

Agenda

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE 2025 SALMON INFORMATION MEETING

Wednesday, Feb 26, 2025
10:00 a.m. ~Virtual Only~

Welcome –

Opening Comments and Review Agenda

Kandice Morgenstern, CDFW
10:00 a.m.

[2024 Central Valley Chinook Spawning Escapement](#)

[Colby Hause, CDFW](#)

10:10 a.m.

[2024 Klamath Basin Chinook Spawning Escapement,
Harvest, and Age Composition](#)

[Morgan Knechtle, CDFW](#)

10:30 a.m.

BREAK (15 minutes)

10:50 a.m..

[NMFS 2025 Ocean Salmon Fishery Guidance](#)

[Anthony Siniscal, NMFS](#)

11:05 a.m.

[Abundance Forecasts and Harvest Model Results](#)

[Dr. Michael O'Farrell, NMFS](#)

11:30 a.m.

Closing Comments

Kandice Morgenstern, CDFW
12:00 p.m.

Acronyms:

CDFW: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

NMFS: National Marine Fisheries Service

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Anadromous Fishes Conservation and Management Program



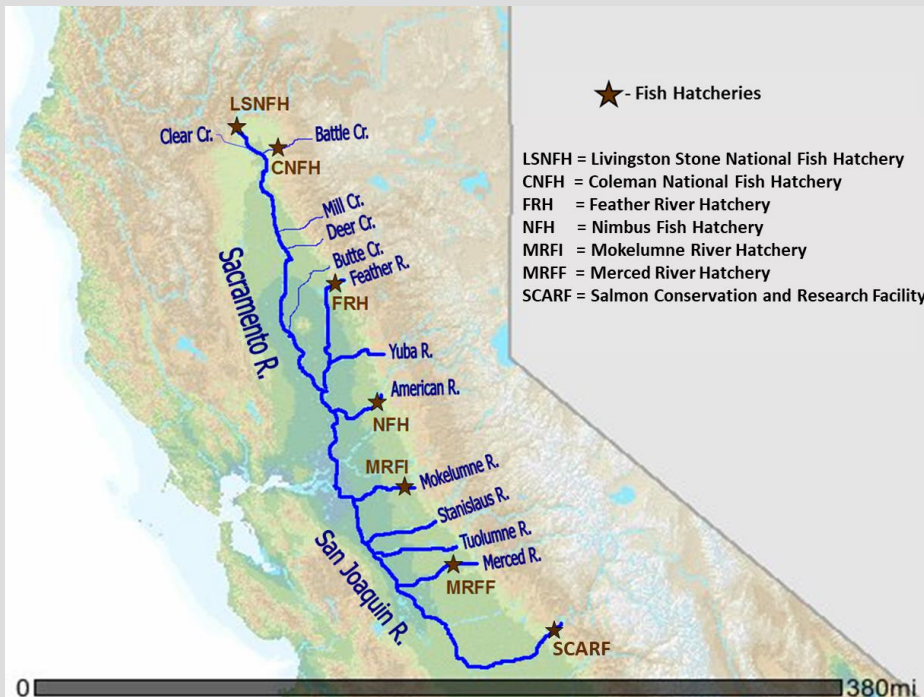
2024 CENTRAL VALLEY CHINOOK SALMON SPAWNING ESCAPEMENT

February 26, 2025

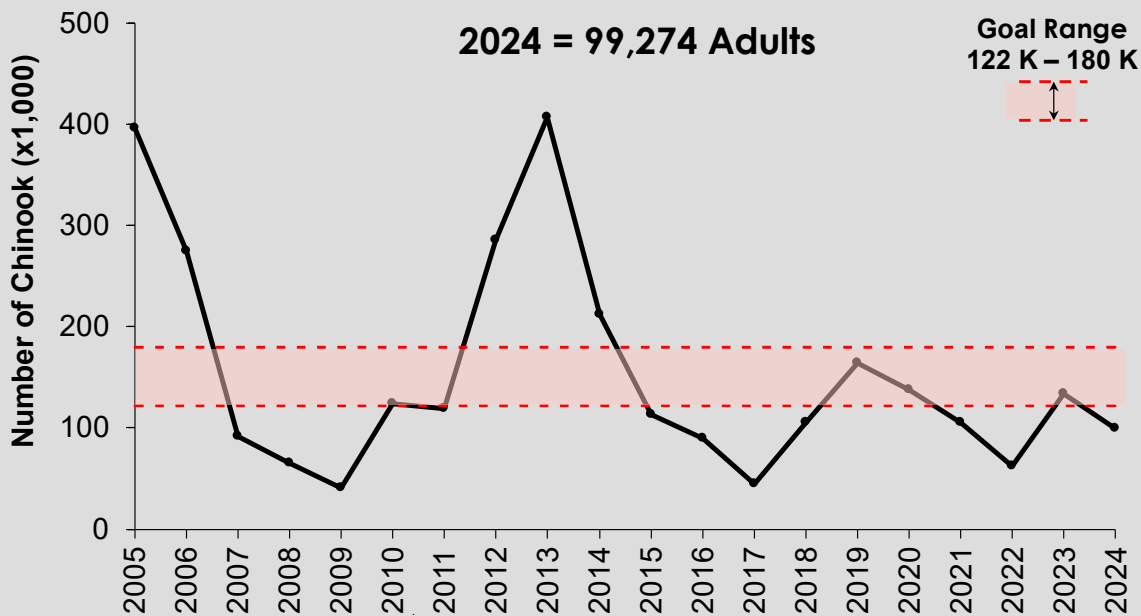
PRESENTED BY:

Colby Hause
 Senior Environmental Scientist
 Chinook Salmon Sportfish Coordinator

