

Field Activity Advisory

Adult Spring-Run Chinook Salmon Holding and Spawning Habitat Study June 2020– February 2021

The San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) will release approximately 185 adult spring-run Chinook salmon broodstock in addition to the 47 naturally returning adult spring-run that have been trapped and transported to Reach 1 of the Restoration Area. Field efforts will track and assess spring-run Chinook salmon summer holding areas, spawning habitat, emergence rates, and incubation habitat quality using telemetry, snorkel surveys, redd/carcass surveys, and emergence traps. Monitoring efforts for the study will continue until juvenile spring-run Chinook emergence is complete. This study will assist the SJRRP with studying available spawning habitat and inform managers of how best to implement spawning habitat restoration actions.



SJRRP biologist tracking Chinook salmon using acoustic telemetry

Who: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

What: Approximately 185 adult spring-run Chinook Salmon from brood year 2015-2018, raised at the Interim Salmon Conservation and Research Facility in Friant, California, will be released to the San Joaquin River. The brood stock release is in addition to 47 naturally returning adult spring-run that have been trapped and transported from Reach 5 to Reach 1 of the Restoration Area. Released fish will be tracked and individually identified using a combination of acoustic telemetry, passive integrated transponder (PIT), external anchor tags, and parental-based (genetic) tags to study habitat use and survival. Offspring will be identified using genetic testing. Fish movements and summer holding habitat will be monitored using snorkel surveys, a portable acoustic receiver and a network of fixed-site acoustic receivers. Beginning in August, spawning habitat selection and redd morphology will be monitored using redd and carcass surveys to recover salmon carcasses and find, measure, and mark redds produced by salmon. To assess spawning success and egg survival, emergence traps will be installed and monitored to assess the number and condition of emerging juveniles. All surveys will include a crew of two to five individuals floating the river by drift boat or kayak one to three times per week.

Where: Reach 1, Friant Dam to SR-99 (approximately 24 river miles). Drift boats and kayaks will be launched from publicly accessible areas or from private property with landowner permission.

When: June 2020– February 2021

Recreational Fishing: No recreational fishing that uses bait, lures or other means to target salmon in SJR above the Merced River confluence is allowed per state fish and game code. Any inadvertently caught salmon must be

immediately returned to the river. To confidentially report poaching, call the CDFW CalTIP line at 888-334-CalTIP (888-344-2258).

Salmon Carcasses: Salmon die after spawning, so the carcasses of these fish will remain in the river. The carcass supports ecosystem function, returning nutrients and other beneficial products back into the river's ecosystem as it biodegrades. River users that find a tagged salmon carcass or tag are asked to call the hotline number and report the tag color and location of the find.

Questions about this activity should be directed to the study's agency points-of-contact provided below.

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Questions about SJRRP or its field activities on public and private land should be directed to the SJRRP Public Affairs Specialist and Landowner Coordinator using the information provided below.

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Public Affairs Specialist
San Joaquin River Restoration Program
Phone: (916) 978-5508
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San Joaquin River Restoration Program
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Contact the SJRRP Hotline, 916-978-4398, or email RestorationFlows@restoresjr.net if you see any problems or have any concerns.

**For more information, please visit the SJRRP Web site at www.restoresjr.net.
Field Advisories for activities are available at
www.restoresjr.net/activities/field/index.html**