



THE RIVER MOUTH

Volume 12 • No. 4

December 2012

President's Message

by Gene Kaczmarek

We are ending the year on a high note. We just completed the first VFFF dinner and it was a great success. Thanks to Harold Whitmore and his staff, Ken Brunskill will now have the money they need to provide more outings for our northern California veterans.

Show season is starting with ISE in Sacramento from January 10 – 13 then on to “The Fly Fishing Show” in Pleasanton on February 22–24. The Council’s “Learning Center” will be at both shows teaching: casting; tying; entomology; and Council conservation issues. Please stop by and say high when you are at one of the shows.

Mark your calendars for this year’s Hall of Fame Dinner on February 23rd. We will be celebrating our 30th year with a reunion of the past recipients’. Watch our Web page and Facebook for more information.

We have had a wonderful year and looking forward to next year with renewed vigor.



Putting On A Fund Raising Event For Veterans First Fly Fishing

Ken Brunskill, Chairman



Putting together and running a fund raising event is like giving a bath to a cat! It can be done but it requires a lot of teamwork, and everyone needs to know what their task is!

Veterans First Fly Fishing held their 1st Fund Raising event on Saturday December 8th, and it was a resounding success by all accounts, measurements & observations!

The event was held at Fremont Elks Lodge #2121, as a \$50/plate sit-down dinner with a superb menu consisting of Navy Bean Soup, Cesar Salad, Linguini & Shrimp, Prime Rib, and Red Baked Potato & Fresh Green Beans, followed by Raspberry Cheesecake and Coffee/Tea.

The 156 attendees were from the community and included 21 hosted veterans from Menlo Park. They were generous with their raffle and auction purchases, having over \$10,000 worth of donation items to choose from, as Live Auction, Silent Auction, Raffle items & as Door Prizes. These donations resulted in our raising enough funding to allow Veterans First Fly Fishing to plan a serious budget 2013 for:



Guests enjoying the VFFF Banquet

- Developing and constructing additional Adaptive Fly Tying and fishing devices.

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THE RIVER MOUTH is published by the Northern California/Nevada Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers. It is distributed to all FFF members in Northern California, Northern Nevada, and Hawaii.

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PRESIDENT: Gene Kaczmarek

THE RIVER MOUTH seeks articles, news items, story ideas, photographs, and any other material which would be of interest to the NCCFFF community. Please send your newsletter contributions to the editor at: newsletter@nccfff.org

NCCFFF is a non-profit 501c3 organization (Fed. Id. #94-3124970) dedicated to conservation and the sport of fly fishing.

Internet: www.nccfff.org

2012-13 NCCFFF Officers

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Harold Whitmore

NON-PROFIT STATUS OF FFF, COUNCILS, AND CHARTER CLUBS

The Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) is a non-profit New York corporation recognized by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a Section 501 (c)(3) non-profit tax-exempt organization. This non-profit tax-exempt status has been extended to FFF's Councils and Charter Clubs through a non-profit Group Exemption from the IRS. The FFF's EIN is 23-7037444, the FFF Group EIN is 81-0514222 and the FFF Group Exemption Number (GEN) is 9453.

VFW Dinner from Page 1

- Planning & funding overnight trips.
- Planning and funding day trips, particularly for some of our in house veterans
- Having the funds to produce another equal or better event next year.

For a semi-experienced team of four people, here's what it took in terms of man-hours to get the job done:

- Recruiting donations 200+ Hrs.
- Planning food & menu 40+ Hrs.
- Shopping & buying the food, 16+ Hrs.
- Cooking and cleaning up the kitchen 18+ Hrs.
- Putting together the Auction, & Raffle 120+ Hrs.
- Decorations 12+ Hrs.

This 400+ Hrs. is just a conservative estimate of the effort expended since September, it does not account for the crew of 15 servers, 4 bussers, and 8 others in the kitchen preparing and plating the food. The advice we offer here is that these were, without question, very rewarding hours spent; we hope that the reader planning a similar event will find this information helpful in avoiding the surprises which we encountered along the way.



This Veteran is proudly displaying the beautiful fly plate made by Bill Peakes. The "Purple Heart Fly" fly plate was sold to the high bidder for \$350.00.

The bottom line is the cat did get a bath, and we did not have to make send anyone to the doctor.

We suggest the reader look at our facebook page 'Veterans First Fly Fishing' and look at our webpage at www.nccfff.org and click on the 'Veterans First Fly Fishing' tab, where there several pictures of the event.





