

Field Activity Advisory California Central Valley Spring-run Chinook Salmon Trap and Haul March 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025

As part of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP), biologists will perform trap and haul of adult Central Valley Spring-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*; CV SRCS; Figure 1) in the lower San Joaquin River (SJR) and its adjacent sloughs. Adult salmon accessing the SJR upstream of the Merced River confluence could be exposed to loss into sloughs and would not have access to appropriate spawning habitat due to impassable barriers. As a result, the SJRRP has implemented Adult Trap & Haul (ATH) for the SJR upstream of the Merced River confluence that would, in the event of a capture, document and transport SRCS to suitable habitats in Reach 1 of the SJRRP.

Who: Bureau of Reclamation

What: Central Valley SRCS ATH is an important SJRRP effort to ensure its commitment to restore and maintain fish populations within the SJRRP Restoration Area (RA).

Fyke nets with wing walls, or steel fyke traps (Figure 2), will be used to sample upstream migrating CV SRCS. These traps are funnel-shaped and are held open by hoops and specifically constructed for capturing salmonids without causing inadvertent injury. Traps will be checked at least once a day. Ample boat passage will be made available and fluorescent flagging, orange buoys, and flashing amber caution lights will alert river-users to sample gear.

In the event that CV SRCS are captured during this effort, fish will be recorded, measured, sexed (if possible), sampled for tissues, and checked for injuries and presence of tags. Fish may be tagged with; Floy, Passive Integrated Transponder, and acoustic tags, each with a unique identification number to document any recaptures and facilitate additional monitoring that may occur in the SJRRP RA. Captured CV SRCS will be transported upstream to Reach 1 of the RA in a 680-gallon fish transport tank. Transported CV SRCS will be acclimated in the transport tank to receiving water temperature at a predetermined location before release.

Where: CV SRCS T&H activities are proposed for the area below Mendota Dam, or to the uppermost contiguous wetted section of the SJR, from the confluence with the Merced River, including adjoining sloughs.

When: March 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025. Spring-run Chinook salmon monitoring activities will occur continuously during noted months within the SJRRP RA.

Considerations: Access to sampling locations will occur from the public right-of-way or in areas where private landowners have granted access.



Figure 1. Adult Chinook Salmon being released into Reach 1 of the SJRRP Restoration Area following trap and haul.



Figure 2. Fyke trap used to capture adult California Central Valley Spring-run Chinook Salmon.

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

Zak Sutphin

Lead Fisheries Biologist

Bureau of Reclamation

Phone: 303-445-2141

Email: zsutphin@usbr.gov

Questions about the SJRRP should be directed to the SJRRP Public Affairs Specialist below. Questions about or Program field activities on public and private land should be directed to the Landowner Coordinator listed below.

Josh Newcom, Public Affairs Specialist

Office: 916-978-5508

Mobile: 916-208-6862

Email: snewcom@usbr.gov

Craig Moyle, Landowner Coordinator

Office (direct line): 916-418-8248

Mobile: 916-642-6383

Email: craig.moyle@mwhglobal.com

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

<https://www.restoresjr.net/get-involved/field-advisories/>