



# Rx Fly Fishing!

The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!

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April 2020

Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

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## April/May Calendar

May 2 Kelsey Bass Ranch Outing

May 9 One Fly Contest

May 17 American River Shad Outing

May 18-23 Eastern Sierra Outing

June 6 Catfish Derby?

June 10 DFF Barbecue?

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<https://www.facebook.com/Delta-Fly-Fishers-Inc-265097290192284/>

## Wishin' I was fishin'



Hello fellow DDF'ers!

I hope our April newsletter finds you safe and healthy and at home as much as possible. When we last got together for our monthly membership meeting in March, I had no idea how quickly things would change for us and for the world. In just a little over a week, we have gone from sharing space, making plans and talking fish stories to cancelling any non-essential reason to leave our homes. Many peoples' jobs are on hold or being performed remotely. Many lakes and rivers are closed to public access. Pyramid Lake is closed. Fly shops are taking mail, phone and online orders only.

I am not going to lie. At first I thought about all the fishing this could mean for me. I know that is not the most mature response to the situation possible- but I am just being honest that that is where my mind first went. That thought didn't stay with me for long as life's responsibilities quickly brought me to my new reality of staying home each day. Rather than fishing, I am spending time working virtually from home each day, helping my son navigate distance learning for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and wondering why my house isn't clean even though I am home all day every day. Our pups are loving it though. We go for daily walks and practice the new normal of social distancing from other people. Two weeks ago I didn't even know what that meant! I am grateful for the time with my son and trying to breath in this opportunity to slow down my life a little. I just wish it was under less dire circumstances.

As a club, we are hoping to start

up small group gatherings in May if CDC guidelines allow it. We are not planning to do any food sharing or large group meetings until June at the earliest. Keep in mind that things change daily and as CDC recommendations change, we will adjust as necessary. Our main priority is to keep our membership as safe as possible and to contribute towards the global efforts to minimize the spread of the virus. If we are able to add activities back to the calendar sooner, we will gladly do that. If we have to cancel more activities, we will do so.



In the meantime, please prioritize your health and remain at home unless you are a part of essential services. This is a challenging time for everyone and, as a community of amazing people, please reach out and touch base with your fellow fishing friends to make sure they are doing well. I am here if anyone needs anything I can help with. Take this opportunity to tie some flies, organize your boxes, clean your lines, practice your cast, read articles, watch fly fishing

videos, and make plans for when this is over. Place an order with your favorite fly shop. Our brick and mortar resources are being hit pretty hard through this.

Current recommendations are that we are to remain in our homes except for essential activities. Outdoor activities are allowed as long as the 6 foot separation is maintained. If you can get out and fish, send me your pictures. I will gladly tell you how jealous I am of your adventures! Stay safe. Check on each other and know that I am eager for the day that we can get together, make plans and go fishing together!

Amy Terra, 209-329-4801

# Where the club's at right now and where we are going in these trying times

By Jerry Neuburger

I'm sure some of you are wondering what club activities are still in the works this spring, which have been cancelled and where we're going in the fall. Here's what we know and what we don't know right now.

**The April and May regular member meetings:** The April and May membership meetings at the John R. Williams School have been cancelled for two reasons. First, for member safety and secondly, because the Lincoln School District has cancelled use of the multipurpose room for through the rest of the 2020 spring semester.

**FlyDay Night Tying:** Cancelled until further notice since the shop is closed to sit-down business and is open for pick up only.

**Fly of the Month:** Cancelled until the fall since SJ Parks and Rec has closed the Oak Grove Park Nature Center until further notice.

**Open Casting at Legion Park, Lodi:** Cancelled until further notice.

**April DFF BoD meeting:** Cancelled

**May DFF BoD meeting:** To be determined. A lot depends on whether the SJ Parks and Rec will hold the Catfish Derby on June 6th and whether the club will hold its June Barbecue and Potluck on June 10. If held, a suitable location will have to be secured.