Hal Janssen



Dan Blanton



Andy Puyans



Ken Hanley



Michael Fong



Steve Rajeff



Mel & Fanny Krieger



Al Kyte

*The Federation of
Fly Fishers*
Northern California/Nevada Council
Presents the
30th Anniversary Reunion
of the
Fly Fishing Hall of Fame
inductee's



Chuck Echer



Ed Rice



Val Atkinson



Jim Adams

*Join us for dinner celebrating the legends
of our sports*



Marty Seldon



Jay Fair

*Saturday Evening February 23, 2013
At the Fremont Elks Lodge,
38991 Farwell Dr.
Fremont, Ca. 94536*



Ralph & Lisa Cutter



Bob Baiocchi

*Social hour and silent auction starts at
6PM - Dinner at 7PM – Followed by live auction*

Be part of this special event



Russ Chatham



Bill Schaadt



Lani Waller



Mike Michalak

For reservations visit our web site at

www.nccfff.org



Bob Nauheim

*Registration forms along with payment must be received by
February 1, 2013 to reserve your space
Seating is limited!*

NCCFFF Recognized For Our Trout In The Classroom Program

Editor's Note: Ethan Rotman of the Department of Fish & Game nominated NCCFFF for the "Exceptional Support of AREA Programs" award for our Trout in the Classroom program. Mr. Rotman's nomination to the awards committee follows.

The Federation of Fly Fisherman, Northern California Council should be recognized for its early adoption, ongoing support, and encouragement of clubs in other regions and states to support similar conservation programs.

The Federation of Fly Fishers, Northern California Council is dedicated to conservation and conservation education. Since the late 1980's they have supported efforts that have allowed more than half a million students to hatch fish in classroom aquariums.

Federation of Fly Fishers, Northern California Council has been an integral part of the California "Classroom Aquarium Education Program" (CAEP) for more than 20 years. During this time, the Federation, individual Federation members, and allied fly-fishing clubs have donated tens of thousands of dollars and even more hours to support classrooms hatching fish in classroom aquariums.

Programs involving the hatching of fish in classroom aquariums began in Canada during the 1980s. Within a few years, this successful program migrated to Northern California and soon spread across the country, due in large part to the support of the Council. "Trout in the Classroom" type programs are now an international stewardship and conservation education program that introduces students to fish, fish habitats, and encourages students to take an active role in protecting these fish and their habitats.

CAEP is an educational program that allows students to learn about the life cycle of salmonids and the habitat they depend upon. Classes create an artificial environment in their classrooms that mimics the natural environment. In this closed system, fish eggs are monitored hatched, and the fish eventually released. The process of learning and nurturing creates a link between what the child knows (logic) and what they

feel (emotion). The subsequent outcome is a young person with a deep, caring for our natural aquatic systems.

The Federation of Fly Fishers, Northern California Council and its members have played an instrumental role in the development and expansion of this program since the early days. In 2012, The American Fisheries Society (AFS) honored the California CAEP with an award for "Excellence in Aquatic Education". This award was earned in large part due to the efforts of the Council, its members, and affiliated clubs.

Since the late 1980's, the NCCFFF has provided volunteer and financial support to teachers involved in hatching fish in the classroom. (Their involvement stretches back further than our records)



Ethan Rotman of DFG presents an "Excellence in Aquatic Education" award to Larry Lack, V.P. of Education, on behalf of NCCFFF

Specifically, Federation of Fly Fishers, Northern California Council has:

- Provided direct classroom support for more than 500,000 students
- Provided start-up funding and volunteers in the late 1980's that helped the program grow, expand, and blossom.
- Provided skilled volunteers to develop classroom materials, posters, electronic media, manuals, and other items that enhance classroom learning.

Continued on page 6

The NCCFFF Bay-Delta Committee Update

by Mike McKenzie, Bay-Delta/AFG Coordinator

Representatives from the Bay-Delta Committee and Allied Fishing Groups met with DFG on 10/30/2012. In attendance were Mike McKenzie, Don Newman, Dave Ostrach, John Ryzanych, Don Stevens and John Beuttler. Five program managers dealing with Delta issues represented the Department of Fish and Game.

1) Cumulative Impacts. The Bay-Delta/AFG group emphasized their concerns over the cumulative impacts to fisheries and the estuary ecosystem caused by Delta water exports, noting that DWR has not provided mitigation as intended under the 1986 Four Pumps Agreement. These un-mitigated fish losses include hundreds of millions of fish killed due to direct and indirect losses over the sixty-year period that the projects have been pumping from the southern Delta. Another casualty has been the loss of 30% to 50% of the estuary's food web.

2) Current Status of the Delta Fish Agreement. The DFG representative on the Four Pumps Advisory Committee agreed with our assessment of the Agreement's shortcomings and the impact it has had on the estuary and its fisheries. He noted that it has been very difficult to make progress given the lack of support and attendance from the DFG constituency at the Meetings. We are trying to work with DWR and the water contractors to achieve the original goals and objectives of stopping the decline of the estuary and

its fisheries. Due to the domination of the water contractors on the Committee this is a difficult process.

3) Fishery Restoration Program Agreement (FRPA). DFG's efforts to address impacts to fish listed under the State and Federal Endangered Species Acts (ESA) has resulted in DWR and their Contractors agreeing

that a consolidation of restoration efforts and programs must be undertaken to coordinate and better supervise these efforts. The primary FRPA objective is to implement fish habitat restoration requirements and related actions of the Biological Opinions and the Incidental Take Permits (ITP) in the Delta, Suisun Marsh, and Yolo Bypass.

