

SAVE THE HITCH

protecting a **small** fish with **HUGE** importance



About the Clear Lake Hitch

A large minnow found **only** in northern California's Clear Lake and its tributaries, the Clear Lake hitch is facing a tough fight to avoid extinction. They are a protected species and listed as Threatened under the California Endangered Species Act.

How can you help the hitch?



- It is illegal to catch, keep, or use hitch for bait. (Cal Code Regs., tit.14 § 4.25 and § 670.5)
- Return accidentally caught hitch back to the water.
- Do not chase or harass hitch. (Fish & G. Code §2080)
- Do not drive in flowing or ponded water within the creeks.
- You must have a permit to build an in-water retaining wall, dock, reservoir, pond or road - Hitch use Clear Lake and the creeks.
- Do not build anything in the lake or creeks without a permit. (Fish & G. Code §1602)
- All permitted reservoirs & ponds must allow fish passage.
- If you have a legal water right to pump water from the creek, avoid pumping from February-May, and screen the hose.
- Remove garbage, vehicles and household items from the creek that may block fish passage or impact water quality.
- If safe to do so by hand, remove debris that has become stuck in the creek so water can flow (no permit needed).

Not sure if you need a permit? Please email CDFW at R2Info@wildlife.ca.gov or check out our website wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/environmental-review.

