



# PISCES

Volume 38, Number 2, Spring-Summer 2009



## President's View: Mark the hatchery fish!

*Bradley Cavallo, Chapter President*

California's salmon and steelhead populations are in serious peril. Across the state, Chinook, coho, and steelhead are listed as threatened and endangered, and the Central Valley fall-run Chinook salmon, historically the most abundant and stable, has declined to record lows since 2007. As recently indicated in the San Francisco Chronicle (July 5th, 2009 "Warning on trout hatcheries could force changes") and the NMFS salmon decline report (<http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/media/SalmonDeclineReport.pdf>), poor hatchery management practices are increasingly recognized as contributing to the decline of salmon populations. Salmon managers are at a crossroads, and without a renewed, proactive approach to salmon management California will be faced with further reductions in hatchery production, more

closed fisheries, marginalized riverscapes, and more dysfunctional ecosystems.

California is not the first state forced to contend with such a salmon crisis; including the threat of additional ESA listings, fishing closures, hatchery shut-downs, and restricted water use. All West Coast states other than Alaska rely heavily on hatchery production to support their fisheries. Hatchery production dominates the overall return of California fall Chinook, yet most of these hatchery origin fish are physically indistinguishable from natural origin (wild) salmon. As a result, the status of self-sustaining natural Chinook populations, impacts from water operations on these populations, and benefits from habitat improvements to natural Chinook salmon are largely unknown. More importantly, management actions specifically beneficial to natural Chinook salmon are all but impossible.

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## *Inside this Issue*

President's View: Mark the hatchery fish!.....	1
Much Ado About Nothing.....	3
Student Paper and Poster Judging at Annual Meeting.....	5
44th Annual Cal-Neva AFS Conference.....	7
Notes from the Field.....	9
News Releases and Announcements.....	10
MLPA Initiative Hosts Workshop on North Coast MPAs.....	10
First Call for Papers for Catfish 2010 Symposium.....	11
NOAA Seeks Public Comment on Draft Plan to Recover Salmon and Steelhead Trout in California's Central Valley.....	13
DFG Invites Comment on Draft EIR/EIS on Hatchery and Stocking Program.....	14

Pacific Northwest scientists under the congressionally appointed Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG) have studied these very issues over the last ten years and have effectively developed a “blue print” for modern hatchery management known as Hatchery Reform. Hatchery Reform uses the best available science to formulate recommendations on hatchery programs in order to allow sustainable fisheries while also minimizing risks to wild and ESA listed populations. Central to the implementation of these recommendations is mass marking of all hatchery production, so hatchery fish could be easily distinguished from wild fish. In the states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho HSRG recommendations, including mass marking, have been endorsed by NMFS and the USFWS as part of the implementation of ESA recovery including habitat, hatchery and harvest management plans. The importance of mass marking hatchery Chinook and related management and monitoring actions was also highlighted in the recent independent review of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act by Dr. Ken Cummins et al. ([http://www.cvpia-independentreview.com/FisheriesReport12\\_12\\_08.pdf](http://www.cvpia-independentreview.com/FisheriesReport12_12_08.pdf))

California biologists, fishermen, environmentalists, and water managers increasingly recognize that efforts to manage and recover California salmon are severely confounded by outdated hatchery management practices. A century of dams, habitat degradation, and water diversions are the underlying causes of Chinook salmon decline, and Hatchery Reform is not a substitute for addressing chronic habitat and mortality problems. However, all agree that Hatchery Reform and mass marking will profoundly improve our ability to successfully protect and restore salmon populations through better management of hatchery practices, riverine habitats, water projects, and harvest regulations.

