

SRSP Science Webinar – Sacramento River Fish Trends
March 14, 2025

Winter-run Chinook Salmon in the Upper Sacramento River in 2024

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 cold, clean fresh water 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.



Big 8-Page Special: Where and How to Camp

MARCH 1970 50¢

Outdoor Life

March for the Kings
'New' Salmon Run

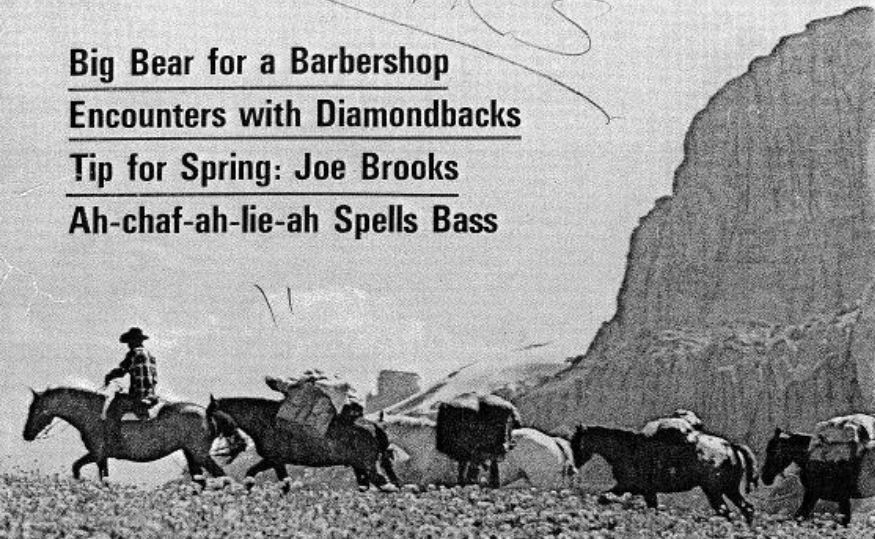
Raccoons Go West

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.**
- **CURRENT YEARS: 2003-2025**
 - 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
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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 2024 Aerial Redd Counts (New redds only)												NUMBER OF NEW REDDS VIEWED BY AERIAL OBSERVATIONS													
DATE	5/6/2024	5/20/2024	6/4/2024	6/13/2024	6/26/2024	7/23/2024	8/5/2024	8/13/2024	8/28/2024	11/19/2024	2024														
Aircraft	helo	helo	helo	helo	helo	helo	helo	helo	helo	helo	TOTALS														
Visibility	fair	good	good	excellent	fair	good	good	excellent	excellent	good	Late-Fall redds in this box are from Early this year and Late in previous year.														
FLOV (noon) from Keswick (KWK)	8,301	6,302	3,018	3,839	12,565	13,264	12,857	12,116	10,023	3,953	Late-Fall	% Dist	WINTER	% Dist	SPRING	% Dist	Fall	% Dist	ALL	% Dist					
Race	Winter	Winter	Winter	Winter	Winter	Winter	Winter	Winter	Winter	Fall	n/a	n/a	6	23.1%	n/a	n/a	109	47.0%	115	44.6%	Keswick to A.C.I.D. Dam.				
Keswick to A.C.I.D. Dam.	0	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	109	n/a	n/a	15	57.7%	n/a	n/a	40	17.2%	55	21.3%	A.C.I.D. Dam to Highway 44 Bridge				
A.C.I.D. Dam to Highway 44 Bridge	0	2	1	1	4	4	0	3	0	40	n/a	n/a	5	19.2%	n/a	n/a	64	27.6%	69	26.7%	Highway 44 Br. to Airport Rd. Br.				
Highway 44 Br. to Airport Rd. Br.	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	64	n/a	n/a	0	0.0%	n/a	n/a	2	0.9%	2	0.8%	Airport Rd. Br. to Balls Ferry Br.				
Airport Rd. Br. to Balls Ferry Br.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	n/a	n/a	0	0.0%	n/a	n/a	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	Balls Ferry Br. to Battle Creek.				
Balls Ferry Br. to Battle Creek.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	0	0.0%	n/a	n/a	4	1.7%	4	1.6%	Battle Creek to Jellys Ferry Br.				
Battle Creek to Jellys Ferry Br.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	n/a	n/a	0	0.0%	n/a	n/a	4	1.7%	4	1.6%	Jellys Ferry Br. to Bend Bridge				
Jellys Ferry Br. to Bend Bridge	n/s	0	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	4	n/a	n/a	0	0.0%	n/a	n/a	6	2.6%	6	2.3%	Bend Bridge to Red Bluff Diversion Dam				
Bend Bridge to Red Bluff Diversion Dam	n/s	0	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	6	n/a	n/a	0	0.0%	n/a	n/a	3	1.3%	3	1.2%	Red Bluff Diversion Dam to Tehama Br.				
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	3	n/a	n/a	n/s	n/s	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Tehama Br. To Woodson Bridge				
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/a	n/a	n/s	n/s	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Woodson Bridge to Hamilton City Br.				
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/a	n/a	n/s	n/s	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Hamilton City Bridge to Ord Ferry 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/a	n/a	n/s	n/s	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Ord Ferry Br. To Princeton Ferry.				
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/a	n/a	n/s	n/s	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a					
TOTALS	0	4	5	3	4	4	0	4	2	232	n/a	n/a	26	100.0%	n/a	n/a	232	100.0%	258	100.0%					
HELICOPTER HOUR ACCOUNTING-PSMFC only	1.2	1.8	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	2.0	2024 CARCASS SURVEY CALCULATION										#Redds	#Redds	Split	Split	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
11.1	Note: no Helo available for one month period										no SR or e	Late fall carcass survey ended at Balls F	Within %	Downstream	Above	Below	Above	Below							
												n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a						
												100.0%	0.0%	26	0	0	0	0							
												92.7%	7.3%	215	17	0	0	0							