The Central Valley

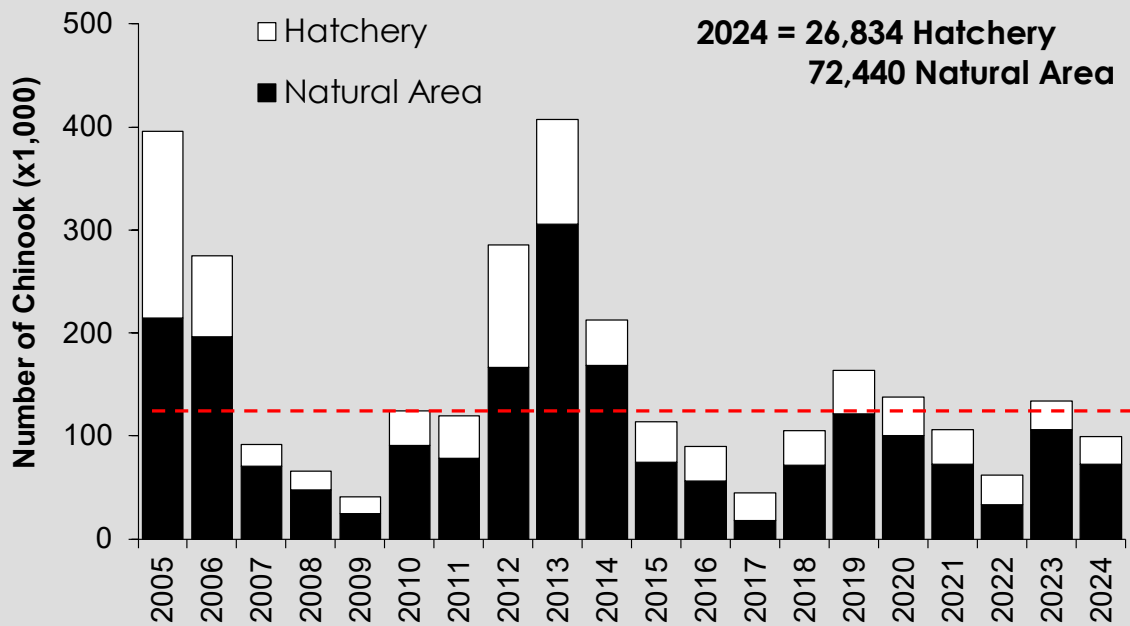


Sacramento River Fall Chinook Adult Spawning Escapement, 2005-2024



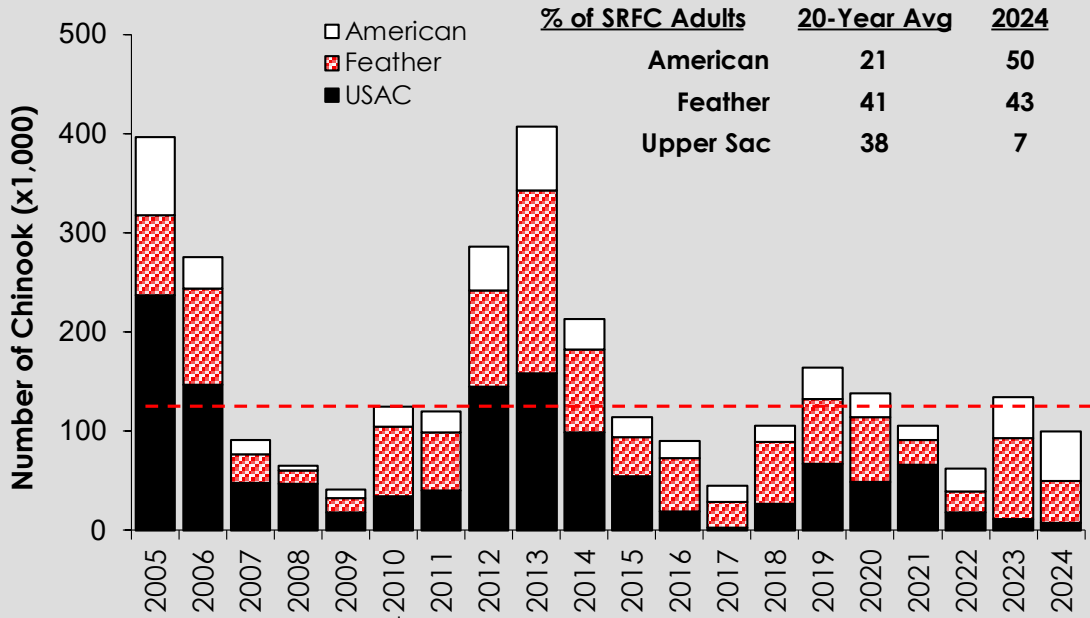
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Sacramento River Fall Chinook Hatchery & Natural Area Adult Spawning Escapement, 2005-2024



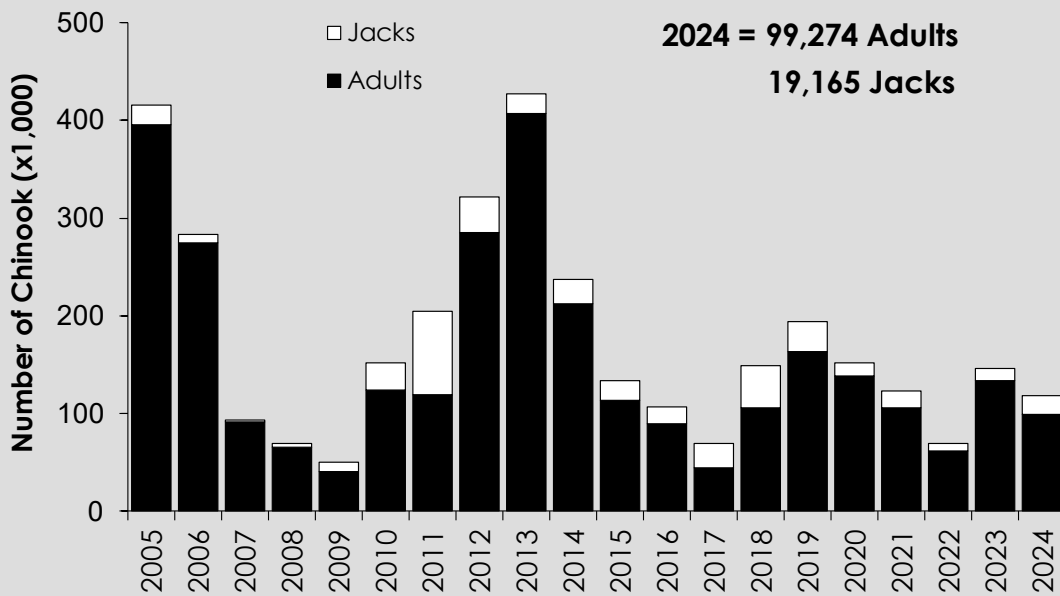
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Sacramento River Fall Chinook Adult Spawning Escapement By Basin, 2005-2024