**SJ Parks and Rec. Catfish Derby, Saturday, June 6:** Unknown. As of this date, the county has not been able to secure a shipment of fish. In addition, a question arises, if held with the current crisis, would attendance justify the event.

**DFF Barbecue and Potluck, Wednesday, June 10:** Unknown. A lot depends on the state of the current health crisis eleven weeks from now.

**Kelsey Bass Ranch Outing, May 2:** Currently still on with some modifications. No food served. Social distancing to be practiced. Those wishing to attend should respect other angler's personal space. Reservations can be made by contacting Al Smatsky, [algofish@softcom.net](mailto:algofish@softcom.net), 368-9261. The access fee to the lake is \$85 per

person.

**One Fly Contest, May 9:** Currently still on. This fundraiser for student scholarships is still scheduled at White Pines Lake, Arnold. A \$25 fee is charged for the event and includes a generous tri tip lunch. Bob Fujimura, [deltaflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflyfishers@gmail.com), 339-0683, is the club fishmiester for this event.

**Eastern NV Stillwater Outing - May 18 -23:** Currently still on but may be subject to change. See the current article in this newsletter for more details. Bob Fujimura is the fishmiester for this outing, [deltaflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflyfishers@gmail.com), 339-0683,

**American River Shad Outing, May 17:** Currently still on. Stay tuned for further details in the May newsletter and weekly reminders, No food served. Please maintain proper social distancing. Al Smatsky is the fishmiester for this outing. [algofish@softcom.net](mailto:algofish@softcom.net), 368-9261. This is a closed outing for DFF members only.

**Possible summer outings:** Much depends on where we are in the current health crisis as well as the club's officers and directors ability to meet and plan future events. Right now the best recommendation is to stay current by reading the monthly newsletter and weekly reminders, checking out the club website, [www.deltaflyfishers.com](http://www.deltaflyfishers.com) and the club's [FaceBook](#) page.

**Fall 2020:** Right now, things are just too up in the air to make any firm commitments. All we can say is check in frequently and look for emails to stay informed.

If participating in any of the club's activities for the foreseeable future, remember that a good majority of our members are within the age group that is most subject to harm if recommended precautions are not observed. If you are at a club event and don't want to participate in food sharing, don't! If you feel someone is in your "space" speak up politely and let them know what you consider a safe distance. What one person considers safe may be way too close for another.

**Keep calm and carry on.**

## DFF Officers



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Amy Terra	<a href="mailto:dffwebmaster@gmail.com">dffwebmaster@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	
Dena Mason	
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John and Karen Keagy	
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Refreshments	
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Trout Bout (November)	
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Any correspondence regarding this publication should be directed to: The Delta Fly Fishers Inc. PO Box 77862 Stockton, CA 95207-7862	

# Kelsey is still on this May 2nd.



By Al Smatsky  
Every year this outing is very well attended by our Club members and I don't think that it will be any different this year. Kelsey Ranch is located about 28 miles east of Turlock, and east of Snelling, CA. Kelsey Lake is a 125-acre impoundment stocked with trophy size Florida strain Black Bass. The lake is full and in very good condition. Some early anglers this year are reporting very good fishing. When I receive a fishing report, it is posted on the Excellent Adventures bulletin board and we'll send it out in the club's weekly reminders. By the time we fish the lake in May, the bass will have already spawned, and the water temperature should be in the mid to upper 60's. The lake should be perfect for all of

those Leo's Poppers and Jerry's flip-flop poppers that you have been making.

In 2014 the lake record was broken by a conventional angler that hauled in a 16 lbs 12 oz bass in mid-January, on the fly fishing end; one SoCa angler landed a black bass over 14 lbs on a woolly-bugger and a bay area angler landed a black bass over 8 lbs on a popper. The California State record for blue gill record was not reestablished but the lake did produce one 3 lbs 14 oz. The lake fished very well all through the summer months.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The following requirement applies to participants in Guided Float Trip Outings and those Outings where participants use owned, rented or

loaned watercraft such as, but not limited to, boats, canoes, kayaks, prams, pontoon boats and float tubes: ***"Each participant should wear a Coast Guard approved protective safety flotation device (SFD) at all times while boarding, disembarking or on board the watercraft."***

You may sign up by emailing [algofish@softcom.net](mailto:algofish@softcom.net) or calling Al Smatsky at (209) 368-9261, please do so by April 27<sup>th</sup>, so I can send you a pass, along with gate code. The main gate will be locked and you will need the access code for entry. The cost for the outing is \$85 per person. **Due to the current Covid 19 crisis, no food will be served at this year's event. Please bring your own lunch and drinks.**

Hope to see you all there!