2024 Summary of Aerial Redd Survey Data*

Late-Fall	% Dist.	Winter	% Dist.	Spring	% Dist.	Fall	% Dist.	ALL	% Dist.	RIVER SECTIONS
n/a	n/a	6	23%	n/a	n/a	109	47%	115	45%	Keswick to A.C.I.D. Dam.
n/a	n/a	15	58%	n/a	n/a	40	17%	55	21%	A.C.I.D. Dam to Highway 44 Bridge
n/a	n/a	5	19%	n/a	n/a	64	28%	69	27%	Highway 44 Br. to Airport Rd. Br.
n/a	n/a	0	0%	n/a	n/a	2	1%	2	1%	Airport Rd. Br. to Balls Ferry Br.
n/a	n/a	0	0%	n/a	n/a	0	0%	0	0%	Balls Ferry Br. to Battle Creek.
n/a	n/a	0	0%	n/a	n/a	4	2%	4	2%	Battle Creek to Jellys Ferry Br.
n/a	n/a	0	0%	n/a	n/a	4	2%	4	2%	Jellys Ferry Br. to Bend Bridge
n/a	n/a	0	0%	n/a	n/a	6	3%	6	2%	Bend Bridge to RBDD
n/a	n/a	0	0%	n/a	n/a	3	1%	3	1%	RBDD to Tehama Br.
n/a	n/a	0	0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/s	Tehama Br. To Woodson Bridge
n/a	n/a	0	0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/s	Woodson Bridge to Hamilton City Br.
n/a	n/a	0	0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/s	Hamilton City Bridge to Ord Ferry Br.
n/a	n/a	0	0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/s	Ord Ferry Br. To Princeton Ferry.
n/a	n/a	26	100%	n/a	n/a	232	100%	258	100%	

* Summary of: 0 late-fall-run, 9 winter-run, 0 spring-run, and 1 fall-run Chinook Salmon redd counting flights.

