



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

California Central  
Valley Area Office

# Spring-running Salmon in the Stanislaus and Tuolumne Rivers and an Overview of Spring-run Recovery

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# Recent findings

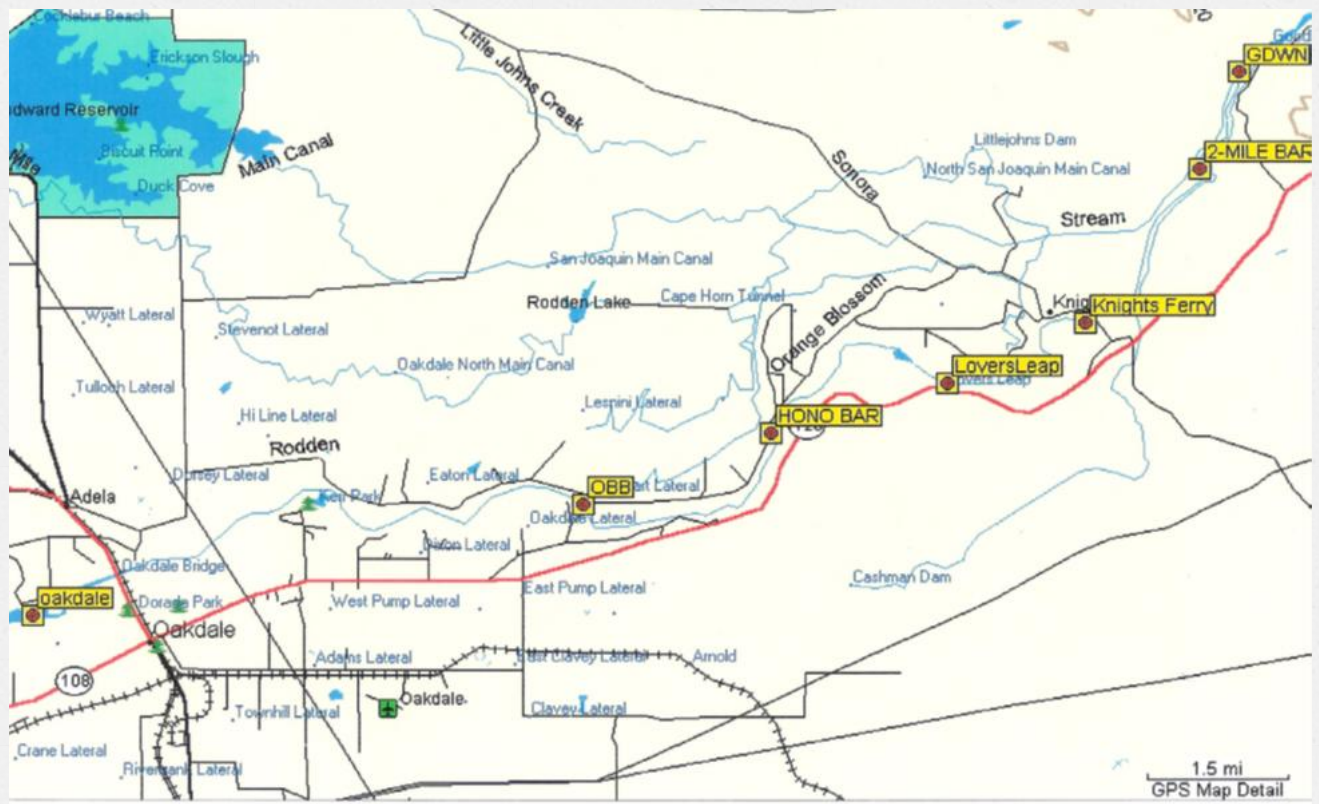
- Observations by fisheries biologist from other agencies (CDFW & USFWS) that are familiar with these systems have accounts of seeing adult Chinook holding in these river systems in summer months
- Personal observation in April, May and June of 2013 with CDFW, USFWS and NMFS staff, adult Chinook were observed in the upper reaches of the Stanislaus River below Goodwin Dam and potential redds in Reach 1 of the Tuolumne River.