*"Our mission is to provide you with a total experience, not just a fishing trip."*

*Kelsey Bass Ranch, Mulege Baja, Isla Blanca, Pesca Maya, Xcalak, Picacho Lodge, Chile, Yuba, Feather & American River Shad, Club Presentations and Clinics*

[www.excellentadventures.org](http://www.excellentadventures.org)

**Al Smatsky, Proprietor**

619 W. Pine Street, Lodi, CA 95240  
(209) 368-9261, (209) 601-0819 cell 1/14

# The One Fly, May 9th is on. Check in with Bob Fujimura for the latest info

The Calaveras Fly Fishers are still planning to host this annual friendly fishing competition as scheduled during the morning of the May 9 barring an extension of the state-wide stay-at-home order. Come out and participate in a friendly stillwater tournament between our club and the Calaveras Fly Fishers (CFF). Our club has won this contest for the last two years. Our CFF hosts have arranged with CDFW to stock White Pines Lakes with plenty of hatchery rainbow trout prior to this event. A sign-up sheet for this event has been started. Club members can sign up by contacting Bob Fujimura via email at [deltaflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflyfishers@gmail.com) or call (209) 329-1692. The deadline for RSVP Calaveras Fly Fishers is May 4. We have already 12 members signed up.

For DFF member familiar with this event, the contest and location are the same as past years - White Pines Lake. For new members, White Pines Lake (WPL) is near the town of Arnold just off Hwy 4 and is a small and beautiful lake. No power boats are allowed, has free public access, and the park is well maintained by

local volunteers. The lake is relatively safe to learn how to fly fish from a personal watercraft. The time of year, WPL is easy to catch hatchery trout or wild warmwater



Last year's winner, Ron Forbes, DFF member. Photo by Bob Fujimura.

fish. Prizes will be awarded for persons who catches the most trout



2018 winner, Jean Fujimura, DFF member. Photo by Bob Fujimura.

or the largest fish using just one fly. Registration will start by 7 am and fishing starts at 9 and ends at 1 pm.

Contestants pay a \$25 fee that goes toward a local education fund. The fee includes coffee and donuts in the morning and a generous BBQ tri-tip lunch after the contest. Non-participants can join the lunch for \$10. If you are a new fly fisher, watching the best stillwater fishers is a quick lesson on how to fish for hatchery trout in lakes.

Bob will send each person on the sign-up list rules for the contest, directions, and suggest fishing gear prior to the event. Barring local health orders, we will offer a pre-event information meeting for new attendees on Wednesday evening April 29. Registration or lunch fees will be paid on the day of the event on May 9th. DFF participants must have a current liability waiver on file and use a PFD if they fish from a personal watercraft.



**Stockton Store Hours**  
Monday - Saturday  
10:00AM - 8:00PM  
Sundays  
10:00AM - 6:00PM



10536 Trinity Parkway  
Stockton, CA  
Tel. (209)851-7400  
Store Manager: Aric Emery

# An Interview with CFF President Mike Walker on the One Fly Contest

By Bob Fujimura

Mike is a longtime contact with the Calaveras Fly Fishers regarding their One Fly Contest. I wanted to share some of his thoughts on this annual event that many of us have enjoyed.