It is focused on creating 8,000 acres of intertidal and associated subtidal habitat to benefit delta smelt, including 800 acres to benefit longfin smelt, and a number of related actions for

salmonids.

4) The Revised BDCP Project. The project has been undergoing revisions due in large part to the comments from the fishery agencies and National Research Council. Perhaps the most significant change is the abandonment of the Peripheral Canal for two subterranean tunnels under the Delta. This project is projected to take at least twenty years to implement assuming the public decides to pass a bond to pay the estimated \$11 billion price tag. Our discussion then refo-

cused on interim actions including the proposed restoration of 8,000 acres of wetlands. We commented that wetlands in the western Delta seem to be of undefined value for listed species if they don't have the flows to get listed species into that habitat. The Department



The Delta



Juvenile Chinook salmon

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Bay-Delta Committee from Page 10

concurd and suggested that the next agenda topic would help address our concerns.

5) State Board Bay-Delta Water Quality Plan Processes. We discussed the State Water Resources Control Board responsibility under SB1. Enacted in November 2009, SB1 requires the SWRCB to “develop new flow criteria for the Delta ecosystem necessary to protect public trust resources.” Flow criteria “shall include the volume, quality, and timing of water necessary for the Delta ecosystem under different conditions.” SB 1 specifies that in determining the flow criteria, the SWRCB “shall review existing water



The Delta


quality objectives and use the best available scientific information.” The Department urged us to work with them to support these flow criteria required by fish and the estuary. The Department feels our support is critical to realizing this goal.

6) Predation workshop: The DFG is going to hold a workshop to determine the extent, if any, predation affects fishery populations in the estuary; and we will be invited to send a representative. DFG would like

Trout in the Classroom Award from Page 4




Trout in the Classroom students release their brood

- Encouraged affiliated and non-affiliated clubs to support teachers and students.
- Supported the efforts of California Fish and Game to increase coordination in an effort to provide a better service to schools, teachers, students, and ultimately the aquatic ecosystems.
- Made significant contributions to the development of dedicated stewards of our fisheries 

our support to ensure that the workshop will utilize a “predation community approach” that looks at all impacts of predation from birds, animals, fish and humans, and avoids targeting striped bass.

Other current issues we’re actively involved with.

1) We are working with Allied Fishing Group member, the Golden Gate Salmon Association, to re-assess and possibly re-write their letter to the Delta Stewardship Council. The letter was sent without input from the AFG and contained some controversial opinions not shared by the AFG.

2) We are working with the Spearfishing community to revise a recent change to the Fish and Game Code. It adds striped bass to the list of species allowed for take by spearfishing in Inland waters. We are in the process of negotiating and acceptable amendment with all parties. 

2012 Striperfest Report

by Dan Blanton

Our 15th Striperfest has come and gone and it was another fantastic event held at the Sugar Barge Event Center.

The weather was perfect this year, calm and balmy and for many devout striper fly-fishers, the fishing was excellent; for some, the catching wasn't so good, but the fishing and camaraderie was.

We had 98 percent of those who signed up to attend, show up and we also had a few show up who hadn't signed up. The room was filled and many of us, including Cindy and I had to eat our great BBQ at the bar, which was OK since I was closer to the beer.

I don't have the final tally yet as to how much we raised, and while I don't think it will be another record-breaker, we did

very well thanks to all who purchased so many raffle tickets. I was amazed at how many off-site winners won. It may have been an even split between off-site and on-site winners.

I want to express my thanks and gratitude to all who worked so hard to pull the event together again this year: Matt Havelock who organizes the event, makes sure we have the best BBQ (it was fabulous - again); gets everyone signed up and signed in. A huge thanks to the David and Tracy, our Sugar Barge hosts who always do a wonderful job for us and who have always supported Striperfest and striper fly-anglers. Again, I encourage everyone to use their facilities whenever you can and take advantage of the generous discounts they provide Board Members.

Without the help of Noel De Guzman and his raffle-prize packaging crew I don't know how we could pull off that great raffle. It's a huge job putting together more than \$40,000 worth of fantastic raffle prizes. Thanks guys and gals - you're the best.



Special thanks to my wife, Cindy who handled the mail-in, off-site raffle ticket sales which took in \$4,300. She had it all organized and I know her effort was a great help. Thanks Love.


I want to especially thank the California Fly Shop for again selling off-site tickets and also providing Victor Inouye to handling the gathering and mailing of the off-site prizes. Thanks Victor, I know it's a big job - and not much fun...

Of course if it weren't for the fabulous generosity year-after-year of the various fly-fishing tackle vendors and private fly-fishers, we wouldn't have a Striperfest raffle to raise money to fight for our beloved Bay/Delta, its stripers and other coveted sport and commercial fish species. A special thanks to all of you, for your long support, loyalty and most of all, your generosity.

And of course without the members of the Dan Blanton Bulletin Board/forum, there would never have been a Striperfest to begin with, nor would it have sustained itself for 15 years. I heartily thank you all for your long support of both me and the board. You are the community that sustains it all.