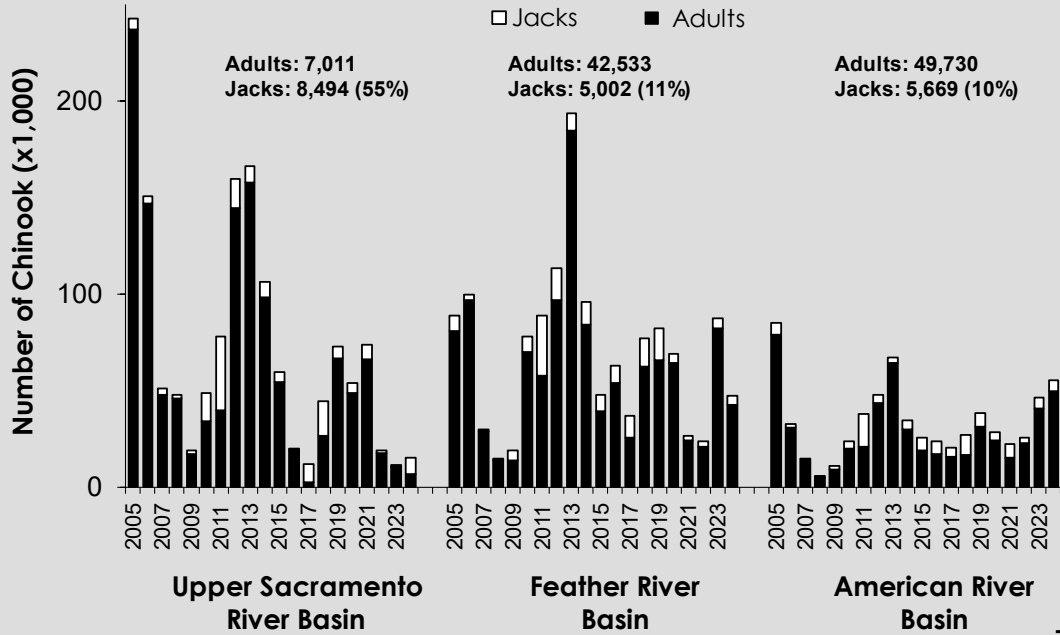
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Sacramento River Fall Chinook Adult & Jack Spawning Escapement, 2005-2024

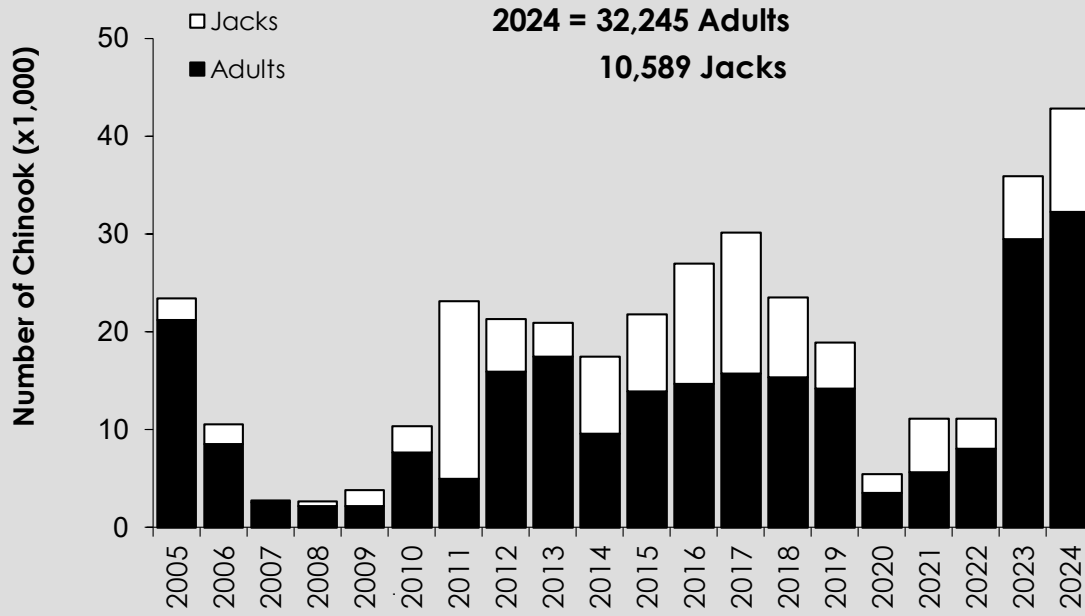


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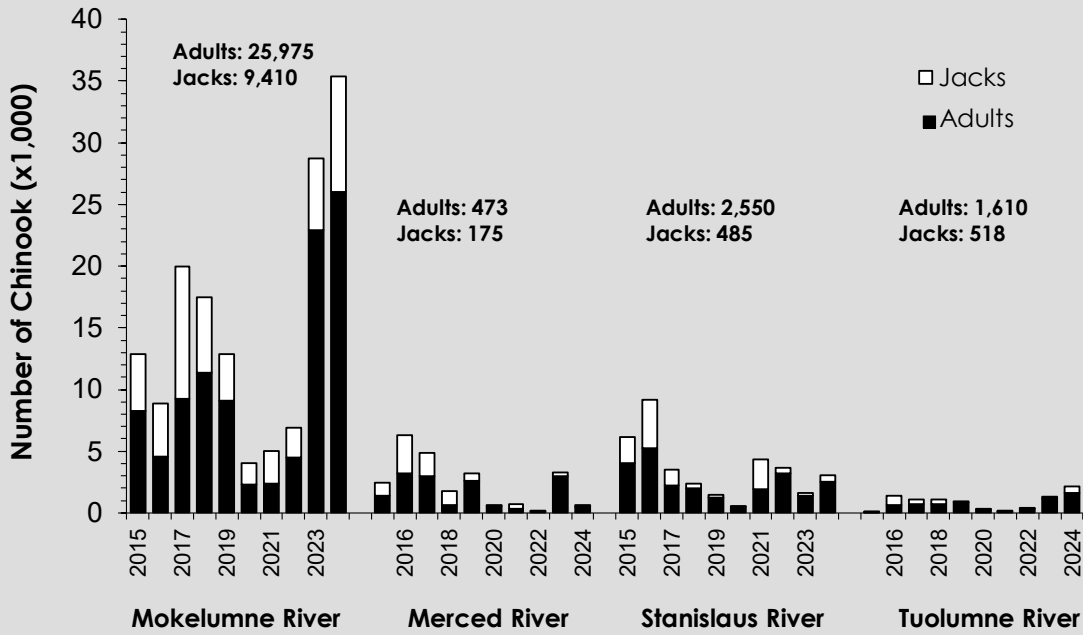
Sacramento River Fall Chinook Adult & Jack Spawning Escapement By Basin, 2005-2024