In 2024, there were 26 winter-run redds observed over 9 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 late April to early 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 (CJS 22.6.8)			392	392.0	See Image of R summary calculations imbedded in this file below for details:
Total FEMALES in-river after the Downstream Redd expansion			392	1.0000	No redds below carcass survey location. (26 redds observed during 13 WR surveys)
Number large Males (> 609 mm) in-river from Keswick Trap Data			457	1.1649	* Based on the ratio of large WR males (>609) to total females at Keswick Trap: (N= 420, that includes 226 lg males to 194 females or 53.8% to 46.2%) vs. survey results for
Number of small males (<609 mm) in-river from carcass survey data			176	0.3846	Based on number of total males to large males (>609 mm) from carcass survey fresh fish sample (65 total fresh: 25 small to 40 large or 38.5% to 61.5%). Includes no 0.555
Total MALES in-river adding in Jacks from Carcass survey data (Jills in)			632		Sum of large and small males
Number of Fish Removed from Population by LSNFH			272	272	Updated 10-29-24 USFWS Data from LSNFH Broodstock Collections 2024 = total of 732 WR: of these 460 RELEASED back into Sac. Leaving 272 REMOVED from Sac
Final MAINSTEM Estimate is	1,296	=	1,296		This is expanded Mainstem Sacramento Spawner Escapement Estimate