I also want to express thanks and gratitude again to Captain Mike McKenzie for representing Striperfest at the DF&G quarterly meetings John Beuttler helped to setup; and also thanks again to David Ostrach for all his support with good science; and also to John Ryzanich for attending those important meetings on behalf of Striperfest and the NCCFFF.

And speaking of the NCCFFF: Thanks again for your support and for handling our funds. It was good to see so many of the folks from NCCFFF at Striperfest.

We're still in the game, we're still involved in the delta process; and hopefully we'll still continue to matter, and hopefully we'll somehow be able to improve our beloved striper fishery. 

The San Joaquin River Restoration Project

by Ron Forbes

For the last three years I have been Delta Fly Fisher's representative at the San Joaquin River Restoration Project (SJRRP) meetings. The two committees I have served on are the Water Management and Fisheries Management Technical Committees. These committees are comprised of two groups. The first group is the technical staff and second are those who have a vested interest in the project such as those interested in the fisheries or those with interest in the water issues such as irrigation districts. When I began attending these meetings, I had no idea of the complexities involved in the restoration of the fall and spring run of chinook salmon, nor of the complexity involved in restoring a river that has been seriously neglected for over 60 years.

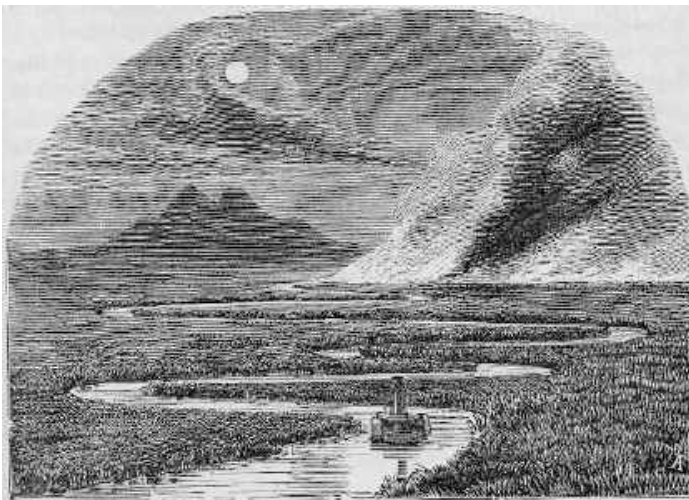


Friant Dam

Prior to the construction of Friant Dam in 1942, the San Joaquin hosted both a spring and fall run of Chinook salmon. It is thought that the number of salmon spawning in the San Joaquin was equal to the salmon spawning on the Sacramento River and its tributaries. The San Joaquin spring Chinook run was the largest in North America. These fish are now extinct. After the dam was in place, a section of the river 30 miles below the dam basically dried-up for 60 miles, which destroyed the salmon's century old spawning grounds. Historically it is now recognized that the loss of the fall-run was the first to be caused by low water flows and high temperatures. By 1949, both the fall and spring salmon had disappeared from the San Joaquin.

California's Department of Fish and Game (DFG) put forth huge efforts in trying to save the both salmon runs, especially the spring-run. In 1950, they said that the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), who was operating the dam, must comply with DFG Code 5937 and release enough water to maintain any fish, planted or otherwise, in good condition that was below the dam. BOR officials and Friant Dam water users said the main purpose of the dam was for irrigation and they had no legal obligation preserve the fish

In 1951, California's Attorney General Pat Brown gave the opinion the federal government did not have to comply with the state's DFG codes. According to Brown, any preservation of fish, "would constitute a waste of water in the grave need for all available wa-



Etching of the San Joaquin River before it was dammed and diverted (Golden Gate Audubon Society)

A brief history

The San Joaquin River flows from the High Sierras in a south-westerly direction to the Central Valley where it turns abruptly to the northwest and eventually into the Delta at Suisun Bay. The San Joaquin is 320 miles in length. The section under restoration extends from the base of Friant Dam to the confluence of the Merced River and is 153 miles in length.

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San Joaquin River from page 8

ter for higher use elsewhere". DFG was very unhappy with Brown's opinion and pursued the matter, going to an early version of the Department of Water Resources (DWR). Unfortunately, DWR found DFG's actions to be, "not in the public interest." However, the dam was required to release minimum water at least to a point 30 miles downstream known as Gravelly Ford. Today, except in flood years, the San Joaquin is bone-dry most years for 60 miles beyond that point. The loss of the San Joaquin River was California's the first major loss of a salmon fishery, unfortunately to be followed by many others.

Brown was elected governor in 1958, and halted any further legal action by DFG to prevent further loss of the salmon. Now because of the construction of Shasta Dam and other barriers without any concern for our fisheries, many runs of salmon and steelhead are either threatened or extinct. For example, in Northern California, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&W) says that of 22 tributaries on the Sacramento River they have worked on, 18 of the 22 steelhead populations are now extinct. Now Governor Jerry Brown, with his proposed dual conveyance/peripheral canal scheme, is following directly in his father's footsteps. If he succeeds, as his father did, all salmon in the Central Valley will become extinct.