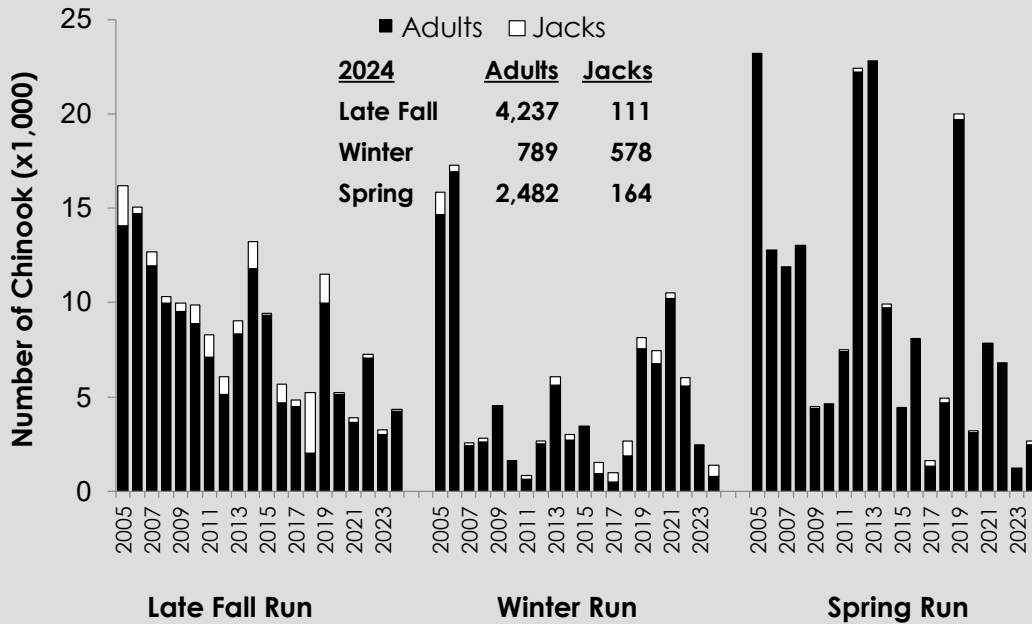
San Joaquin Basin Fall Chinook Adult & Jack Spawning Escapement, 2005-2024



San Joaquin River Fall Chinook Adult & Jack Spawning Escapement By Basin, 2015-2024



Other Sacramento Basin Chinook Stocks Spawning Escapement, 2005-2024





Department of Fish and Wildlife Anadromous Fishes Conservation and Management Program



Thank You

Colby Hause
Sr. Environmental Scientist
(Specialist)

Colby.Hause@wildlife.ca.gov

More information available at:

www.pcouncil.org/salmon

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Klamath-Trinity Project

Klamath Basin Chinook Salmon Spawning Escapement, Harvest and Age Composition, 2024 Season