Despite the value and pressing need for California hatchery reform, some resource agency managers prefer a “business-as-usual approach” that calls for an indeterminate period of discussion prior to considering a Hatchery Reform process in California. This approach is flawed. It ignores the urgency of our salmon management problems and misunderstands the success of Hatchery Reform in the Pacific Northwest. Specifically, the “business-as usual approach” is flawed because:

- It falsely “muddies the waters” regarding the value and need for mass marking fall-run hatchery Chinook. In fact, mass marking has been a standard action to improve hatchery management everywhere it has been evaluated, including Oregon, Washington, Idaho and the Great Lakes. Furthermore, mass marking has already been evaluated and is presently required for Central Valley hatchery spring-run Chinook, winter-run Chinook, and steelhead. There are other methods complimentary to mass marking (e.g. genetics or coded wire tags), but there is currently no known, suitable substitute for mass marking hatchery fish. Thus, in contrast to the claims of some, there is no near-term scenario, novel information, nor additional discussion which could conceivably result in a recommendation to avoid mass marking hatchery Chinook.
- It conflates mass marking with mark selective fisheries, creating the impression that Hatchery Reform actions are inexorably tied to mark select fishing, and are therefore dangerous, monolithic and inflexible. In reality, the principles of Hatchery Reform are recognized to be scientifically defensible, independent of mark select fishing. The Hatchery Reform framework is open to hypothesis testing and adaptive management as new information arises. For example, universal mark-selective fisheries need not be implemented simply because more hatchery Chinook salmon are marked (many are marked already). Indeed, mark-selective fisheries should be implemented only where supported by rigorous scientific evaluation. However, mark-selective fisheries such as those in use for the Pacific Northwest and for Central Valley hatchery steelhead, are difficult to evaluate and impossible to implement without first mass marking hatchery origin fish.

Pursuant to these challenges for California salmon and salmon fisheries, many biologists, fishermen, environmentalists, and water managers support efforts to secure federal funding to immediately convene a hatchery scientific review process with local experts and independent scientists modeled after the successful Pacific Northwest HSRG program which is fully embraced by NMFS, USFWS, and state fisheries agencies in Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

Our California-Nevada Chapter of the American Fisheries Society has already passed a policy resolution supporting mass marking and the principles of Hatchery Reform for California Chinook salmon. I hope that each and every Cal-Neva member will take the time to discuss this critical issue with their colleagues and policy managers who may be less familiar with “on the ground” issues. Recognizing that not all Cal-Neva AFS members share the view I have expressed here, I would like to invite a point-counterpoint article addressing hatchery reform and mass marking for the subsequent issue of *Pisces*. Authors interested in representing either viewpoint should contact myself or the *Pisces* editor.



## 43rd ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA-NEVADA CHAPTER

### AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

#### Thinking Outside the Stream



#### Much Ado About Nothing.....

Well folks, we pulled it off!! A financially, scientifically, and aesthetically successful meeting of the California-Nevada Chapter of the American Fisheries Society! It seemed to be touch-and-go there for a while. We started out with the issue of state budget cuts. No problem. According to the senior members of the Executive Committee, this is a problem every year (as our State employed members can probably attest). Then we topped it off with the institution of the infamous ‘furlough Fridays’, which by the way are still going strong, and multiplying. This didn’t seem insurmountable until it was brought to our attention that even if state employees wanted to come on their own time, they would not be able to use state vehicles and so many were not planning on attending.....Ugh! So your esteemed president, Brad Cavallo, and I had to do some quick thinking, and hone our negotiating skills with the hotel staff (alas we had already booked the venue), and modify the program to fit our members’ needs. Our state employed members make up about 20% of attendance at our annual meetings based on past registrations.



[Before I go on I would like to recognize that this created hardship for some of our members that had already registered for a Thursday through Saturday Program (including one Plenary speaker and more than one UC professor). For those folks, I sincerely apologize. I hate that even one member that wanted to participate was not able to due to decisions I had to make. Be assured, we will try to make it up to you in the years to come.]

So, we changed our program to a Wednesday through mid day Friday program (the best we could do given the Tuesday holiday on the other end of our scheduled week, sometimes you can’t win for losing!!!). And the bottom line, I have to say, is that the membership stood up and made this one GREAT meeting!