In 1988 the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) were plaintiffs in a lawsuit against the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Friant Water Users Authority (FWUA). The FWUA is a group of 29 water districts. The NRDC was joined in the suit by a coalition of environmental and fisheries groups. After 18 years of contentious haggling between all parties, the suit was settled in 2006. In the settlement, Judge Lawrence Karlton concluded that the BOR's operation

of Friant Dam was a disaster and had destroyed not only the salmon population, but the rainbow trout, the splittail, the river's habitat and qualities. He was angry with the defendants for re-litigating the same arguments. All parties were given a period of time to settle their dispute, but if they didn't, the court would settle it in a manner that would probably not be satisfactory to any of the litigants.



Thousand Island Lake in the Ansel Adams Wilderness, one of the headwaters of the San Joaquin River. Photo by jcookfisher.

Despite the BOR's poor management of Friant's water resources, Karlton did suggest that agriculture's use of water for irrigation should not suffer unduly in the restoration of the river. His ruling considered needs of all parties involved in the action.

The two main objectives in the case settlement are: 1) restore and maintain self sustaining fish populations in the San Joaquin River from Friant Dam to the confluence with the Merced River; and, 2) to reduce or avoid adverse water supplies for long term contractors that might result from either interim or restoration flows.

The state is a supporter of the SJRRP settlement and has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with all parties using the state's Environmental Protection Act (EPA), DWR, DFG, and the Resource Agency. If all goes as planned all environmental goals will be met, along with water supply certainty for the over 15,000 farms irrigating 1 million acres which produces \$4.5 million in crops annually. This will be in addition to the recreational benefits the river will again provide and improved water quality benefits below the dam.

The SJRRP is a massive effort. Four counties, Fresno, Madera, Merced, and Stanislaus are involved. The 153

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San Joaquin River from page 9

miles of restoration has been divided into 5 reaches:

- Reach 1 Friant Dam to Gravelly Ford
- Reach 2 Gravelly Ford to Mendota Dam
- Reach 3 Mendota Dam to Sack Dam
- Reach 4 Sack Dam to Bear Creek/ /Eastside Bypass
- Reach 5 The Bear Creek/Eastside Bypass to the Merced River confluence

Because of differences in the physical and environmental make-up, some of the reaches have been subdivided into more than one section. All reaches present complex and unique problems that must be dealt with.

Current Issues

In 2010, there were pictures in all the papers and on TV of water flowing down the San Joaquin River past Gravelly Ford for the first time in over 60 years. Since then there have been repeated water releases for experimental purposes and data collection. In my naiveté when I first started attending the meetings I thought if you just released enough water from Friant Dam to fill the canal and restocked the river, the situation would be resolved. I was wrong. The problems with restoring the San Joaquin are very complex and there are no easy answers.

BOR has a major concern with the section between Gravelly Ford to the Mendota Dam. The levees in Reaches 2 and 3 are badly degraded after 60 years of neglect and pose a major problem for flood control. Another problem will be levee foundation seepage after the river flow on a full time basis. Also, the canal flow has been seriously degraded because of a build-up of sediment and heavy intrusion of vegetation. More than 10 miles of the river channel must be widened as it approaches the Mendota Pool. Then a bypass around the pool will have to be built for

salmon passage. Each reach presents specific problems that are unique to that part of the river.

One of the major agreements in the San Joaquin Settlement Act is to re-establish its fall and spring-run of Chinook salmon and all other fish that existed in the San Joaquin prior to the building of Friant Dam. After 60 plus years of total neglect, this too is proving to be a huge undertaking. The area below the dam has issues that are going to be hard to overcome. In addition to some of the problems previously mentioned, the river now presents a lack of spawning beds and has a

relatively flat gradient which prevents silt from being washed downstream from existing beds and those to be constructed.

Fortunately, descendants of the original fall-run Chinook in the San Joaquin can still swim above the Hills Falls barrier, in Salt and Mud Sloughs, and other locations above the confluence with the Merced River. These fish will be tagged with both visual and

acoustic tags to help with research as the project continues and their eggs will be used to establish the new run for fall Chinook.

Unfortunately, the spring-run is going to be far more difficult to establish than the fall-run of the Chinook. Despite the heroic efforts of DFG members, the spring-run Chinook became extinct in 1949, to be replaced with 60 miles of sand. After much research, the USFWS has decided to use brood stock from the Feather River. This year approximately 560 eggs were segregated from the spawning operation at the Feather River Fish Hatchery.

First, under the requirements and permits required by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), these eggs will be held at a holding-quarantine facility at



"Return of the San Joaquin," photo by Jess Uecker


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San Joaquin River from page 10

the Feather River Hatchery. As of the last meeting I attended on November 2, the eggs were still in the Feather River facility. They will stay there until it has been determined the all compliance and permits have been met under experimental population section of the Environmental Species Act(ESA).