*Mike, can you share a little about yourself and your role with this event?*

I am the current President of the Calaveras Fly Fishers. I've been in this role for about 3 1/2 years. A resident of Calaveras for 16 years. As with many residents it started with a weekend cabin and evolved into full time residency in 2004. My role in the "One Fly Contest" is really that of a coordinator. Thankfully we have several volunteers that perform the necessary tasks to make the event a success and my focus is to ensure we have addressed all of those necessary tasks. As I'm sure you know there are many activities behind the scenes that are required to make the event happen.

*How many people participate in this event and how many club volunteers are involved in hosting the contest?*

The number of participants vary from year to year but lately we've been averaging approximately 30 contest participants and 3-5 additional guests. Generally 6-8 volunteers assist with the various activities necessary to

high school senior that is pursuing a degree in environmental, forest management, animal science or related field of study. We are extremely proud to be a part of helping these wonderful kids continue their education and are confident that they will be supporting our values in the future.

*What do you enjoy the most about leading this event?*

I'm sure this is true with most similar events but it is the camaraderie and new relationships that are formed that makes this so enjoyable. Couple that with the fact that it is such a worthwhile cause and you can't help feeling good about what is being accomplished.

*Do you have any special message to our club members?*

Please come and enjoy the day. Seek opportunities to get to know folks you haven't met and consider future opportunities to get together. Most of all have fun!



conduct the event.

*Please describe the charity benefit that this event supports.*

The entire proceeds from this event support our annual John Di Dio memorial scholarship. The scholarship donates \$1000 to a deserving local

## On the Riffle Guide Service

I am dedicated to giving you the most memorable day of fishing on the Sacramento River. My passion for fly fishing and the years of meticulously studying the river have helped me to put my clients in the best situation to catch fish. Whether a beginner or experienced fly fisher, man or woman, you will have an incredible time.

"Make your reservations now.

Scott Sugimoto

(530) 276-1612

[scott@ontheriffle.com](mailto:scott@ontheriffle.com)

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gram: @ontheriffle



### Rx Fly Fishing! Advertising Rates

2 column inches each newsletter issue for the year for \$400 or in-kind goods and services, six months \$200, quarter \$100, one month \$40. The ad may include artwork and will link to the advertiser's website.

Additional column inches of ad space may be purchased at \$200 for the year, \$100 for six months, \$50 for a quarter year, \$20 per month.

Included:

A digital subscription to the club's monthly newsletter.

Permission to post specials and other advertising on the [club's Face book page](#), 2 per month.

For additional information please phone or e-mail [Jerry Neuburger](#), Editor 209-369-5752

# Eastern NV Stillwater Outing - May 18-23

Bob and Jean Fujimura will host DFF members to fish some noteworthy reservoirs and lakes in Northeastern Nevada. They have experienced annually some awe-

ery trout over the last 12 months. If you are not familiar with the quality of the fishing, read Rob Anderson's description of typical fishing opportunities at: <http://>

opportunities include main forks and tributaries of the Humboldt and Owyhee Rivers. Currently, there are fishing and camping closures at Wild Horse and the Duck Valley Lakes. However, there should be several alternative camping or lodging options available by the time of this outing



This outing is geared toward intermediate level fishers with some experience with stillwater fishing from a boat or personal watercraft. Shore fishing is also available and at times just as effective. There is no club outing fee, but participants are responsible for their meals, lodging, and transportation at the outing site. A valid club liability waiver and a PFD are required if you plan to fish from a personal watercraft. Contact Bob Fujimura at [deltaflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflyfishers@gmail.com) or (209) 329-1692 to sign up and for information on this outing. Bob will send more details to members on the sign-up list and offer a pre-outing organizational meeting with the participants in early May.

some fishing days for trophy rainbow trout and smallmouth bass, and 2019 was no exception. Subject to the lifting of Nevada State Park campground closure, Bob and Jean will be returning to Wild Horse State Park and have made the arrangement with guide Rob Anderson to extend his mostly closed (to his valued clients) two-day outing to DFF members during May 18-19. The price is \$250 and includes most meals. This paid guided option is not a requirement for joining the DFF club outing but is highly recommended if you are not familiar with fishing the lakes in this area.