Salmon Information Meeting

February 26, 2025

Morgan Knechtle – Senior Environmental
Scientist

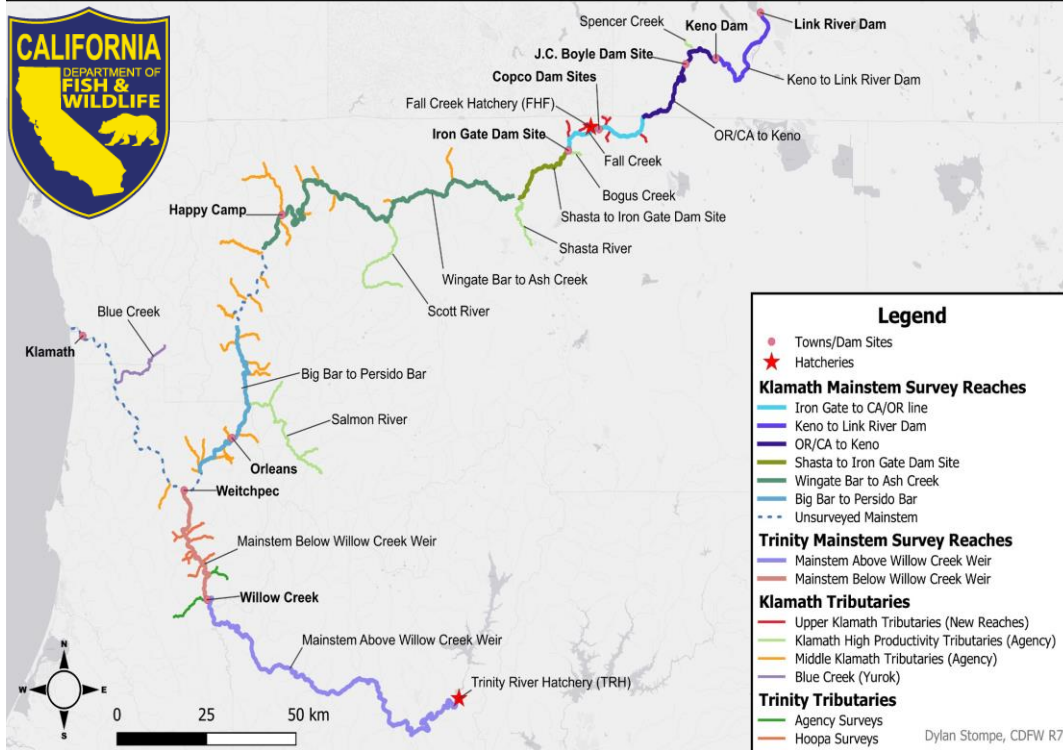


Klamath River Basin

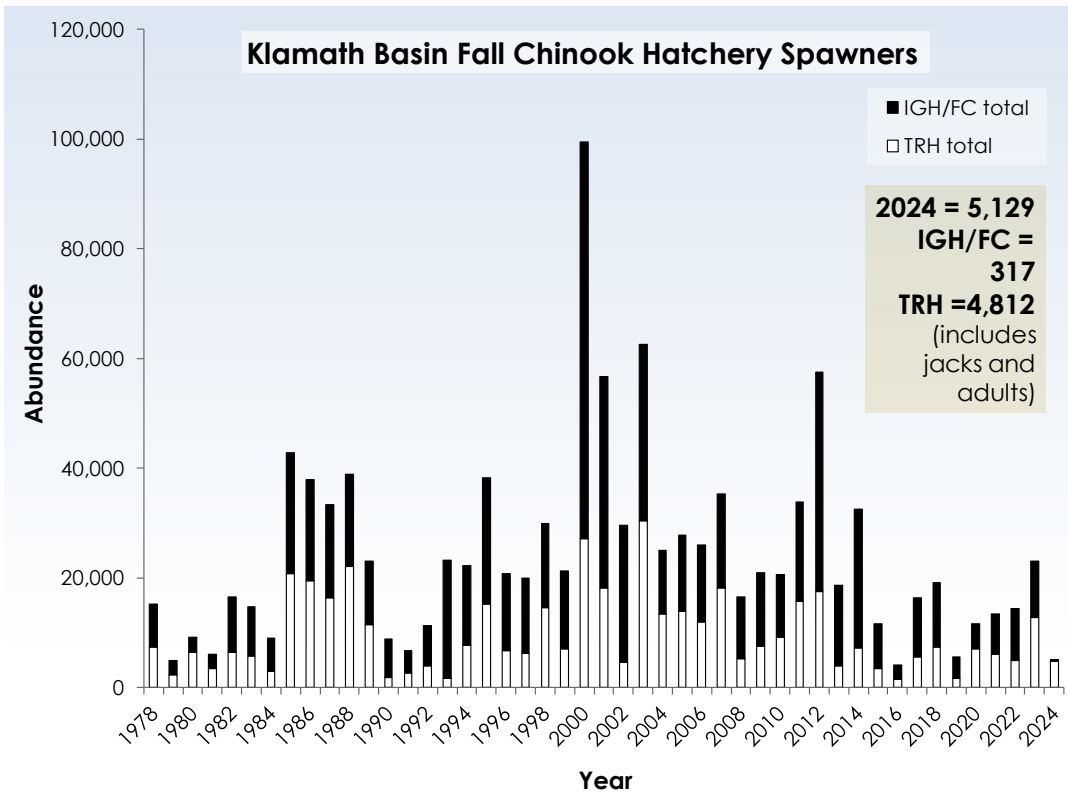
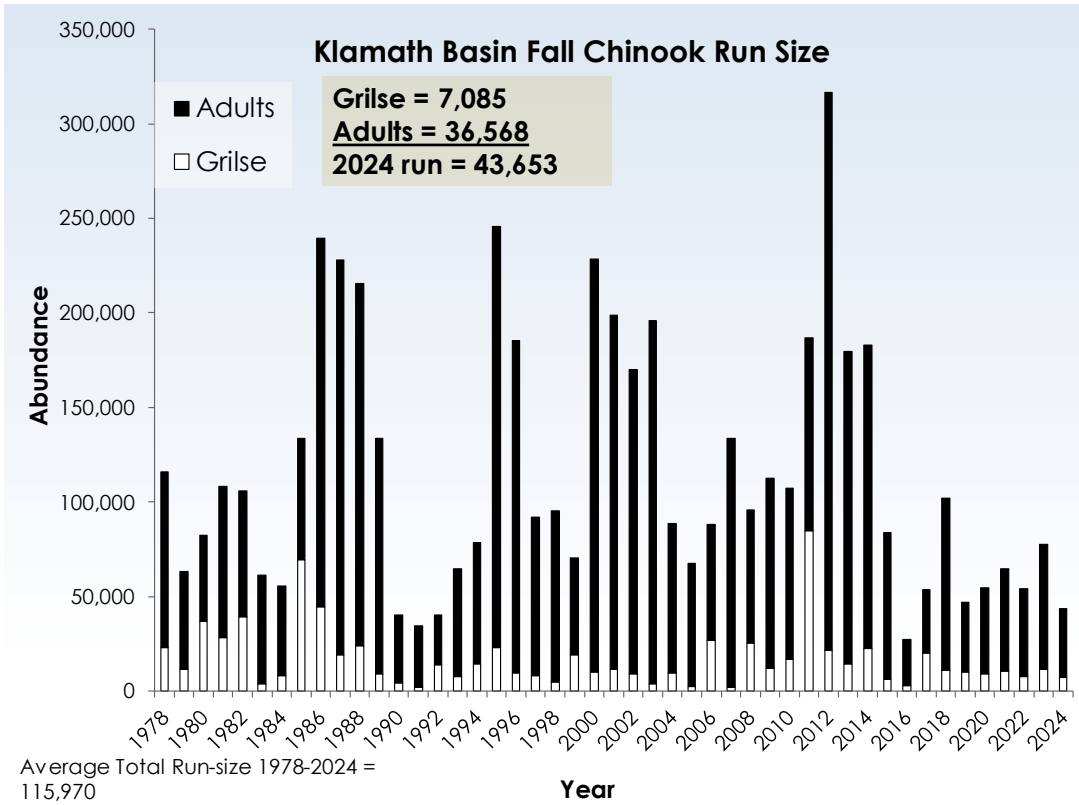


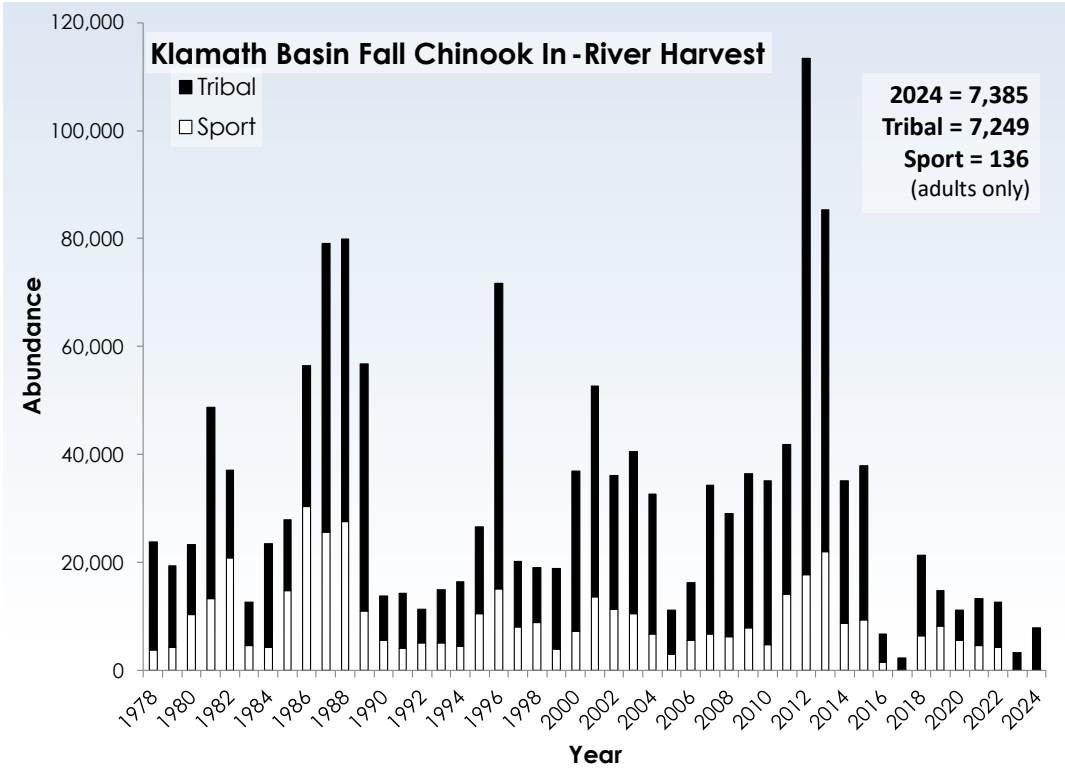
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Klamath-Trinity Fall-Run Chinook Escapement Surveys