After satisfying the ESA requirements, the brood stock will be transferred a holding facility consisting of enclosed pens to be located somewhere on Reach 1. It is important that these juveniles be reared on the San Joaquin to develop homing instincts. An estimated 54,400 eggs will be harvested and ultimately released. The Restoration Program plans to start monitoring the return of adults by 2015. In the next 10 to 12 years a return of 10,000 fall run and 30,000 spring run-run Chi-nook is hoped for. The USF&WS scien-

tists I have spoken with feel it will be more than 20 years before these chinook will be self-sustaining.

The restoration of 153 miles of a river with the complex nature of the San Joaquin, has never been attempted in America's history. The recent issues presented by local, county, state, and federal governments only increase the complexities. The restoration of an extinct species, including all fish previously existing in a river, has never been accomplished. It has been frustrating to watch the SJRRP trying to progress with all the collateral issues that have developed. But it is heartening to watch the attempts of all who work on the project. Their attitude is that the restoration of the San Joaquin is for perpetuity, and they want to get it right. 



The San Joaquin before and after a temporary restoration releases in 2009



A market boat plies the old San Joaquin River (New York Public Library)

Coho Salmon Recovery Plan

by Dougald Scott

There are two distinct populations of coho salmon in California: the Southern Oregon Northern California Coast (SONCC) Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) and the Central California Coast (CCC) ESU. The CCC coho salmon live on the southernmost edge of the species' range on the American continent and are on the brink of extinction; and as such are listed as endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA).



In accordance with the ESA listing, NOAA Fisheries (NMFS) released the final Recovery Plan for the CCC coho salmon ESU in September, all 2,000 pages of it. Clearly, the plan carries much more information and detail than most people will ever look at. However within the scope of recovery plans for endangered species, this is the norm, and there is a good reason for that.

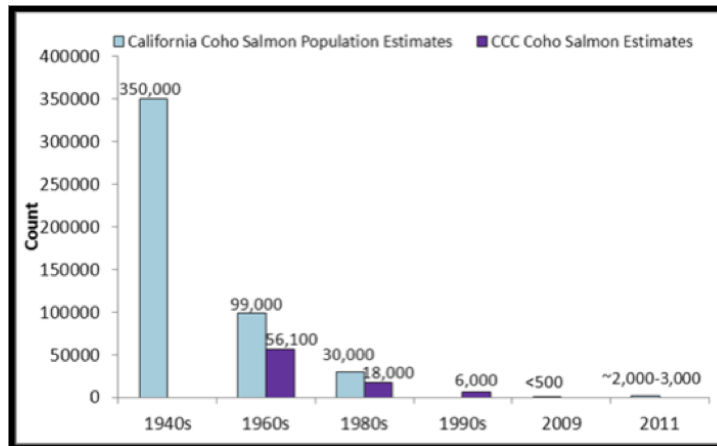
Recovery plans serve as road maps for recovery for actions and funding priorities needed to recover species and remove them from the ESA listing and protections. They are guidance documents, not regulatory documents, and their implementation depends on the voluntary cooperation of multiple stakeholders at local, regional, state, and national levels. To this end, they guide decision making for funding through grants from federal, state and local agencies, and NGO's, all with an interest in restoration. They can also influence regulatory decision making at all of these levels. It's not surprising then

that it takes these 2,000 pages to profile in detail, and present recovery actions for each of the 28 coho focus populations between Punta Gorda (Humboldt County) and Aptos Creek in Santa Cruz County.

Recognizing the impending extinction of CCC coho salmon, the plan calls for a short term strategy to prevent extinction in addition to actions for a long term recovery. In this regard, the plan identifies three overarching objectives to prevent CCC coho salmon from extinction, and ultimately achieve their recovery:

- Objective 1: Prevent extinction by protecting habitats and reducing threats.
- Objective 2: Re-establish viable populations in (at least) the 28 prioritized watersheds.
- Objective 3: Begin standardized monitoring of coho salmon populations and their habitat across the CCC coho ESU.

In order to implement the plan, a detailed habitat assessment of each watershed was undertaken. Habitat conditions evaluated were: passage, hydrology, habitat complexity, sediment, velocity refuge, estuary/lagoon, water quality, landscape patterns and viability. In addition, threats for each watershed were evaluated and these included disease, predation, severe weather, and habitat degradation from water diversions, road building and maintenance,



urbanization, channel modification, unsustainable timber operations and climate change.

When results across the ESU are compared, some patterns emerge. Conditions and threats worsen from north to south. Populations farthest north in Mendocino County do not have very high threats, while populations to the south from northern Sonoma County to Santa Cruz County show increasingly

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Coho salmon from Page 12

high and very high threats. Populations deemed to be at an extreme risk of extirpation or already extinct are the Garcia River, Gualala River, Russian River, Walker Creek, Pescadero Creek and the San Lorenzo River.