Is it possible naturally  
occurring spring-run are still in  
some of the tributaries of the  
San Joaquin River?

### Chinook Salmon Observed in the Stanislaus River

Date	Section	Survey Type	Number of Surveyors	Total Adult salmon observed	Max adult salmon observed by one surveyor	Redds Observed
2013						
8/15/2013	Goodwin- 2 Mile Bar	Snorkel	7	56	36	0
8/22/2013	2 Mile Bar-Knights Ferry	Snorkel	6	3	1	0
8/29/2013	Knights Ferry-Orange Blossom	Snorkel	3	4	4	0
9/5/2013	Orange Blossom-Oakdale Rec	Snorkel	4	0	0	0
9/16/2013	Goodwin-Two Mile Bar	Walking	2	3	3	5
9/17/2013	Goodwin-Two Mile Bar	Snorkel	6	35	14	0
2014						
7/1/2014	Goodwin-Two Mile Bar	Snorkel	5	3	1	0
8/5/2014	Two Mile Bar-Knights Ferry	Snorkel	3	0	0	0

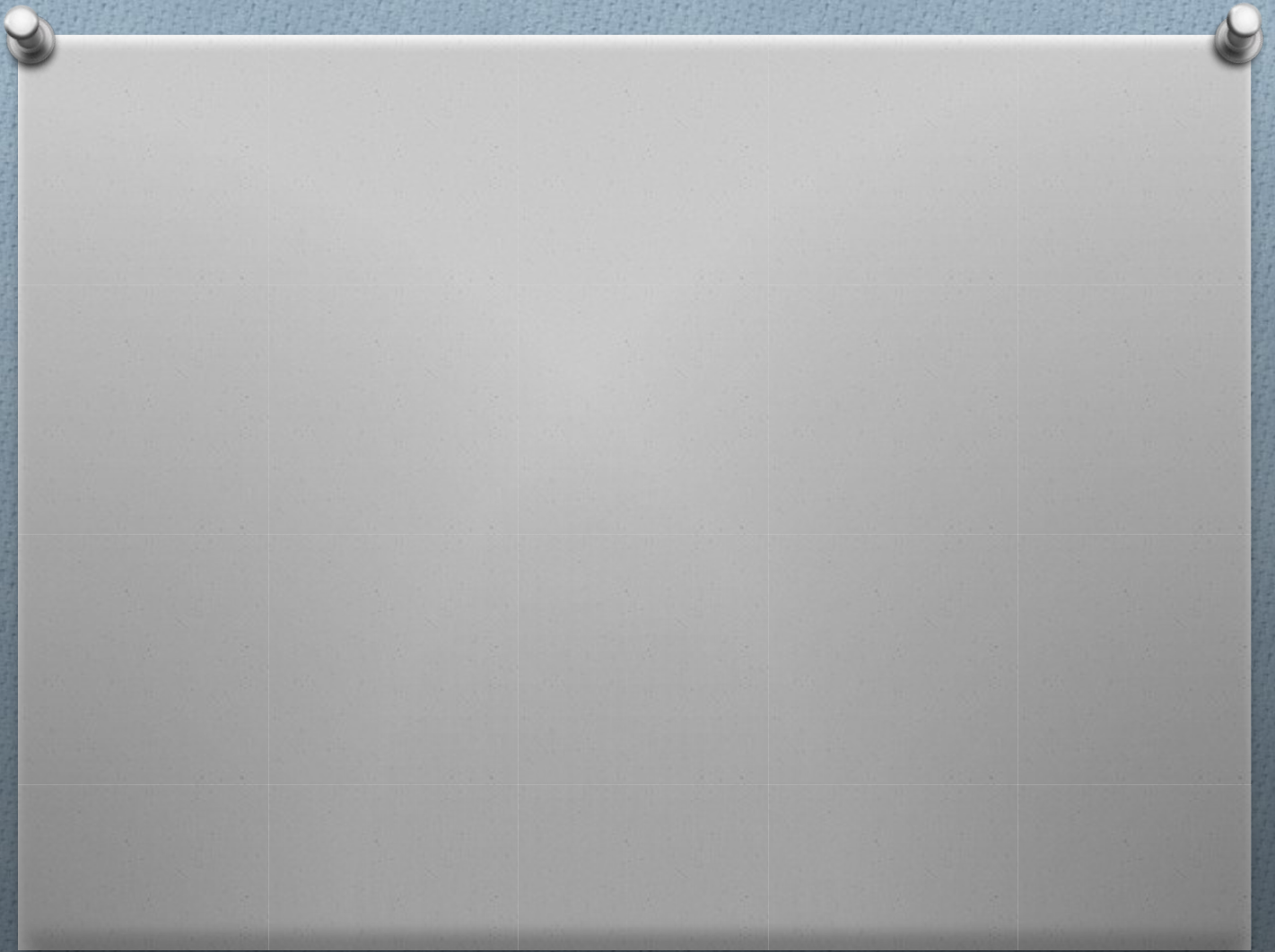
Observational Data provided by Domenic Giudice - CDFW



