



July 2021

FISH TALES

Newsletter of the Golden State Salmon Association

Hot Rivers, CDFW Warns All Winter Run Likely To Be Lost This Year, Fall Run Next?

CDFW has warned that the eggs of most naturally spawning winter run are likely to be lost this year due to hot water in the upper Sacramento River. This comes at a time when winter run were finally rebounding from the last drought with good numbers returning to spawn this year.

The fatal conditions, forecast by the National Marine Fisheries Service, are likely to persist into the fall, which is certain to hurt the fall run. Spring run are getting hammered too. Of the 15,000 springers that returned to Butte Creek this year, an estimated 8,000 have already died before spawning from heat related diseases.

The damage comes after water managers refused GSSA and others' repeated requests to retain more water to keep the rivers cooler.

The federal Bureau of Reclamation recently admitted it has released more water for irrigation than earlier promised and that the

Drought, Warming Temperatures Threaten Endangered California Salmon Population

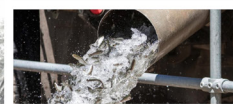
LISTEN 10 min

Hosted by Alexis Madrigal

Warming Rivers in US West Killing Fish, Imperiling Industry

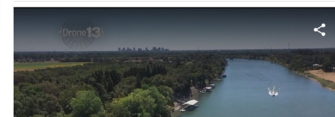
Fishermen are dying by the thousands in one California river and an entire run of endangered salmon could be wiped out in another.

By Alexis Madrigal | July 20, 2021, 10:12 AM



Concerns From Salmon Advocate Group Grow As CDFW Sees Potential 'Near-Complete Loss Of In-River Juveniles'

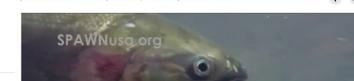
July 21, 2021 at 5:03pm | Photo: California Department of Fish and Wildlife



California's Salmon in Upstream Battle Against Drought

The ground fish already face numerous hurdles in wet years, but in times of drought their fortunes are even more precarious.

By Joe Rosette Jr. | Published July 21, 2021 | Updated on July 22, 2021 at 10:28 am

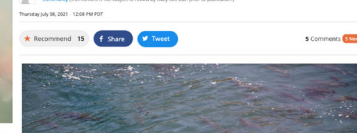


Dire drought warning: California says 'nearly all' salmon could die in Sacramento River

BY DALE KATLER | JULY 19, 2021 10:12 AM, UPDATED JULY 19, 2021 5:40 PM

California DFW: 'nearly all' Sacramento River winter chinook salmon juveniles could perish this year

By Dan Butler | Updated July 19, 2021 | 12:08 PM PDT



level of Lake Shasta at the end of September will now be lower than earlier promised, all bad for salmon.

Rules put in place under the Trump Administration governing operation of the federal Central Valley Project, which delivers water mostly to agricultural operations, allow for the complete wipe out of winter run salmon for three years in a row before water managers would be forced to reconsider their actions. The loss of three year's winter run could drive the species extinct in the wild. It's clear we'll be relying on hatchery salmon to supply the fishery for the next few years.

GSSA and allies are in court to get the Trump rules replaced by more protective measures.

This drought has brought into question California's entire water rights system. A recent report from NRDC's Doug Obegi documents state and federal water agencies giving away almost the

entire volume of the state's major rivers to a handful of powerful ag operations.

For instance the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors will get 541,000 acre feet of water in the months of April through September when the entire flow of the San Joaquin River during those months is only approximately 389,000 acre feet. This means these four districts are getting the equivalent of 139 percent of the river's flow in these months. The excess is coming from scant reservoir supplies.

In the Sacramento Valley, major ag operators are diverting nearly 75 percent of the entire flow of the Sacramento River as measured at Red Bluff this summer (and more than the total flow in some months). On the Feather River, the state is handing over 600,000 acre feet of water from April to July to eight water districts that claim senior rights, even though the total

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

unimpaired runoff of the Feather during that time is 630,000 acre feet. This means they're diverting nearly the entire flow of the Feather River this summer.

