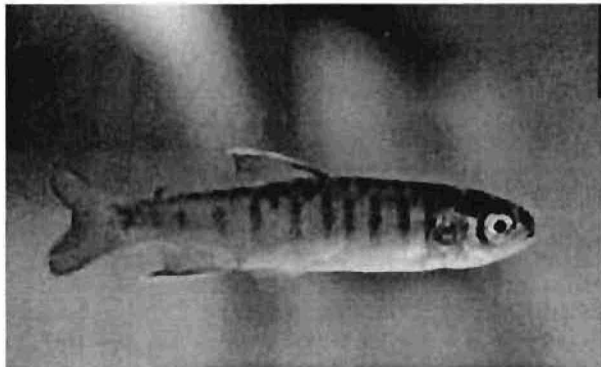


DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Fisheries Resources and Species Management

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THE RECOVERY STRATEGY FOR CALIFORNIA COHO SALMON



Coho Fry



Coho Adult

In August, 2002 the California Fish and Game Commission issued a finding that coho salmon warranted listing as a threatened species from the Oregon border south to Punta Gorda and as an endangered species from Punta Gorda south to San Francisco including the Bay (south of San Francisco to Monterey Bay was listed by the State as endangered in 1995). At the same time, pursuant to section 2114 of the Fish & Game Code, the Commission directed the Department of Fish and Game to develop a Recovery Strategy.

The Director of the Department of Fish and Game initiated a multi-stakeholder statewide Coho Recovery Team (CRT) to aid the Department in developing a plan to recover the species. Additionally, a team was created to focus on agricultural water and land issues in the Shasta and Scott river valleys. This team is known as the Shasta-Scott Coho Recovery Team (SSRT).

The Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon (Recovery Strategy) was adopted by the California Fish & Game Commission in February 2004. The primary objective of the Recovery Strategy is to return coho salmon to a level of

4. Maintain existing habitat essential for coho salmon.
5. Enhance and restore habitat within the range of coho salmon.

An additional goal has been identified with regard to harvestable populations, which is to:

6. Reach and maintain coho salmon population levels to allow for the resumption of Tribal, recreational, and commercial fisheries for coho salmon in California.

More About Coho Salmon Recovery

- » [Recovery Implementation](#)
- » [Coho Salmon Recovery Teams](#)
 - » [Range-Wide Coho Salmon Recovery Team \(CRT\)](#)
 - » [Shasta-Scott Coho Salmon Recovery Team](#)
 - » [DFG Coho Salmon Recovery Program](#)
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Page Title: Salmon Habitat

URL: <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Salmon-Habitat/index.cfm><http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Salmon-Habitat/index.cfm>

Salmon Habitat

Habitat loss and modification are believed to be the major factors determining the current status of salmonid populations. Conservation and recovery of Pacific Northwest salmon and steelhead depend on having diverse habitats with connections among those habitats. The salmonid lifecycle involves adults maturing in the ocean, migrating back to their home streams and spawning, embryos incubating, fry emerging, juveniles growing, and smolts migrating to the estuary to acclimate to saltwater and moving out into the ocean. Each phase may require use of and access to distinct habitats. Loss of habitat reduces the diversity in salmon and steelhead life histories, which influences the ability of these fish to adapt to natural and man-made change.

Salmon need freshwater habitat that includes:

- cool, clean water
- appropriate water depth, quantity and flow velocities
- upland and riparian (stream bank) vegetation to stabilize soil and provide shade
- clean gravel for spawning and egg-rearing
- large woody debris to provide resting and hiding places
- adequate food
- varied channel forms.

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NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Regional Office

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Recovery of Salmon & Steelhead in California and Southern Oregon

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North-Central California Coast Domain

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Map of Area:

Click on image for a detailed pdf. version.

Description:

The North-Central California Coast Recovery (NCCC) Domain extends from the Redwood Creek watershed in Humboldt County south to Aptos Creek, and includes the tributaries of the San Francisco Bay (excluding the Sacramento-San Joaquin River basins). Four threatened or endangered salmonid species are included in the NCCC Domain: threatened Northern California Coast steelhead, threatened California Coastal Chinook salmon, endangered Central California Coast coho salmon, and threatened Central California Coast steelhead.

Threats to Domain Species:

Northern California and Central Coast steelhead are the most widely distributed species in the NCCC Domain and spend the longest period rearing in freshwater habitats. Steelhead therefore, face a wide array of threats. California Coastal Chinook Salmon and the Central California Coast Coho Salmon are at the southernmost portion of the species' North American range. As a result, the challenges these species face are more extreme than more northern salmon encounter, such as elevated stream temperatures and reduced stream flows. Threats to all of these species include loss and degradation of freshwater habitat, largely from land use activities such as road

Documents for Review and Comment:

Central California Coast
coho salmon:

[Draft Viability table](#)
[Draft Stress table](#)
[Draft Threats table](#)

Other Documents

[2005 Recovery
Outline for CCC Coho
Salmon](#)

[Technical
Recovery Team
Technical Memoranda](#)

[ESUs / DPSs
Northern California](#)



For an interactive map CalFish.org

development, urban growth and agriculture, reductions in water quality and quantity, and artificial barriers.

Recovery Planning Objectives:

The overall recovery planning objective is to: *develop and maintain a healthy ecosystem that rebuilds and supports naturally produced, abundant, productive, and diverse salmon and steelhead populations across their native ranges.*

Ultimately, recovery planning should provide the framework for recovery and delisting NCCC Domain salmon and steelhead populations. The ESA mandates "application of all methods and procedures which are necessary to provide for the conservation and survival of salmon and steelhead, to the extent that measures pursuant to the ESA will no longer be necessary".