Our theme this year was “Thinking Outside the Stream”. I really wanted to encourage our members to step outside their respective ‘streams’ (aka boxes) and embrace new ways of thinking about old issues. We had two great symposia, Hatchery Reform which was very well attended and quite controversial, and Bioengineering. I would like to thank Brad Cavallo (Hatchery Reform) and Marjorie Caisley and Joey Howard (Bioengineering) for hosting two wildly successful symposia. Our plenary speakers spanned topics from Global Climate Change (Dr. Eldridge Moores), ecosystem connectivity (Dr. Bill Sydeman), ecosystem services (Dr. Donald Hey) and talking to the media (Liz Neeley and Doug Fox)

Some other highlights worthy of praise:

Continuing Education: Dr. Hal Geiger, retired Alaska DFG and an Alaska Chapter AFS past president was gracious enough to donate his time to lead a course on Fish Marking Studies. It is always a benefit to have a statistician that is also a fish biologist to make things interesting. Our second continuing education course was not as well attended as I had hoped, but that just worked out better for those of us that did attend. Liz Neeley, (also Plenary Speaker) and Doug Fox gave us a great amount of insight in conveying science to the media, and pushed us outside our comfort level with some mock interview scenarios.

Banquet Entertainment: We were lucky enough, with the help of Joe Duran, DFG to enlist a little child labor for our banquet entertainment.



Woodwind Trio: Marissa Zieminski – flute; Micah Candiotti-Pacheco – clarinet; Mark Pressler – bassoon. And the Zaira Quartet - Tim Zieminski – violin; Ann Rodier – violin; Anna Tedeschi - cello

Walter Howard – violist. All members of the Santa Rosa Youth Symphony. Beautiful, soothing, dinner music supplied by some of Santa Rosa’s most talented youth. Thanks to Joe for arranging it. It definitely classed up the joint!!

First Annual Minnow Races: And then back to our usual antics! I must say these were the first annual minnow races, but I sure hope they aren’t the last. Although, next year I am going to have to start training my minnow early, I didn’t even win a heat!! Great Fishy Fun! Thank you to Paul Bergman, Cramer Fish Sciences, for bringing a Midwest tradition to the west coast!

And as always the level of science in our technical sessions was outstanding, and I would like to thank all the session chairs for putting together great sessions, and keeping them on time so people could session-hop!

Here is what we accomplished: We had over 250 registrants, we pulled a profit, and no biologists were injured in the making of this event!! To everyone that donated their time, energy, expertise and great attitude, it was a pleasure working with you. The chapter owes its success to members like you.



For next year the Chapter is investigating the possibility of partnering with the Salmonid Restoration Federation to co-host a meeting in Redding. If planning goes smoothly, we hope this will ease the pain of choosing between the two or trying to find funding to attend both. More to come in the next issue of Pisces on our plans for the upcoming year, and 2010 Annual Meeting!

-Michelle Workman-

## Student Paper and Poster Judging at AFS CalNeva Chapter Annual Meeting

For the ninth straight year, the Northern California District of the American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists (AIFRB) presided over the judging of student presentations and posters at the 2009 AFS CalNeva Chapter Annual Meeting that took place April 1 through 3, 2009, in Santa Rosa, California. Student papers and posters were in the running for cash prize awards, including \$100 each for Best Student Presentation and Best Student Poster. Best Student Presentation – Runner-up, and Best Student Poster – Runner-up each were awarded \$75, with third place in each category receiving \$50. All winners received a certificate signed by both organizations (CalNeva Chapter AFS, and Northern California District AIFRB).



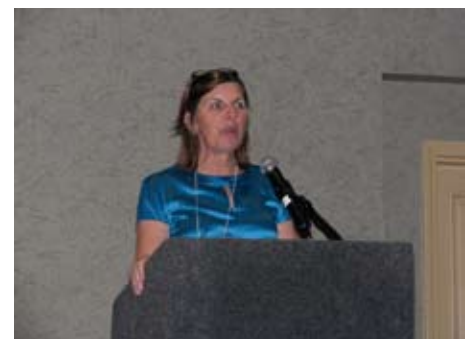
The 2009 award winners were:

Best Student Presentation:	Tim Mussen, UC Davis
Best Student Presentation - Runner up:	Michael Hellmair, Humboldt State University
Best Student Presentation - Third Place:	Morgan Robinson, University of Nevada
Best Student Poster:	Phil Sandstrom, UC Davis
Best Student Poster - Runner up:	Gerard Carmona, UC Davis
Best Student Poster - Third Place:	Sabra Purdy, UC Davis

Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to the Northern California District judges who participated in the student evaluations.