Ocean survival is largely affected by individual attributes, such as body size, growth rate, and ocean entry date; as well as environmental conditions, food availability, predation and competition. The plan concludes that the number and health of smolts leaving freshwater for the ocean ultimately dictates the number of adults returning.

The plan then summarizes recovery actions to achieve the objectives for the overall ESU:

- Fund and expand Conservation Hatchery Captive Broodstock Programs (see Coho Captive Broodstock Programs on Page 14).
- Immediately implement restoration to improve freshwater survival of all life stages.
- Continue and seek long-term funding for population and habitat monitoring.
- Incentivize landowners to maintain forestlands and restore unproductive timberland.
- Pursue protection and preservation of key habitats.

Volume II of the plan addresses specific recovery actions for the 28 focus populations and 11 supplemental populations in the ESU. Rather than a cursory review of all 1210 pages, I closely examined the population that I am most familiar with, the San Lorenzo River (where I caught my first coho many years ago).

Each watershed section begins with a number of charts summarizing the watershed setting, current conditions and future threats. These chart summaries are followed by detailed outlines of Actions For Re-

storing Habitats and Threat Abatement Actions. Included in the outlines are action steps for each restoration or threat. The final section for each watershed is an Implementation Schedule for each action noted in the outline.

In conclusion, the authors have organized an incredible amount of information into a detailed analysis of current habitat conditions and threats over this large geographical area. This plan will indeed serve as a roadmap to recovery of the CCC coho salmon. However, implementation is going to be a long arduous task requiring cooperation and sacrifice from many diverse stakeholders in the community. I see reduced streamflows and creeping urbanization as the most difficult threats to overcome through consensus. As stated in the Executive Summary: *Fisheries biologists alone cannot shift a species trajectory from extinction to recovery; it requires a united community forming alliances and strategically implementing recovery actions to this single purpose.* In other words, recovery won't happen unless we work for it. The plan may be downloaded at:

<http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/recovery/>



Summary page for current conditions in the San Lorenzo River (Vol II, p 809)

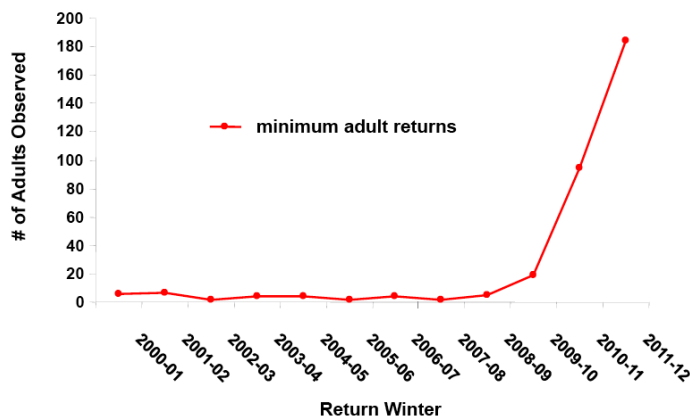
Coho Captive Broodstock Programs

by Dougald Scott

There are two active coho broodstock programs in California, the Warm Springs Hatchery in the Russian River watershed near Geyserville, and the Kingfisher Flat Fish Facility operated by the Monterey Bay Salmon and Trout Project in the Scotts Creek watershed (Santa Cruz County).

Unlike traditional hatcheries, broodstock are reared their entire lives in fresh water and are spawned according to a complex breeding matrix designed to maximize genetic diversity. The off-spring are then released into streams throughout the watershed that historically supported wild runs of coho. The goal of the programs is to recover self-sustaining wild populations in each watershed.

The Russian River program is currently releasing 172,000 juvenile coho annually into 19 tributaries of the Russian River. In the 2011-2012 winter, 185 adult coho released as juveniles were counted migrating upstream in the Russian River. Other adult coho were found in tributaries. In 2011, roughly half of the 199 downstream smolts trapped in one tributary were



Adult coho returns to the Russian River Watershed

wild. This is definitely encouraging news.

The MBSTP Scotts Creek facility is more limited in space, and therefore production as well. In recent years, improvements in diet (krill added), rearing habitat, and modest out-breeding with fish from Olema and Redwood Creeks has greatly improved production.



Releasing broodstock progeny

About 360 production smolts are kept as broodstock until mature. Hatchery spawning capacity is 80 to 85 females using four males each thus creating four distinct family groups per female. NOAA provides a genetic matrix that dictates all of the pairings to maximize genetic diversity.

This year there are more than 45,000 coho smolts to release in Scotts and San Vicente Creeks. Mature adults in excess of what the hatchery can spawn are released into Scotts Creek and San Vicente Creeks to spawn naturally in the wild. Last year 115 mature coho were released into the into these creeks with some natural spawning documented.

To find out more about the Monterey Bay Salmon & Trout Project, see <http://www.mbstp.org>.