Recovery Plans must explicitly identify all threats to a species and track, through objective measurable criteria, how each threat will be reduced or eliminated through site specific or regional recovery actions. The transparency of how a restoration/recovery action affects a population is critical and provides a mechanism to ensure funds and restoration are effectively targeting species needs.

Currently the NCCC Domain priority is to develop recovery plans in sequence (beginning with the endangered CCC coho salmon) with a final multi-species compilation to provide ease of implementation and use by watershed planners where multiple species exist.

We Request Your Help:

[Click here](#) to learn more about how you can be part of the recovery Process.

Coast Steelhead
(Threatened);

Central Californian
Steelhead
(Threatened);

California Coast
Chinook Salmon
(Threatened);

Central California
Coast Coho Salmon
(Endangered);

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10/09/2008

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June 11, 2006

Bay Area waterways offer views of migrating salmon

January 19, 2006 | By Tom Stienstra

One of the Bay Area's newest winter thrills is also one of its oldest: watching migrating salmon jump, swim and pool.

The best prospects are for coho salmon in January in Marin, for steelhead in February on the San Mateo and Santa Cruz county coast, and for rainbow trout from mid-February through March in the Oakland hills (no kidding). After the New Year's floods, river flows are again ideal for the spectacle, not too high, not too low.

There are some 25 streams and creeks in the Bay Area that attract migrating coho salmon, steelhead or rainbow trout. In ancient times, the winter arrival of salmon was a landmark event, and the Ohlone and Costanoans would net fish to provide food for months. In most cases, fishing no longer is permitted, but the excitement over sightings has become a cult event.

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Here are the five best spots and how to reach them:

1. Shafter Bridge/Inkwells: From Shafter Bridge, you often can spot 2-foot coho salmon, the adults colored a bright maroon, jumping through a set of small waterfalls called the Inkwells. Last January, more than 450 coho were counted. This spot is well known and sometimes crowded on weekends, with viewers oohing and ahing as if watching Fourth of July fireworks.

-- Getting there: Take U.S. 101 to Marin and Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. Turn west and drive through Lagunitas and continue to the second metal bridge (light green). This is Shafter Bridge. Turn left immediately after bridge to parking lot. (415) 488-9897 or parks.ca.gov.

2. Roy's Pools/San Geronimo: This spot is a local legend, where coho salmon and steelhead will jump through a series of pools to pass a former dam site. A fish ladder is available, but it seems that the salmon don't use it if stream flows are high enough to jump the pools.

-- Getting there: From Marin, take Sir Francis Drake Boulevard west to Fairfax and continue 5 miles to Nicasio Valley Road (just beyond golf course). Turn left and drive short distance to San Geronimo Valley Drive. Turn left and park along road and view from bridge. (415) 488-0370 or SpawnUSA.org.

3. Redwood Creek, Oakland: Wild fish in Oakland? That's right. A native strain of wild rainbow trout that migrates upstream from Upper San Leandro Reservoir can be spotted in pools in Redwood Creek in Redwood Regional Park, and occasionally even jumping up the steps of an old-style wood fish ladder to reach spawning areas.

-- Getting there: From Bay Bridge, take Interstate 580 to the exit for 35th Avenue. Take that exit to the stop sign, turn left on 35th Avenue, and drive up the hill to Skyline. Continue straight (the road becomes Redwood Road) and drive two miles to the park entrance on the left. (510) 482-6024 or ebparks.org.

4. Lagunitas Creek/Samuel P. Taylor: With luck in late January, you can see the fish spawn in an area adjacent to the park entrance. A pretty creekside walk set beneath a redwood canopy also provides

glimpses.

-- Getting there: From Marin, take Sir Francis Drake Boulevard west and drive 14.5 miles to the park entrance on the left. (415) 488-9897 or parks.ca.gov.

5. Pescadero Creek/Portola State Park: The headwaters of Pescadero Creek are hidden in a gorgeous redwood canyon near La Honda in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Steelhead arrive and spawn in late winter and spring, and the Pomponio Trail and Bridge Trail provides the best viewing prospects.

-- Getting there: From San Francisco, take Interstate 280 to Woodside and the exit for Highway 84/Woodside Road. Take that exit and drive 2 miles into Woodside. Continue on Highway 84 for 13 miles to La Honda and continue short distance to Pescadero Road. Turn left and go one mile to junction. Bear right and go 4.2 miles to Wurr Road (signed Portola State Park). Turn left and drive quarter-mile to entrance. (650) 948-9098 or

parks.ca.gov.

"The Great Outdoors With Tom Stienstra" airs at 6:30 p.m. Sundays on KBHK (Channel 44).

Tom Stienstra's Outdoors Report can be heard at 7:35 a.m., 9:35 a.m. and 12:35 p.m. Saturdays on KCBS (740 AM). Best of the rest

-- Redwood Creek (coho salmon), Muir Woods National Monument, Marin

-- San Pedro Creek (steelhead), San Pedro County Valley Park, Pacifica

-- Waddell Creek (steelhead), Rancho Del Oso/Big Basin Redwoods, Santa Cruz coast

-- San Lorenzo River (steelhead), Boulder Creek, Santa Cruz Mountains

Naturalist-led tours

10 a.m. and 1 p.m. weekends, Lagunitas/San Geronimo creeks, \$10 donation, \$6 children; reservations required; Salmon Protection and Watershed Network, (415) 488-0370; SpawnUSA.org.

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