-Tom Keegan-

## And the awards continued at the annual banquet.....



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# Salmonid Restoration Federation Cal-Neva Chapter American Fisheries Society



**44<sup>th</sup> Annual Cal-Neva AFS Conference March 10 - 13, 2010 in Redding, CA**  
*Fisheries Science and Restoration in a Changing Climate*

## **Second Call for Presenter Abstracts**

Session Coordinator Abstracts are due on October 19, 2009

Presenter Abstracts are due on November 9, 2009

In 2010 the Salmonid Restoration Federation and the California-Nevada American Fisheries Society chapter will co-host the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference and the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Cal-Neva AFS Conference in Redding, California. We are truly excited about this new collaborative effort. The first two days of the conference will be filled with symposia, full-day workshops and field tours. A half-day plenary session will be followed by 1.5 days of technical, biological, and policy-related concurrent sessions. This conference will focus on a broad range of salmonid and watershed restoration topics of concern to restoration practitioners, watershed scientists, fisheries biologists, resource agency personnel, land-use planners, and landowners.

### Workshops

Floodplain Restoration

Water Conservation and How Agriculture Affects Salmonid Recovery

Water Quality and TMDL Planning

Stormwater Pollution Runoff

### Field Tours

Clear Creek Restoration

Lower Battle Creek Restoration

Upper Trinity River

Shasta River

Sacramento River

Redding Tour: Silver Creek, Salt Creek, Gravel Augmentation

### Sessions

Planning, Documenting, and Evaluating Fish Restoration Activities

Anadromous Salmonid Monitoring

Stream Channel Restoration

Central Valley Salmonid Recovery Planning and Biological Opinions

Marine and Estuarine Fisheries Research: Conservation and Management

Biology and Management of Native Fish Species

Water Diversions and Fish Impediments

FERC Relicensing and Restoration Opportunities

The State of California Salmonid Fisheries

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PO Box 784, Redway, CA 95560 | [www.calsalmon.org](http://www.calsalmon.org) | [srf@calsalmon.org](mailto:srf@calsalmon.org) | (707) 923-7501 | Fax (707) 923-3135

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Climate Change and Salmonid Recovery  
Hatchery Management  
Effects of Ground-water Withdrawals on Aquatic Ecosystems

**Final deadline for session abstracts and a summary of recommended presenters is October 19, 2009.**

Successful session proposals include presentations that address salmonid fisheries restoration from a fishery resource, physical watershed processes, or broad policy perspective. Sessions should be developed with six speakers, with talks lasting 25 minutes with a 5-minute question period. SRF encourages presentations on projects that have a monitoring and assessment component and/or have been completed. Panels should be incorporated into session design. The Agenda Coordinator will work with each Session Coordinator (SC) towards confirming presenters by November 9 and soliciting speaker abstracts. **Session, workshop, and field tour coordinators fees are waived and they receive a commemorative conference t-shirt.**

**Format for submitting Session and Presentation Abstracts or Posters**

Session and presentation abstracts should be prepared as MS Word or WordPerfect files in 12 point, Times New Roman font, and left justified only.

Each abstracts should include:

1. Title
2. A list of all the authors, their affiliation, and contact information. Presenters must be clearly identified
3. An abstract of 500 words or less.
4. An indication of what concurrent session you would like to contribute to or indicate "Poster." Include preference of presentation type (ie- Powerpoint LCD projector).
5. Indicate if the presenter is a student

All contributions, including Session and Presentation Abstracts, should be submitted electronically by email to [srf@calsalmon.org](mailto:srf@calsalmon.org) with abstract attached as an MS Word or Wordperfect file. Receipt of your submission will be acknowledged by email and forwarded to the correct session chair. For any additional information, please contact SRF at (707) 923-7501 or at [srf@calsalmon.org](mailto:srf@calsalmon.org)

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## ***Notes from the Field***

*We want to hear from you! Send your stories, photos, essays, and opinions.*

**Guidelines:** Contributions for “Notes from the Field” should be submitted to Tim Heyne, Newsletter Editor ([theyne@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:theyne@dfg.ca.gov)), in the body of an email or as an attachment in MS Word, Word Perfect, or Portable Document Format (PDF). There is no length limit to contribution, but files should be 6 MB or *smaller*.