Season Update

In spite of the grim news for this year's returning adult salmon to rivers, the commercial fleet has caught an estimated 130,000 salmon prior to July 17th, according to reports. This is significant because fishery managers designed the ocean commercial season expecting to see a catch of about 64,000 by this time. Either their calculations were low or there will likely be very few salmon returning to the Central Valley this year. We suspect it's the former, in part because there appear to still be plenty of fish still out in the ocean, based on more recent catches. The fourth commercial opener of the

Obviously it pays to be politically powerful when one of the most valuable natural resource of all, water, is in short supply. The damage from the drought is likely to intensify the discussion of how a handful can control

California's water, at the expense of so many others, including the salmon industry. Everyday more people in and out of government are realizing the ecological cost, unsustainability, and unfairness of the current system. ■

year started July 17th and the fleet found the fish again, this time off the northern Sonoma coast, with good catches reported over a wide area of deep water.

Sport anglers in Monterey continued to catch salmon through July and some commercial trollers reported good catches of large salmon south of Monterey off Pt. Sur in July.

In river salmon fishing opened July 16. One report from the Rio Vista area was 74 degree water and no salmon biting. A veteran fisherman there said he didn't expect much action until the water temperature gets in the low 60's, probably in mid-September. ■



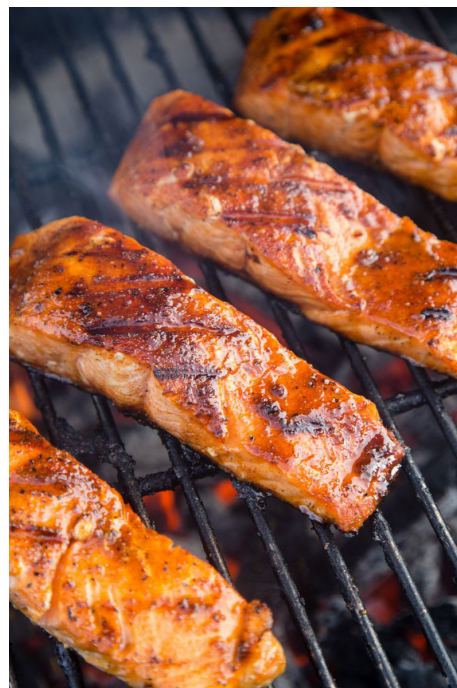
SF's wharf has been abuzz with activity as fresh salmon crossed the dock

GSSA Seafood Extravaganza Fundraiser August 7

A few tickets are left for GSSA's seafood extravaganza fundraising event on August 7 at the William Tell House in Tomales.

The event will feature grilled salmon as the main dish, prepared by owner Ted Wilson's expert crew. A special salmon poke will be served along with ceviche made with the best wild halibut. Oh, and don't forget to try the fresh oysters. In case you haven't gotten your fill, everyone will be sent home with a vacuum sealed packet of smoked salmon. ■

Tickets can be had at:
goldenstatesalmon.org/bbq/



**To Learn More
About How You
Can Support
Golden State
Salmon, Visit
Our Website at:**

www.goldenstatesalmon.org



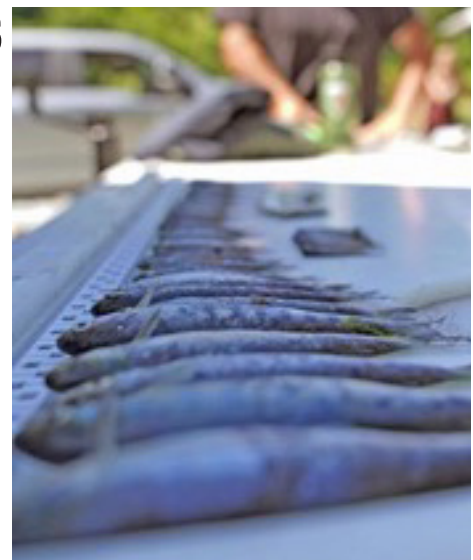
Low Numbers Of Juvenile Klamath Fish This Year Mean Storm Clouds In The Future

Reports coming out of the Klamath River area suggest that very few, if any, baby salmon survived to the ocean this spring. This is likely to constrain future ocean fishing as it did after similar juvenile fish kills in 2002 and 2003.

The worst of the resulting pain happened in 2006 when commercial fishing was cut way back to spare the few surviving Klamath adult salmon. These conditions are especially likely to

constrain commercial fishing north of Pigeon Point.

On the sport side, some constraints can be expected in a few years, though they won't likely be as harsh as what commercials will experience. Data collected from the fishery shows that recreational ocean salmon anglers take fewer Klamath River fish off the San Mateo to Sonoma coasts than do commercial trollers. ■



Dead baby salmon recovered from the Klamath River. Photo courtesy Yurok Tribe

Kid's Trips Are Back



GSSA and partners have restarted taking kids fishing, thanks to funding left by the late Roger Thomas, former owner of the Salty Lady and a GSSA founder.