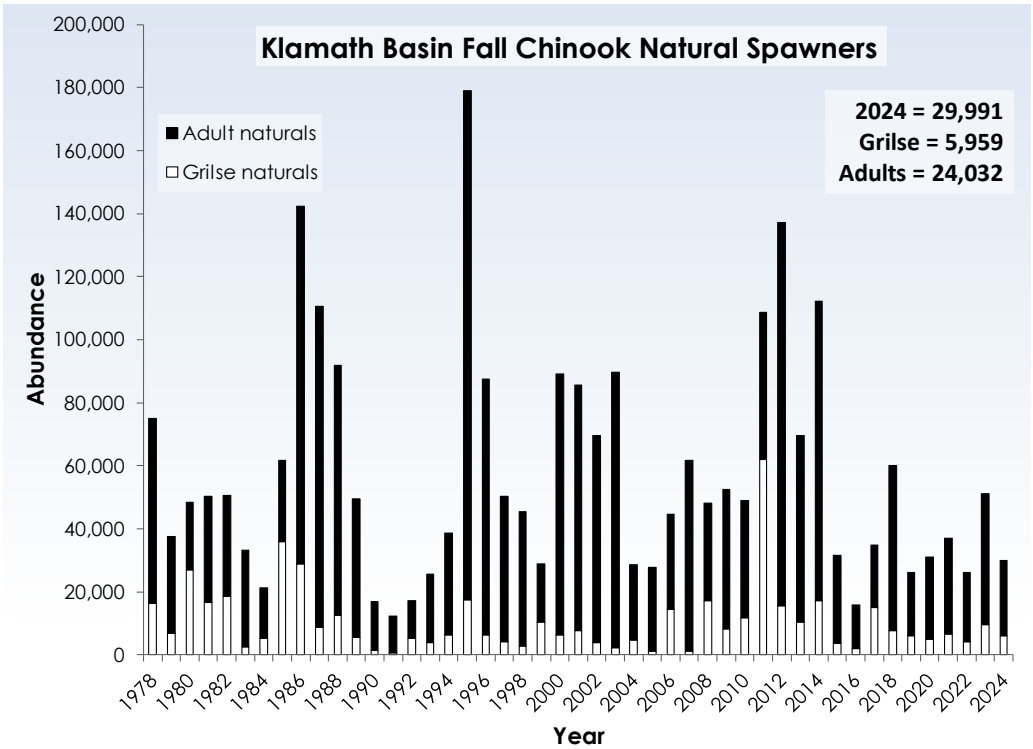


and landowners





2024 Adult KRFC quotas: Tribal = 6,434, In-river Recreational = 4,999 (quota passed onto escapement; salmon fishing closure)



Age Composition of the 2024 Klamath Basin fall Chinook Salmon run

Escapement & Harvest	AGE				Total Adults	Total Run
	2	3	4	5		
Hatchery Spawners						
Fall Creek Hatchery	18	127	165	7	299	317
Trinity River Hatchery	622	3,074	1,116	0	4,190	4,812
subtotal	640	3,201	1,281	7	4,489	5,129
					12.3%	11.7%
Natural Spawners						
Klamath Basin subtotal	568	6,367	4,103	279	10,749	11,317
Trinity Basin subtotal	5,391	11,086	2,197	0	13,283	18,674
subtotal	5,959	17,453	6,300	279	24,032	29,991
					65.7%	68.7%
Recreational Harvest						
Klamath River harvest	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trinity River harvest	3	113	23	0	136	139
subtotal	3	113	23	0	136	139
					0.4%	0.3%
Tribal Harvest						
Klamath River harvest	64	2,141	2,402	420	4,963	5,027
Trinity River harvest	407	1,460	824	2	2,286	2,693
subtotal	471	3,601	3,226	422	7,249	7,720
					19.8%	17.7%
Dropoff Mortality						
	12	266	267	37	570	582
Klamath River Ich disease te	0	45	44	3	92	92
					1.8%	1.5%
Total River Run	7,085	24,679	11,141	748	36,568	43,653

Source: 2025 KRRT

2024 Preliminary results/findings

- The 2024 Klamath Basin fall Chinook run size estimate is ~38% of the 47 year long-term average (5th lowest total run size).
- The number of 2 year-old fish (7,085) is ~42% of the long-term average.
- The adult Chinook returns to the basin were ~56% of the projected forecast (~65,100 pre vs. ~36,500 post).
- The adult fall Chinook natural escapement objective of 36,500 (24,032 returned in 2024) was not met.
- The geometric mean of adult natural escapement for the past three years is ~28,000.
- In 2025, a natural area escapement of ~67,400 adults is necessary to “rebuild” the stock (achieve 3 -year geometric mean of 40,700).



Follow up questions?

Morgan Knechtle – Klamath/Trinity Supervisor (Yreka, CA)
Email: morgan.knechtle@wildlife.ca.gov
Phone: (530) 598-1743



Photo credits in this presentation: CDFW, MKWC, USFS



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

2025 Ocean Salmon Fishery Guidance

CDFW Salmon Information
Meeting
March 1, 2025

Tony Siniscal
Sustainable Fisheries Division
NMFS West Coast Region

2025 NMFS Guidance

- Preliminary Guidance
 - Final guidance provided in NMFS guidance letter
- Non-Listed Stocks
 - Salmon Fisheries Management Plan (FMP)
 - Harvest Control Rules
 - Conservative Management
- Stock Listed Under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)
 - Biological Opinions
 - NMFS Guidance Letter
- Forecasts: Presentation by Dr. O'Farrell



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Non-ESA-Listed Stocks



Sacramento River Fall Chinook (SRFC)

- Indicator stock for Central Valley Fall Chinook stock complex
- Not listed under the ESA
- Conservation Objective: 122,000 – 180,000 adult spawners
- Harvest Control Rule
- Guidance Under Development



Klamath River Fall Chinook (KRFC)

- Indicator stock: Chinook from Southern Oregon Northern California coasts, Klamath and Trinity Rivers
- Not listed under the ESA
- Overfished status
- Conservation Objective: 40,700 spawners
- Harvest Control Rule
- Guidance Under Development