*Submissions for the next issue of Pisces are due by Nov. 16, 2009.*

### **Pictures of invasive fishes needed!**

**Peter Moyle is working on an account of alien fishes for the Encyclopedia of Invasive Species. He needs some good-quality photos, at no cost (alas), that demonstrate the negative (or perhaps positive) impacts of an invasive fish species, such as an alien trout eating a native frog or a stream choked with big carp. Such pictures would also be useful in my lectures as well, if you are willing to share. Please contact Peter Moyle at:**

[pmmoyle@ucdavis.edu](mailto:pmmoyle@ucdavis.edu)



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## News Releases and Announcements

### MLPA Initiative Hosts Workshop on North Coast Marine Protected Area Planning Workshop to include review of north coast MPA planning process, MarineMap training

Sept. 21, 2009

Contact:

Annie Reisewitz, MLPA Initiative, 858-228-0526

Kirsten Macintyre, California Dept. of Fish and Game, 916-322-8988



Sacramento - A public workshop is scheduled for members of California's north coast community to learn more about the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) planning process. The MLPA requires the state to reexamine and redesign California's system of marine protected areas (MPAs) in state waters. The event, which is free and open to all interested members of the public, will be hosted by the MLPA Initiative, a public-private partnership dedicated to implementing the 1999 law. Participants will have the opportunity to:

- \* review the north coast MPA planning process,
- \* learn about the necessary components of an MPA proposal,
- \* be introduced to science and feasibility guidelines, and
- \* receive basic training in MarineMap, the MLPA Initiative's online mapping tool.

"We invite all interested members of the public to participate in the upcoming educational workshop," said Ken Wiseman, executive director of the MLPA Initiative. "It is our hope to incorporate the tremendous amount of local knowledge in the north coast community into the science-based, public process to redesign California's marine protected areas."

The workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2009 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. and members of the public can participate in person, by teleconference and Webinar from two staffed locations, or from their home or office if they have a phone line and Internet access. The three public in-person locations are:

- \* Eureka, Red Lion Inn, 1929 Fourth Street
- \* Crescent City, Best Western Northwoods Inn, 655 US Highway 101 S (staffed, teleconference/Webinar location)
- \* Fort Bragg, CV Staff Community Center, 300 South Lincoln Street (staffed teleconference/Webinar location)

The workshop presentations will be made in Eureka and simultaneously Webcast to the Fort Bragg and Crescent City satellite locations as well as available for viewing on the Internet. Participants at the satellite locations will be able to interact directly with the Eureka workshop. The public can also participate from their home or office through the teleconference or by using an online Webinar tool that allows questions to be submitted via the Internet. Audio and video archives of the workshop will be available online and on CD.

RSVPs are requested for in-person participation to ensure adequate food, beverages and seating. RSVP by calling 916-654-1885 or by emailing [dga\\_mlpa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dga_mlpa@sbcglobal.net).

At the workshop, MLPA Initiative staff will provide an overview of the community-based MPA planning process for the north coast, a description of existing marine protected areas in the study region, how the science of MPAs is applied, and how the public can become involved. Staff will also provide an introduction to MarineMap and the guidelines for MPA proposal development.

In addition, on Wednesday, Sept. 30 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the same three locations, MLPA Initiative staff will be available to answer more specific, detailed questions about the north coast planning process and how MPA proposals will initially be developed through an 'external' design process in Fall 2009.

MPA proposals generated through the "external" MPA design process may potentially be used by the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) as a starting point to develop cross-interest MPA proposals in the MLPA Initiative planning process. Under the guidance of a blue ribbon task force, the NCRSG is responsible for working with a science advisory team and MLPA staff to help California improve the design and management of the north coast portion of a statewide network of MPAs. A public announcement for nominations to the NCRSG is expected in November 2009, with

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members to be appointed by late January 2010.

The MLPA, enacted into law in 1999, directs the state to reexamine and redesign California's system of MPAs, which are discrete geographic marine or estuarine areas designed to protect or conserve marine life and habitat. The goals of the act are to increase the coherence and effectiveness at protecting the state's marine life and habitats, marine ecosystems and marine natural heritage, as well as to improve recreational, educational and study opportunities in marine ecosystems that are subject to minimal human disturbance.