Other Mainstem Winter-run Observed on other Survey Efforts (late fall, fall run,			1,296	0	0 WR carcasses found during LF carcass survey or in other creeks.
			64		DRAFT Battle Creek Jumpstart count as of 10-29-24 grandtab = 64 per RJ/facie at USFWS. Note in 2024 the 6th year of adult Jumpstart Battle Creek WR, there were 17 tr

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

In-River totals	1,024	PERCENTS	In-River	PERCENT HATCHERY
Adult Females >2 yrs	325	31.8%	Total Adults	574
Adult Males >2 yrs	253	24.7%	Total Grilse	446
Female Grilse-2yr Old	67	6.5%		68.3%
Male Grilse-1 and 2yr Old's	379	37.0%		
	1,024	100.0%		

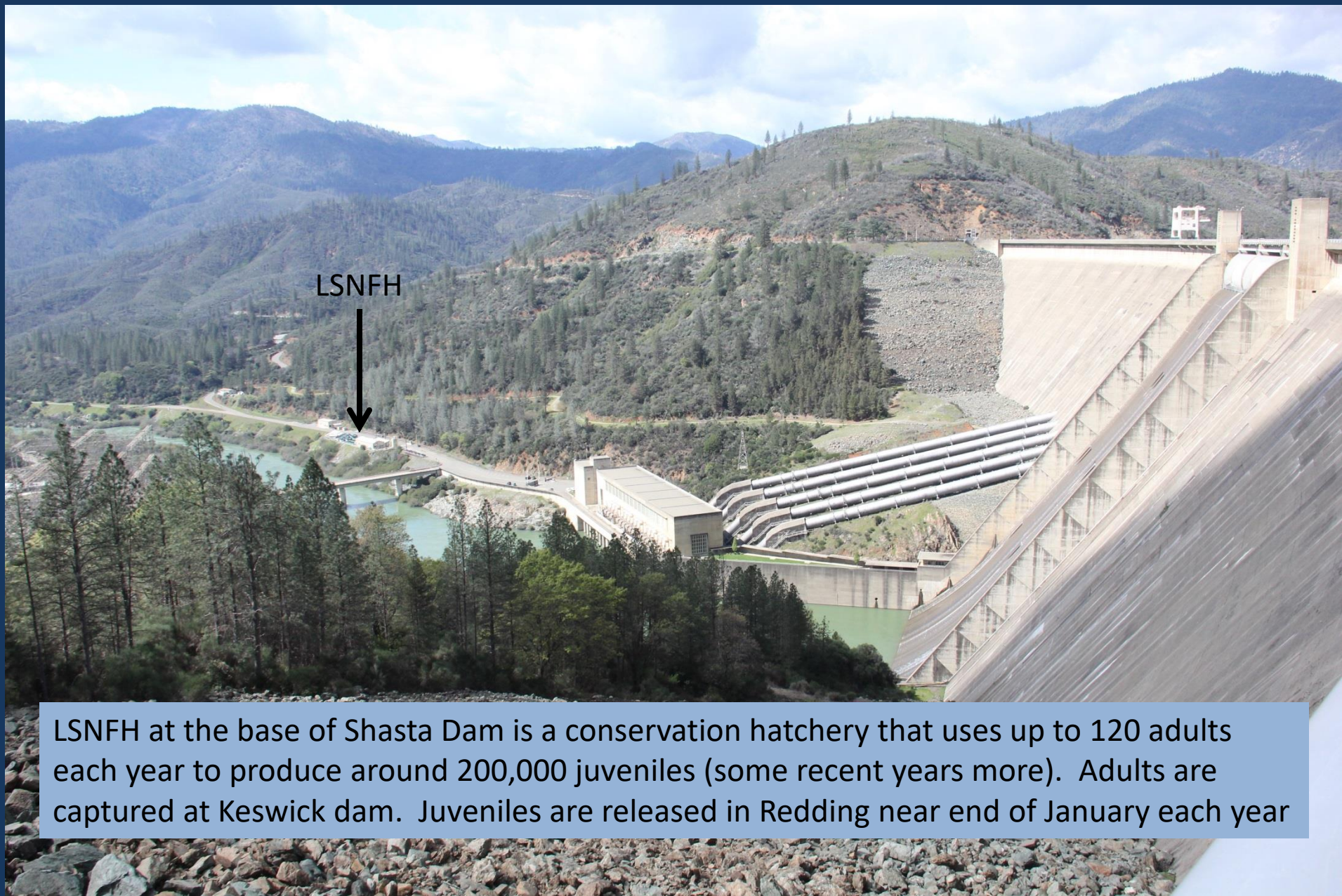
Carcass Population Component Breakdown			HATCHERY FISH			NATURAL FISH			OVERALL		
Ranking from above	Fresh fish - slip value	Total in-river - cleaned	Category	In-River	LSNFH	Total	In-River	LSNFH	Total	Total	%
325	0.245	251	Number of Adult Females (>644 mm)	251	103	354	74	8	82	436	33.7%
253	0.113	116	Number of Adult Males (>714 mm)	116	78	194	137	5	142	336	25.9%
67	0.063	64	Number of Grilse Females (Jills)	64	20	84	2	0	2	87	6.7%
379	0.195	200	Number of Grilse Males (Jacks >300 and <715mm)	200	51	251	180	7	187	437	33.7%
1,024	See Data in Fresh Fish Table - January 2024			631	252	883	393	20	413	1,296	100%