[renoflyfishingoutfitters.com/education/](http://renoflyfishingoutfitters.com/education/) Possible other stillwater options include the Duck Valley Reservation Lakes, Wilson Reservoir, South Fork Reservoir, and Angel Lake. Stream fishing

The club outing will focus primarily on Wild Horse Reservoir which has received over 126,000 hatch-



# American River Shad Outing, Gristmill Park or Sunrise Park, Rancho Cordova Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 1 pm till dark

By Al Smatsky

My favorite time of the year is just around the corner; SHAD TIME!!

American Shad are an anadromous fish that returns to spawn in our local water during the spring months. Small juvenile males are the first to show up followed by larger males and females during May and June. You can fish for them thru the summer month till August when they return to the ocean.

One of the first places where you can catch shad in at Verona, where the Feather River meets the Sacramento River. I always figure by April 20<sup>th</sup>, you could expect to be a successful angler at this location. It requires a boat or good sea worth pram most years due to the sometime combined large flow from both rivers.

If we do not have a large spring run-off, you can get on the sand bar on the Feather River side and cast off one of the beaches. Please be careful, the sand is

very fluid and washes away easy under foot. Another key date to remember is the second Sunday of May (Mother's Day). This is my indicator that shad should be up high enough in the river



system to start fly fishing for them in the Rancho Cordova area.

Our Club outing will take place on the

third Sunday of May this year. If the spring flows remain above 1500 cfs, there should be good numbers of shad in the lower AR. I will provide additional information about the outing as we get closer to the event. If you are interested in looking at water flows in California go to:

[cdec.water.ca.gov](http://cdec.water.ca.gov)

Recommended flies

Bloody Maria ([see video](#))

Wet Pinkie—No video available.

10 or smaller straight eye hook

Pearl UV crystal flash tail

Fluorescent red throat underbody

Sparse white chenille overbody

small dumbbell eyes

Finish fly head with red fluorescent thread

When wet, the fluorescent red thread should turn the white chenille covering to pink in color.

Al Smatsky

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## Things to Do for the Homebound Fly Fisher

If you are dedicated fly fisher, public orders to stay at home and forgo any non-essential activities are hard to take. Many of us had to cancel some long-awaited fishing trips or outings. However, there are golden opportunities available without violating directives or social distancing guidelines. This list is based largely by an article by Bob Frye, Outdoors Adventures.



Go Outside: Currently the most restrictive orders allow for outdoor exercise. Walking, hiking, cycling, or paddling are good for your physical and mental health and prepares you for your deferred fishing trips when the crisis is over. At this time

fly fishing local waters is still allowed but be considerate of others and existing health orders if you undertake your sport.

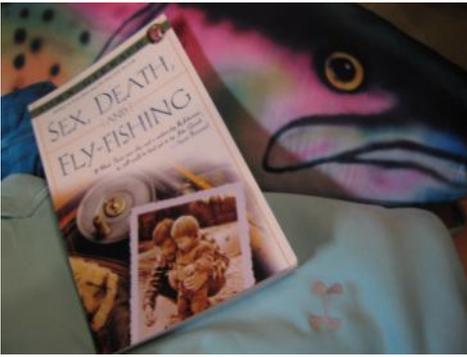


Inventory and Organize Your Gear: If you can't work or go outdoors, this is a perfect opportunity to organize and inventory your fishing gear. There is great satisfaction in organizing your flies, lines, and other gear. If you haven't already, do your annual inspection and maintenance of your key equipment such as rod, reels, and lines. If you find the need, now is the time to purchase or update your supplies or gear.



Hone Your Skills: There is only better time or reason to practice your fly casting. It can be a great way of exercising and getting some fresh air. Also, there are plenty of free videos online to improve your casting. If you are a causal fly tyer, there is a great satisfaction in dedicating enough time to perfect your favorite fly pattern or learn a new one. Finally, for the novice or intermediate fishers, learning and practicing your knot tying can have big benefits when fishing in low light, when fishing is urgent, or you are angling for the fish of a lifetime.