The state identifies three types of MPAs - marine conservation areas, marine parks and marine reserves - that range from limiting certain types of commercial and recreational activities to establishing no-take zones. Public access is allowed in all three.

The California Natural Resources Agency and California Department of Fish and Game have partnered with the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation to create a planning process to help achieve the MLPA goals; this public-private partnership, the MLPA Initiative, is guided by the advice of scientists, resource managers, experts, stakeholders and members of the public.

A regional approach is being used in the MLPA Initiative, where California's 1,100-mile coastline has been divided into five study regions. The planning process is just now beginning in the MLPA North Coast Study Region, from the California border with Oregon to Alder Creek near Point Arena in Mendocino County. In September 2007, regulations for the first of the five study regions were implemented for the central coast (Pigeon Point in San Mateo County to Point Conception in Santa Barbara County). In July 2009, regulations for the north central coast (Alder Creek near Point Arena in Mendocino County to Pigeon Point in San Mateo County, including the Farallon Islands) were adopted by the California Fish and Game Commission.

The planning process for the MLPA South Coast Study Region (Point Conception in Santa Barbara County to the California border with Mexico, including offshore islands) is expected to result in a set of alternative MPA proposals by late 2009. The fifth and final study region planning process, San Francisco Bay (from the Golden Gate Bridge northeast to the Carquinez Bridge), is expected to begin following the north coast.

The MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force will make a final recommendation regarding north coast MPA proposals to the California Fish and Game Commission near the end of 2010.

For additional information about the MLPA Initiative, please visit [www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa).

## **First Call for Papers and Posters for Catfish 2010 Symposium**

You are invited to attend and participate in the 2nd International Catfish Symposium to be held June 20-22, 2010 in St. Louis, Missouri, along the banks of the mighty Mississippi. This is our first call for oral platform and poster presentations at the symposium, including those to be considered for publication within the resulting peer-reviewed proceedings. The theme for the 2nd International Symposium is the conservation, ecology and management of worldwide catfish populations and their habitats. Presentations on all aspects of catfish biology and ecology are welcome, and those focusing on conservation and management challenges are actively being sought.

We encourage you to submit your research on the following topics: Evaluating sampling methods and their effectiveness; Population dynamics and community interactions; Life history investigations providing information on predation, competition, prey utilization, age and growth; Conservation efforts including species status and restoration efforts; Management strategies to enhance recreational fisheries including regulations, human dimensions and production. Individuals interested in developing topical review papers are encouraged to contact the Program Committee Co-Chairs to assist with topic coordination. To submit a presentation and for the most up to date information on the symposium, visit the web site at [www.catfish2010.org](http://www.catfish2010.org).



*Photo by USEFWS - digital archive*

Bookmark it now and return often for updates!

Presentation abstracts and manuscript submission deadline is January 29, 2010. Don't miss being a part of this important gathering of scientists, educators, administrators, and the public interested in what the next decade will bring for catfish science.



## California Aquatic Bioassessment Workgroup 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

October 28 and 29, 2009  
8 am – 4 pm

The Ballroom  
Activities and Recreation Center Conference Facility  
University of California  
Davis, CA

### Registration:

There is no fee to attend, but registration is required.

Pre-registration:

Regional and State Water Board Staff should register at: <http://waternet/training/>

All other participants should register at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/academy/>  
(go to Schedule on left hand menu, scroll to CABW listing, click on date,  
and follow registration instructions from there)

In-person registration:

8 am-9 am on October 28 and 29, 2009

### Location Information:

**Directions:** Interstate 80 to Hwy 113 north toward Woodland. Take Russell Boulevard exit and turn right on Russell Boulevard. Turn right on La Rue Road. Turn left on Orchard Road and drive directly into Visitor Parking Lot 25.

**Parking:** Permits are required and cost \$6.00 per day. Parking permit dispensers accept quarters, one-dollar bills, five-dollar bills, or VISA and MasterCard.