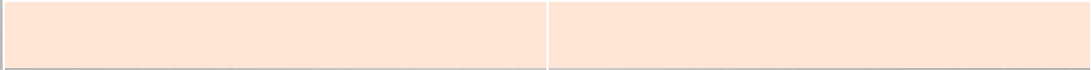
# Adipose intact adult returns

(data provided by FishBio)

Tuolumne (2010, 2012)	Stanislaus (2007, 2009, 2010, 2012)
12 Confirmed adipose intact (*55 total passed)	51 confirmed adipose intact (*68 total passed)







Data from Kes Benn (USFWS)

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### o USFWS Mosssdale length at date criteria – SR

March	76-90 mm FL
April	86-93 mm FL
May	97-106 mm FL
June	112-119 mm FL

# What's next?

- o Genetic testing
- o Journal Publication
- o What implications would this have for the ESA?



Photo Credit: California Water Blog - Dr. Moyle - circa 1940's

## What could this mean for the SJRRP?

- ❖ Potential to increase genetic diversity with reintroduced population?
- ❖ Possibility of reintroduced population to mix with naturally-occurring spring-run in San Joaquin tributaries?



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C spring-ru  
recovery



# Recovery

- Spring-run listed in 1999, proposed as endangered by NMFS in 1998
- Populations at the time were (thought) only in Mill, Deer and Butte creeks – tributaries to the Sacramento River

# 2014 Recovery Plan

o The Tuolumne River upstream of New Don Pedro Dam and downstream of La Grange Dam is a candidate for reintroduction of spring-run Chinook salmon.



# 2014 Recovery Plan

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reintroductio o spring-ru Chinook.





## Current status of CV spring-run

- o Until 2012, the status of CV spring-run Chinook salmon ESU had deteriorated with two of the three extant independent populations (Deer and Mill creeks) slipping from low or moderate extinction risk to high extinction risk.
- o Additionally, Butte Creek remained at low risk, although it was on the verge of moving towards high risk, due to rate of population decline.
- o In contrast, spring-run Chinook salmon in Battle and Clear creeks has increased in abundance since 1998

## Current status of CV spring-run

- o The most recent viability assessment of CV spring-run Chinook salmon was conducted during NMFS' 2011 status review. This review found that the biological status of the ESU had worsened since the last status review (2005) and recommend that its status be reassessed in two to three years as opposed to waiting another five years

# 5 year status review

- In the process of conducting a new 5 year status review
- Will be complete in March 2016
- Experimental population will be included in 5 year status review

## Benefit of experimental population

- Increase viability of ESU
- Contribute to recovery
- Potential to learn a lot



# New future for the San Joaquin



Picture from 1950 of George Warner, a former CDFG employee holding one of the last spring-run in the San Joaquin River

First spring-run to be released with SJRRP