*Continued on page 8*



**Read:** Take a mental break from watching the news or stock market and pick up a book on your favorite sport. There are plenty of books to educate, entertain, or research the endless aspects of fly fishing. If you are not inclined, the Internet has many videos and websites that can provide hours of informative browsing.

**Research Your Next Trip:** The usual

daily demands affect adversely the proper planning and preparations for your major trips. Take the available time to study the fishing guides, research local experts, book lodging and guide services, and prepare your trip preparation lists. Although, it isn't clear when normal travel and accommodations will resume, you will be well-prepared when it happens.

**Reach Out to Others:** We are aware of the health risks of our older fly fishers and they are the most likely to be home-bound during this crisis. Drop a line or a phone call to someone who might need a friendly word or discussion. The effort might make a big difference to fellow colleague and might help you too. We often need the interaction of others to handle the isolation and stress of crises like this one.

## REESTABLISHING A SUCCESSFUL FALL-RUN POPULATION OF SALMON AND STEELHEAD POPULATION ON THE UPPER MOKELUMNE RIVER

*I continually read of men who say they would be just as happy not catching trout as catching them. To me that even then sounded like pious nonsense, and rather more like an excuse than a statement of fact. No, I want to catch them, and every time I slip on my waders and put on a fly, it is with this in mind.*

--- Brian Clare

YES, YES ... I KNOW, THIS IS OUTSIDE MY CONSERVATION BOX!

Given our current situation, most of us have a lot of extra time on our hands. I would like to make a suggestion. Over 10 years ago I discovered an internet radio show called "[Ask About Fly Fishing.com](http://www.AskAboutFlyFishing.com)" The show is hosted by D. Roger Maves. Each week he hosts an "expert" on some area of fly fishing. In the 13 years the show has been on the net, they have amassed a podcast archive of over 310 programs. The podcasts average about 90 minutes in length. Literally, everything in our sport is covered. Personally, I enjoy browsing the podcast archive and looking for names I recognize and listen to their podcasts.

I especially enjoy listening to a program

while tying flies, building rods, or "servicing" my gear in the basement. Hey, you can kill two birds with one stone!



Let me know what you think.

### REESTABLISHING A SUCCESSFUL FALL-RUN POPULATION OF SALMON AND STEELHEAD POPULATION ON THE UPPER MOKELUMNE RIVER

Since the 1980s, the Delta Fly Fishers (DFF) have been stakeholders on the Mokelumne River. Over five years ago, as the club's Conservation Chair, I was invited by the Foothill Conservancy (FC) to join other stakeholders to consider reestablishing fall-run Chinook salmon on the upper Mokelumne River (UMR). In 1929, East Bay Metropolitan Utility District (EBMUD) erected the 345 ft tall

Pardee Dam destroying the Moke's prime up-stream spawning habitats. In 1963, EBMUD completed the destruction of almost all of what remained of the rivers prime spawning habitat with the construction of Comanche Dam.

The river's stakeholders formed a Salmonid Restoration Team (SRT) to work on the project. River or fisheries restoration projects may seem to be a straight forward task. They are not. The San Joaquin River Restoration Project (SJRRP) was begun after an almost 20-year court battle. The project has been in progress for 16 years and still has much to be completed.

To gain technical insight into what the project would entail, the SRT hired Cramer Fish Science (CFS) to help in assessing the potential for the reintroduction of the salmon/steelhead. They were an excellent choice. One of CFS biologists working on the project was Joseph Merz Ph.D. For several years Merz was a managing biologist for EBMUD and has written many scientific research articles regarding the Moke. Some of you will remember DFF working with Joe planting cover to protect steelhead fry on Murphy Creek just off the Mokelumne. His previous experience on the Moke was invaluable. In March of 2018, Joe and two fel-

*(Continued on page 9)*

(Continued from page 8)

low- Ph.D.'s published a 52-page research paper "Salmonid Habitat Analysis On The Upper Mokelumne River." Their publication can be found on the Foothill Conservancy's Website. EBMUD has been an excellent resource, assigning managing biologist Jose Sekta and Michele Workman to the project. In 2019 our then-president Jerry Neuburger came on board, providing his years of insights and experience. We were fortunate to also obtain the services of Chris Shutes of the California Sportfishing Protection Alliances (CSPA) as the group's facilitator. His expertise has been invaluable.