A wild Alaska Coho

Everyone's Invited to the Party

by Chuck Hammerstad



Founding FFF club, the Flycasters Inc. of San Jose has always been very jealous of the conservation funding clubs like Shasta-Trinity and the Santa Cruz Fly Fishermen, all made possible by dedicated volunteers working year-round to be able to offer raffle and auction items that generate significant funds. This year the Conservation Committee is hosting the annual awards dinner and fundraiser with all proceeds going to the Marty Seldon Memorial Conservation Fund for our conservation projects. We've got a committee of seven working hard to put on a great party and would like to have you and all your friends join us. Everyone's invited.

The semi-formal party is being held at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 9, 2013 at the Cupertino, Quinlan Community Center at 10185 N. Stelling Avenue just north of Stevens Creek Blvd. There's easy access from all the freeways and if you'd like to stay over we have \$69 rooms at Marriott Suites, Wolf Road, Cupertino and \$79 rooms at the Maple Tree Inn, El Camino, Sunnyvale. The later includes a full breakfast. The party is only \$40/person, space is limited, advanced reservations are required and can be made at www.flycasters.org using PayPal.

We already have over 100 prizes with an estimated retail value of about \$25,000 and more are being added every day. We've got restaurant gift certificates, fly fishing rods & reels, fishing lodge and resort stays, 2:1 guided fly fishing trips, art and fly plates, wine and wine tastings, gift baskets and a lot more. Credit cards will be accepted at the party.

Our guest speaker will be the one of our own members, the honorable Rod Diridon, former Santa Clara County Supervisor, world renowned expert on high speed rail, a strong advocate for conservation and an honorary lifetime member of Flycasters. Rod's presentation will include a talk on high speed rail and other topics.


Salmonid Restoration Conference 2013

by Dougald Scott

NCCFFF will once again be a co-sponsor for this important conference. This is the one of the largest and most important annual meetings devoted to salmonid restoration held on the west coast. NCCFFF has co-sponsored the last four conferences, with our own Cindy Charles and Mark Rockwell making presentations at several of them.



This year's 31st annual conference will be held in Fortuna, California, March 13-16, 2013. The theme is "Innovative Approaches to Fisheries Restoration" and the conference agenda will highlight pioneering techniques, methodologies, and practices to restore and recover salmonids. The conference agenda will also explore the theories, philosophies, and science informing the development of restoration practices that mimic natural processes.

A number of NCCFFF members have become members of SRF and have attended the conferences. It is always an uplifting experience to interact with so many professionals, conservationists, and yes fly fishers, at this event. I urge you to check out their website (www.calsalmon.org) and consider joining and attending the 2013 Conference. 

Reserve and order your tickets today. We have additional information at www.flycasters.org and on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Flycasters-Inc-of-San-Jose/122824474459597?sk=wall>.

For more information and to get on our mailing list for updates contact:

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Mike Culcasi mculcasi@sbcglobal.net 408-377-4969



NCCFFF CALENDAR

	DATE	EVENT	LOCATION/CONTACT	MORE INFO
2013	Jan 10-13	ISE Show	Sacramento	www.sportsexpos.com
	Jan 11-12	Western Idaho Fly Fishing Fair	Boise, ID	www.bvffexpo.com
	Jan 19	Santa Cruz Fly Fishermen Annual Fundraiser	Santa Cruz, CA	www.santacruzflyfishermen.org
	Feb 9	San Jose Flycasters Conservation Fundraiser	San Jose, CA	www.flycasters.org
	Feb 22-24	The Fly Fishing Show	Pleasanton, CA	www.flyfishingshow.com
	Feb 23	NCCFFF Hall of Fame Dinner	Fremont, CA	www.nccfff.org
	Mar 2	NCCFFF Board Meeting	TBA	www.nccfff.org
	Mar 8-9	NW Fly tying Expo	Albany, OR	http://nwexpo.com
	Mar 13-16	Salmonid Restoration Conference	Fortuna, CA	www.calsalmon.org
	Mar 14-16	Sowbug Roundup	Mountain Home, AR	http://www.northarkansasflyfisher.org/sowbug_roundup.html
	Apr 19-20	East Idaho Fly Tying Expo	Idaho Falls, ID	www.srcexpo.com
	May 3-5	Washington Fly Fishing Fair	Ellensburg, WA	www.washingtoncouncilfff.org
	Jun 1-2	NCCFFF Board & General Membership Meeting	Camp McCumber, CA	www.nccfff.org
	Sep 7	NCCFFF Board Meeting	TBA	www.nccfff.org
	Sep 26-28	FFF Fly Fishing Fair	West Yellowstone, MT	www.fedflyfishers.org

VFFF Fly Fishing & Fly Tying Workshops

contact Ken Brunskill at steamntrout@comcast.net for more information

Livermore VA Clinic
10-11:30 AM, first and third Wednesdays

4951 Arroyo Road, Livermore, CA 94550 – Room 544 for outpatients. Community Living Center Dining Room for residents.

Menlo Park VA Clinic
10-11:30 AM, second and fourth Fridays

795 Willow Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025, Bldg 334

San Jose VA Clinic
10-11:30 AM, third Thursdays

80 Great Oaks Boulevard, San Jose, CA 95119