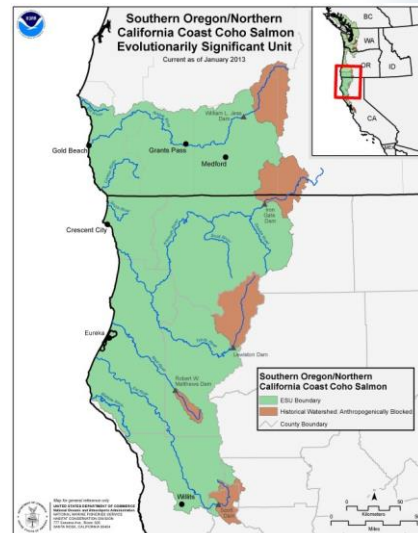


Stocks Listed Under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)



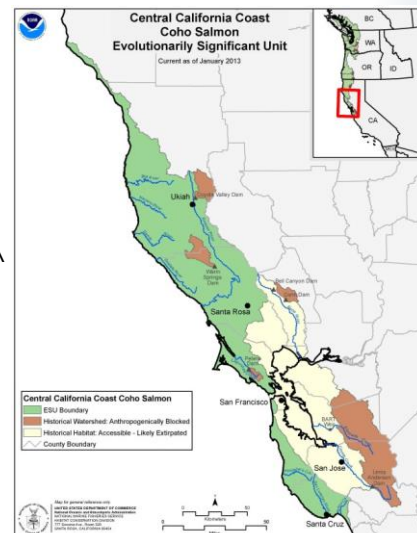
SONCC Coho Salmon

- ESA Listed: Threatened
- Recovery Plan: 2014 (79 FR 58750)
- Harvest Control Rule and Amendment 23 in 2022
- Biological Opinion: 2022
- Guidance
 - Prohibit coho retention and coho-directed fisheries off CA
 - Total (ocean and freshwater) ER limit:
 - ≤ 16% for Trinity population unit
 - ≤ 15% for all other SONCC populations



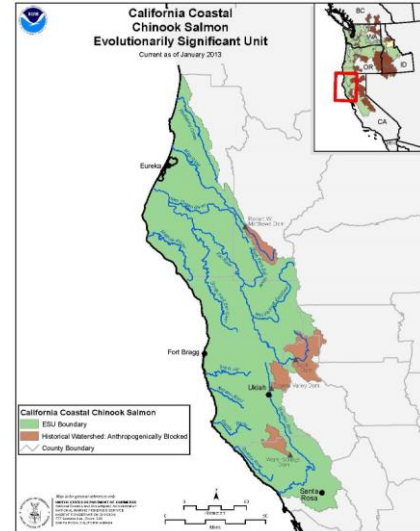
Central California Coast Coho

- ESA Listed: Endangered
- Recovery Plan: 2012 (77 FR 54565)
- Background
 - Species in the Spotlight designation with NOAA Fisheries
 - CDFW Priority Action Coho Team to assemble State and Federal recovery plan priorities and actions
- Guidance
 - Prohibit coho retention and coho-directed fisheries off CA



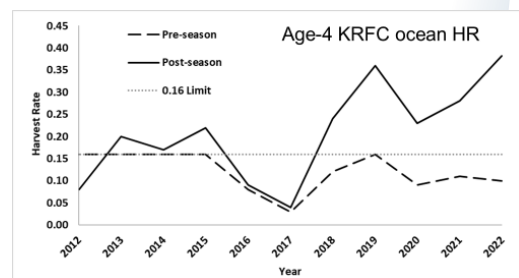
California Coastal (CC) Chinook Salmon

- ESA Listed: Threatened
- Recovery Plan: 2016 (81 FR 750666)
- Biological Opinion: 2024
- Consultation Standard:
 - Indicator: Klamath River Fall Chinook (KRFC)
 - Metric: Age-4 KRFC Ocean Harvest Rate
 - Limit: $\leq 16\%$



CC Chinook Salmon (Continued)

- Management response needed
 - HR exceeding pre-season projection
 - HR exceeding 16% limit
 - High contact rates in commercial fishery
 - KOHM updates in 2021 and 2022
 - Buffered HR in 2022: 10% vs 38%
- Management Framework: Adopted 2023
 - Buffer pre-season HR based on 5-year percent error
 - Landing and possession limits
 - In-season management
 - Quick reporting requirements

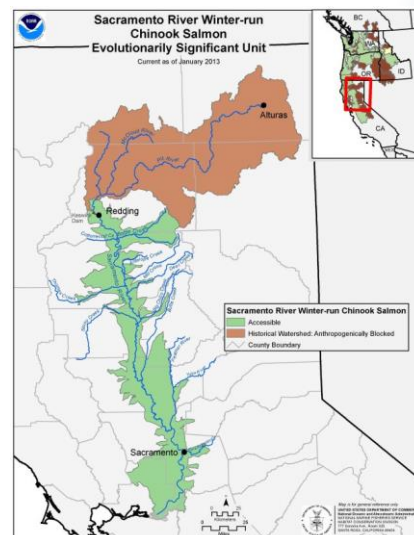


CC Chinook Salmon (Continued)

- Guidance
 - Buffer pre-season HR based on 5-year percent error
 - Commercial fishery:
 - Allowable harvest limit
 - Weekly landing and possession
 - In-season management to ensure fisheries remain under the conservation objective
 - 24-hour catch reporting

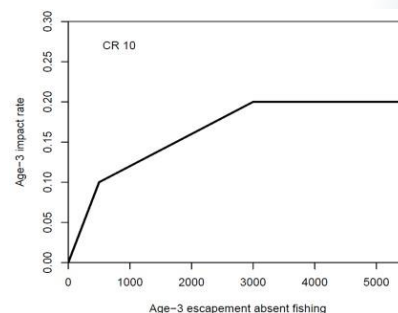
Sacramento River Winter (SRW) Chinook

- ESA Listed: Endangered
- Recovery Plan: 2014 (79 FR 42504)
- Biological Opinion 2018
- Background
 - Management framework
 - Harvest control rule 10
 - Minimum size limits and seasonal fishing windows



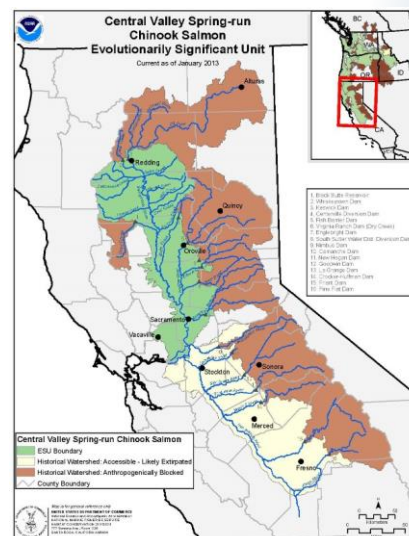
Sacramento Winter Chinook (Cont'd)

- Harvest Control Rule
- Guidance
 - Continue minimum size limits and seasonal fishing windows specified in the salmon FMP
 - Guidance under development