So far this year we've gotten two boats out, after being forced to sit on the sidelines last year due to covid. The Hog Heaven put the kids on fish in mid-July and everyone went home a hero, able to provide the family with salmon. GSSA worked with the San Mateo Police Activities League to connect with the kids.

Another trip with Sole-Man Sportfishing saw kids from San Francisco's Salesian Boys and Girls Club get out on the Bay. The smiles on their faces all day, and their many questions told us that they thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The idea is to introduce kids to fishing and the close connection with nature that it entails. Sitting in a bedroom playing video games or fishing out on a boat followed by a hero's reception for bringing home the bacon, we mean fish....which would prefer? ■

GSSA Gives Voice To Salmon

The alert from a state biologist in early July that conditions in the upper Sacramento River would likely kill all of this year's winter run salmon spawn generated news coverage that reverberated from coast to coast. The press was already keyed to the issue after extensive coverage of the massive trucking operation in the spring. Press ranging from CBS network to CNN to the Washington Post, NBC's bay area affiliate, CBS's Sacramento affiliate, the Sacramento Bee and others all contacted GSSA to get input from



GSSA president John McManus talks to CBS News reporter Jonathan Vigliotti about California salmon

a recognized credible source. Many reports have ensued with GSSA ensuring that the needs of salmon and salmon communities is part of the coverage. Much of these can be seen on GSSA's website under the In The News link. ■

**JOIN
GSSA TO
SUPPORT
SALMON!**

**Visit
goldenstatesalmon.org**

GSSA Fishing Tutorials

Salmon fishing tips and tricks can now be viewed at the GSSA video tip page. Actually there are two such pages, one on our website, the other on youtube. We plan to

add more including one explaining commercial trolling. So far you can see some of our experts talk, and demonstrate, how to tie up sport salmon rigs, review various bait

holders and brine bait. ■

Visit:

goldenstatesalmon.org/salmon-fishing-tips-and-tricks/

GSSA Works To Reform San Francisco's Salmon-Killing Water System

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission is refusing to comply with a state order to reduce unsustainable diversions on the Tuolumne River. The Tuolumne saw as many as 100,000 salmon return as recently at the 1980's. Last year it got 1,000.

The SFPUC has a second lawsuit challenging the State of California's authority to protect rivers in the state. That resulted in GSSA and allies establishing a coalition (SF4water.org) to turn the SFPUC around starting with

a letter writing campaign to SF's mayor who, at the end of the day, calls the shots.

Many big water diverters across the Central Valley hide behind the SFPUC, saying, well, if San Francisco won't offer any additional water to help salmon, then why should we.

The average San Franciscans would never agree to the SFPUC's position if they understood it so we're on a mission to educate them. SF4water.org has been running online ads for weeks

alerting San Franciscans to the environmental damage their public utility is causing. More recently we've produced 60 second radio spots featuring speakers including a commercial salmon troller, a member of the Sierra Club, and a member of a native tribe to help get the word out and turn up the pressure on San Francisco to change its ways.

The path to a more balanced and sustainable water future may lead through the SFPUC since they could provide the first crack in the diverter's wall of opposition.

You can help. Go to SF4water.org and send a letter to the mayor. ■

GSSA Founding Members

Chris Arcoleo, John Atkinson, Raymond Bonneau, Dennis Burkell, Hugh Chatham, Coastside Fishing Club, Joesph Conte, Crab Boat Owners Association, Tom Creedon, Ron Davis, Jim DeMartini, Joe Donatini, Jacky Douglas, Chris Duba, Kerry Egan, Ken Elie, Patrick Elie, Tim Elie, Yancy Forest-Knowles, Douglas R. Gaebe, Vic Giacalone, Victor Gonella, Zeke Grader, Ren Harris, Eric Holthouse, Humbolt Fisherman's Marketing Association, Paul Johnson, Perry Kerson, Jonah Li, Todd Magaline, John McManus, Joseph Meiswinkel, Mark Mlcoch, Galen Onizuka, Rick Powers, Bob Praszker, Queen of Hearts Sportfishing, Randy Repass, Frank Rescino, Jeff Robles, Patty Schifferle, Frank Seghesio, Richard Shears, Ken Stagnaro, Roger Thomas, Edwin A. Tognetti, Aaron Weinzinger, Jay Yokomizo, David Zeff, Thomas Zizzo