Note the above table Breakdown Table is dependent on USFWS Hatchery counts. Note this Hatchery table does not include fish released without slips (see cell C61)

In 2024 there were an estimated 1,296 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 fish 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 recent 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



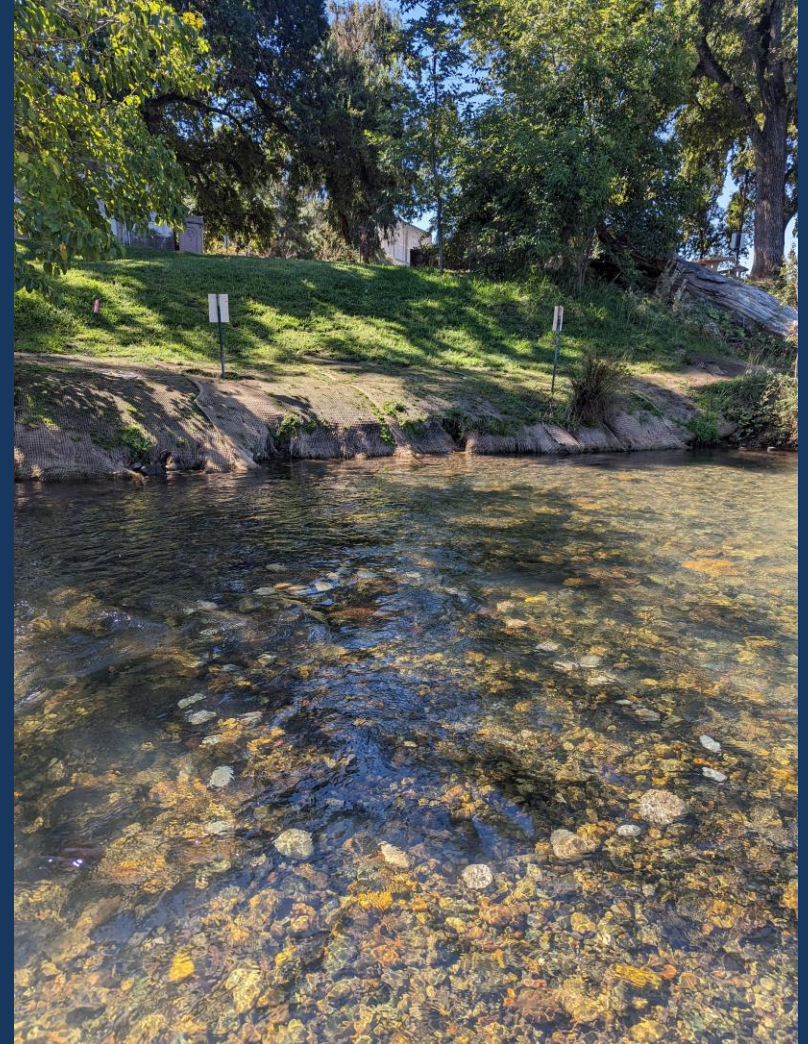
Fish ladder leads to a trap

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 was initiated in the 2013-14 season.
- Physical data collection includes: 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 2024, seventeen shallow redds were monitored and one was dewatered before juveniles had opportunity to emerge from that redd. In total, there were an estimated 375 winter-run Chinook redds in the river and 0.26% of these (1) were dewatered.

ID	Redd Number	Born on Date	Estimated Date of Emergence	Born on Depth	Status	Born on Flow (KWK)	Born on Flow (KES)	Actual or Estimated Dewater Flow (KES)	Location
1	4141-24-W	5/28/2024	8/25/2024	26	EMERGED	9,092	8,805	3,500	Sec 3, RL Golf Course
2	4142-24-W	6/5/2024	9/1/2024	27	EMERGED	9,077	8,485	3,500	Sec 3, RR Kutras Corner
3	4143-24-W	6/5/2024	9/5/2024	23	EMERGED	9,107	8,478	3,500	Sec 2, RR Kayak Ramp
4	4145-24-W	6/18/2024	9/17/2024	13	EMERGED	9,806	8,985	4,000	Sec 2, RR Kayak Ramp
5	4148-24-W	6/24/2024	9/23/2024	22	EMERGED	10,641	9,964	3,500	Sec 2, RR Below Sundial
6	4150-24-W	6/24/2024	9/23/2024	10	EMERGED	10,705	9,946	4,500	Sec 2, RR Kayak Ramp
7	4151-24-W	7/17/2024	10/15/2024	23	EMERGED	13,047	12,864	4,000	Sec 2, RR Below Sundial
8	4152-24-W	7/24/2024	10/22/2024	34	EMERGED	13,141	13,051	6,500	Sec 2, RR Below Sundial
9	4153-24-W	7/30/2024	10/28/2024	26	EMERGED	13,122	12,893	4,000	Sec 2, RR Below Sundial
10	4154-24-W	7/30/2024	10/28/2024	25	EMERGED	13,141	12,879	4,000	Sec 2, RR Kayak Ramp
11	4155-24-W	8/1/2024	10/30/2024	27	EMERGED	13,292	13,077	4,000	Sec 2, RR Kayak Ramp
12	4156-24-W	8/1/2024	10/30/2024	18	EMERGED	13,292	13,077	3,900	Sec 2, RR Kayak Ramp
13	4157-24-W	8/6/2024	11/4/2024	34	EMERGED	12,805	12,930	3,500	Sec 2, RR Market Street Gravel
14	4158-24-W	8/6/2024	11/4/2024	14	EMERGED	12,768	12,920	4,250	Sec 2, RR Kayak Ramp
15	4159-24-W	8/6/2024	11/4/2024	16	EMERGED	12,768	12,920	6,000	Sec 2, RR Kayak Ramp
16	4160-24-W	8/12/2024	11/10/2024	24	EMERGED	12,200	12,041	4,500	Sec 2, RR Kayak Ramp
17	4146-24-W	8/26/2024	11/22/2024	23	DEWATERED	11,095	10,980	4,600	Sec 3, RL Painter's Riffle

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