Very little scientific information is available about the Upper Mokelumne River. It flows from a high point of 8,586 ft., down three branches to where it enters the Delta 95 miles below.

After much research and leg work, the study area has been divided into six reaches. The six reaches comprise 16.9 miles of the upper Mokelumne.

These reaches are:

- 1) The Middle Bar Reach. From the Middle Bar Bridge 2.6 miles to the Highway 49 Bridge.
- 2) The Electra Reach. It extends from the Highway 47 Bridge 4.4 miles to the Electra Powerhouse
- 3) The Ponderosa Reach. From the Powerhouse 3.1 miles upstream to the Ponderosa Way
- 4) The Confluence Reach. From the Ponderosa Way Bridge 3.7 miles upstream to the confluence of North and Middle forks.
- 5) The North Fork Reach. From the Con-

fluence of the Middle Fork 1.9 miles to Bald Rock Falls.

6) The Middle Fork Reach. From the confluence of the North Fork 1 mile to a boulder jam. Fish are blocked from a passage at this point.

There are three key requisites that these reaches must have to be a habitat for the salmon/steelhead.

First is accessibility. Will the salmon have access to the reach?

Second, is the determination of the reach's ability to be a spawning habitat.

Third, does the reach provide the necessary environment to support the rearing of juvenile fish?

For a fish population to be successful in spawning, they need the ability to reach a habitat that will support all of the fish's life stages.

The Cramer biologist found two areas that will prevent fish passage. One is the Bald Rock falls on the North Fork and the other is the attenuation structure below Electra Powerhouse. Several positional barriers were located like the one on the Confluence reach where the Moke drops 20 ft. in a 33 ft. section. In high water years, salmon can make the passage. On average, Chinook prefers to use a stream that has a gradient of less than 2%. During the study, the rivers water



temperature varied between 50.7 F and 57.6 F which is acceptable for spawning salmon.

The study shows the more upstream you go, the less satisfactory the rearing habitat for juveniles becomes.

Middle Fork.	Low Suitability
Middle Fork.	Low Suitability
Confluence	Medium Suitability
Ponderosa	Medium Suitability

Electra High Suitability

Middle Bar High Suitability

The study suggests that a population of Chinook salmon can be introduced into the upper Mokelumne River and can be successfully be maintained. The research team also suggested that habitat from Ponderosa upstream could be greatly improved for salmon if rounded gravel were introduced. We have seen the success of gravel introduction has been on the Lower Mokelumne with EBMUD's policies.

When the project's study was begun, several of the stakeholders noted that steelhead were not included in the study. After several meetings and much discussion, they were included. The research team noted that despite different times of the year for spawning both species share many of the same requirements in the life cycles. Central Valley steelhead and Chinook salmon are now both considered in the reintroduction project.

Despite attending many meetings of the SJRRP's technical and fish committees, I had no idea of the detailed complexity involved in these projects. Many problems need to be solved. One of those problems is turning out to be very difficult to solve. On the Moke a major problem has arisen. Originally, the source of the Chinook and steelhead was to be from the Moke itself. Unfortunately, in California, we are having more and more difficulties with hatchery fish infected with parasites. There is no straightforward solution and the issue has become increasingly complex. Use fish from the hatcheries on the Yuba or Feather Rivers. Unfortunately, that solution will not be feasible.

The best solution seems to be the installation of filtration systems. However, those systems require the services of 4 operators and cost \$10 million for each hatchery. Also, the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will not attend meetings or commit to solutions.

Last week I spoke with Chris Shutes to understand the current status of the project and where we go from here. He feels given the current attitudes and inactivity of DFW and the USFWS, the salmonid restoration project has come to a hiatus. This hiatus will be exacerbated by the corona virus emergency.

Ron Forbes



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