon to emerge from the gravel and start feeding.



- Shallow Winter-run redd monitoring initiated in 2013 season.
- Physical data collection: location, depth, photo, fish presence.



Data from the shallow/dewatered redd survey is used to inform flow management during and after the adult spawning takes place. In 2023, twenty-six shallow redds were monitored and three were dewatered before juveniles had opportunity to emerge from those redds. In total, there were an estimated 1,061 redds in the river and 0.28% of these (3) were dewatered.

ID	Redd Number	Born On Date	Estimated Date of Emergence	Born on depth	Status	Born on FLOW (KWK)	Born on Flow (KES)	<u>ACTUAL</u> or <u>ESTIMATED</u> <u>DEWATER FLOW (KES)</u>	Location
1	4001	13-Jun	17-Sep	15	EMERGED	9,227	9,095	6,500	Sec 2, RR Below Sundial
2	4002	13-Jun	17-Sep	37	EMERGED	9,227	9,095	5,000	Sec 2, RL Sewer Line
3	4003	22-Jun	26-Sep	18	EMERGED	9,514	9,011	5,000	Sec 2, RL Turtle Bay West
4	4004	22-Jun	26-Sep	19	EMERGED	11,062	10,365	5,000	Sec 2, RL Turtle Bay West
5	4005	22-Jun	26-Sep	17	EMERGED	9,484	8,974	6,000	Sec 2, TB Kayak Ramp
6	4006	5-Jul	9-Oct	15	EMERGED	11,095	10,383	3,500	Sec 2, RL Sewer Line
7	4007	12-Jul	20-Oct	54	EMERGED	10,705	10,627	3,250	Sec 1, Center Above Dentist House
8	4008	12-Jul	16-Oct	18	EMERGED	10,705	10,686	5,000	Sec 2, RR Below Sundial
9	4009	5-Jul	9-Oct	13	EMERGED	11,030	10,363	5,000	Sec 2, RR Market Street Gravel
10	4010	12-Jul	16-Oct	12	DEWATERED	10,673	10,664	6,600	Sec 2, TB Kayak Ramp
11	4011	12-Jul	16-Oct	11	EMERGED	10,673	10,664	5,000	Sec 2, TB Kayak Ramp
12	4012	12-Jul	16-Oct	17	EMERGED	10,673	10,664	4,000	Sec 2, TB Kayak Ramp
13	4013	12-Jul	16-Oct	17	EMERGED	10,673	10,664	5,000	Sec 2, TB Kayak Ramp
14	4014	12-Jul	16-Oct	24	EMERGED	10,721	10,682	4,000	Sec 2, TB Kayak Ramp
15	4015	19-Jul	27-Oct	49	EMERGED	11,095	10,985	4,000	Sec 1, RR Above Big Bend
16	4016	19-Jul	20-Oct	34	EMERGED	11,079	10,985	4,000	Sec 3, RL at Coppertop Riffle
17	4017	19-Jul	24-Oct	19	EMERGED	11,079	10,974	4,000	Sec 2, TB Kayak Ramp
18	4018	19-Jul	24-Oct	26	EMERGED	11,079	10,974	4,000	Sec 2, RL Sewer Line
19	4019	25-Jul	2-Nov	39	EMERGED	11,062	10,755	4,000	Sec 1, RR Above Big Bend
20	4020	25-Jul	27-Oct	35	EMERGED	11,062	10,730	4,000	Sec 2, Painter's Side Channel
21	4021	25-Jul	27-Oct	37	EMERGED	11,062	10,730	4,000	Sec 2, Painter's Side Channel
23	4022	25-Jul	27-Oct	32	EMERGED	11,062	10,755	4,500	Sec 2, Painter's Side Channel
24	4023	25-Jul	30-Oct	21	EMERGED	11,062	10,677	4,500	Sec 2, RR Market Street Gravel
25	4024	25-Jul	30-Oct	18	EMERGED	11,062	10,677	5,800	Sec 2, RR Market Street Gravel
26	4025	25-Jul	29-Oct	10	DEWATERED	11,128	10,677	6,600	Sec 2, RL Below Market Street
27	4026	27-Jul	31-Oct	13	DEWATERED	11,226	10,692	6,400	Sec 2, RL Below Market Street



# Questions?

Further information on winter-run data can be found on the Calfish website at the following link:

<https://www.calfish.org/ProgramsData/ConservationandManagement/CentralValleyMonitoring/CDFWUpperSacRiverBasinSalmonidMonitoring.aspx>

Or by contacting [doug.Killam@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:doug.Killam@wildlife.ca.gov)