Online campus map: <http://facts.ucdavis.edu/map.lasso>

For more information,  
contact:

Jim Harrington  
(916) 358-2862,  
[jharrington@ospr.dfg.ca.gov](mailto:jharrington@ospr.dfg.ca.gov)  
[www.waterboards.ca.gov](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov)



[www.waterboards.ca.gov/swamp](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/swamp)



## **NOAA Seeks Public Comment on Draft Plan to Recover Salmon and Steelhead Trout in California's Central Valley**

**October 7, 2009**

Contact: Jim Milbury 562-980-4006

Workshops for public comment and information planned in Chico and Sacramento NOAA's Fisheries Service is requesting the public's input on a draft recovery plan designed to restore and stabilize salmon and steelhead species in California's Central Valley that are listed under the Endangered Species Act. This draft plan, published in today's Federal Register, addresses recovery efforts for endangered Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon, threatened Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon and threatened Central Valley steelhead.

"This draft plan provides the framework necessary to recover salmon and steelhead listed under the Endangered Species Act in the Central Valley," said Maria Rea, Sacramento office supervisor for NOAA's Fisheries Service. "With the public's input, it will also provide significant improvement for other non-listed salmonid species like the commercially valuable fall-run Chinook."

The ESA requires the development of a recovery plan for the successful rebuilding of species identified as being at risk of extinction. Local knowledge and input from the public on the unique needs of these fish is extremely valuable, to ensure the plan is comprehensive and promotes stakeholder involvement. The plan has already received substantial input from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game, and their expertise will continue to be tapped as the plan undergoes public review.

NOAA's Fisheries Service plans to conduct workshops in Chico and Sacramento to provide the public with an opportunity to learn more about the contents of the draft recovery plan and offer any feedback or comments. NOAA's Fisheries Service biologists will explain the steps necessary to recover Sacramento River winter-run Chinook, Central Valley spring-run Chinook and Central Valley steelhead, so that they may ultimately be removed from the Endangered Species List. Workshops will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and again from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the locations and dates listed below:

Tues., Oct. 20 - Masonic Center, 1110 W East Avenue, Chico

Wed., Oct. 21 - Hilton, 2200 Harvard Street, Sacramento

Public comment and information relevant to this recovery plan must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. Dec. 7. Comments may be submitted by e-mail or U.S. mail:

- Email to [CentralValleyPlan.SWR@noaa.gov](mailto:CentralValleyPlan.SWR@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line "Comments on Central Valley Salmon and Steelhead Draft Plan."

- Mail to:  
Brian Ellrott,  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 8-300  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Electronic copies of this plan are also available online at: <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/recovery/centralvalleyplan.htm>. If you do not have online access, you can receive a CD copy. Contact Aimee Diefenbach at 916-930-3600 or e-mail your request to [aimee.diefenbach@noaa.gov](mailto:aimee.diefenbach@noaa.gov) with the subject line "CD-ROM Request for Central Valley Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Draft Plan." NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources. Visit <http://www.noaa.gov>.

On the Web: Central Valley Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Draft Plan: <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/recovery/centralvalleyplan.htm>

Federal Register Announcement: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-24224.pdf>

Recovery plans for California and southern Oregon salmonids: <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/recovery>

Other ESA recovery plans: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/recovery>

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov>

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## DFG Invites Comment on Draft EIR/EIS on Hatchery and Stocking Program

Sept. 21, 2009



Contact:

Jim Starr, Staff Environmental Scientist, (916) 327-0713  
Kirsten Macintyre, DFG Communications, (916) 322-8988

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is seeking public comment on a draft Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) regarding its Hatchery and Stocking Program. The draft report will be released Friday, Sept. 25 and comments will be accepted for 45 days (CEQA only).

The draft EIR/EIS evaluates and discloses the potential effects of the Hatchery and Stocking Program on aquatic resources and the environment. A recent court order required DFG to produce this environmental analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act. It was jointly prepared by DFG and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which provides funding for the inland trout and Mad River steelhead portions of the program.

Written comments may also be submitted, either by e-mail at [dfghatcheryeir@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:dfghatcheryeir@dfg.ca.gov) or by regular mail sent to:

Jim Starr  
California Department of Fish and Game  
830 S Street  
Sacramento, CA 95811

All comments must be postmarked by November 16, 2009 (CEQA) and November 30, 2009 (NEPA).

For more information about these meetings, the Hatchery and Stocking Program or to view the EIR/EIS and supporting documents, please see the "public notices" section of the [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov) Web site.

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## 2008-2009 Cal-Neva Chapter Executive Committee

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