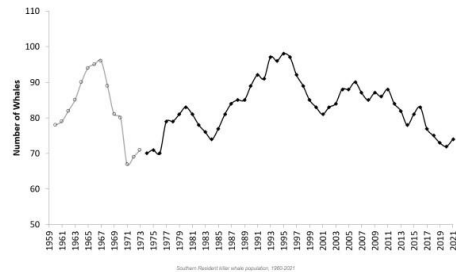
Central Valley (CV) Spring Chinook

- ESA Listed: Threatened
- Recovery Plan: 2014 (79 FR 42504)
- Biological Opinion: 2000
- SRFC/KRFC/SRW/CC Chinook constraints will likely provide sufficient protection for CV Spring Chinook
- Guidance
 - Manage fisheries consistent with HCR for SRW Chinook
 - Conservative management
 - Shape early season fisheries to provide additional protections for CV spring Chinook



Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW)

- ESA Listed: Endangered
- Recovery Plan: 2008 (73 FR 4176)
- Salmon FMP Amendment 21
- Biological Opinion: 2021



- Background
 - Since 2009, the population has declined to a near historic low of 75
 - Amendment 21:
 - Chinook salmon low abundance threshold
 - Under Threshold = Implementation of Management Actions



Southern Resident Killer Whales (Cont'd)

- Threshold: Arithmetic mean of the seven lowest years of October 1 projections of Chinook salmon abundance prior to fisheries during 1992 -2016
- Management measures for California salmon fisheries if below threshold:
 - Close the Klamath Management Zone (KMZ) from October 1 through March 31
 - Close Klamath River Control Zone and expand area from September 1 through March 31
 - Close fisheries in the Monterey management area from October 1 through March 31 of the following year.



Southern Resident Killer Whales (Cont'd)

- Guidance
 - Follow process outlined in Amendment 21
 - Compare 2025 Chinook salmon abundance to the low abundance threshold
 - If Chinook abundance is below threshold implement management measures described in Amendment 21

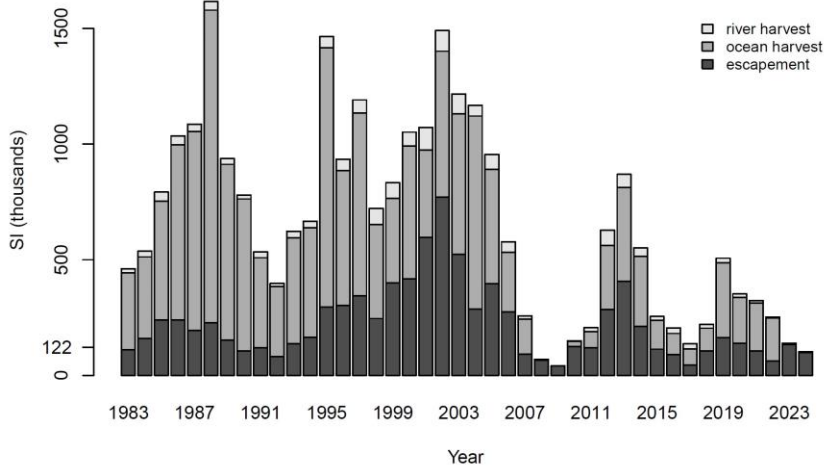
Thank you

anthony.siniscal@noaa.gov

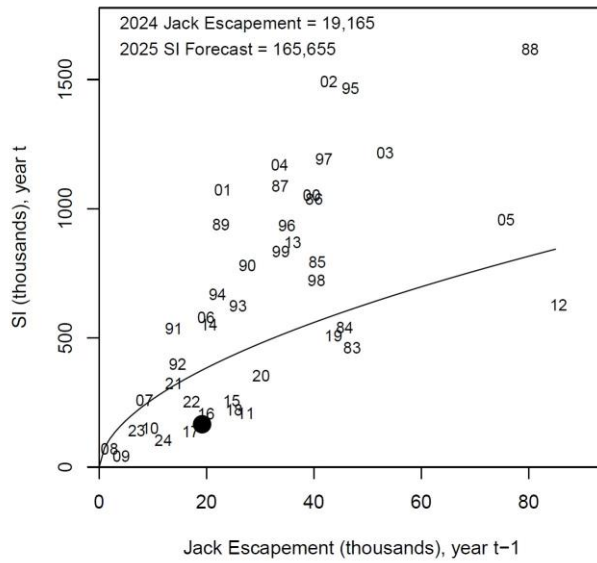
Susan.Bishop@noaa.gov

Special thanks to:
Michael O'Farrell SWFSC

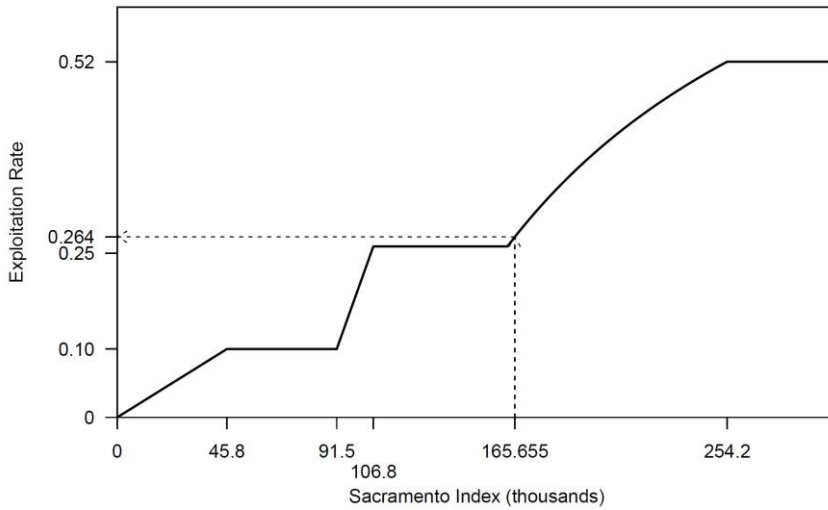
2024 Sacramento Index (SI) = 102,965



2025 SI forecast = 165,655



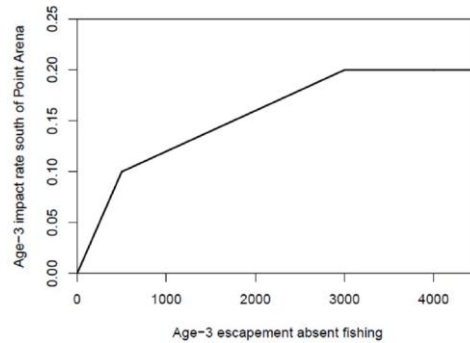
2025 SRFC management



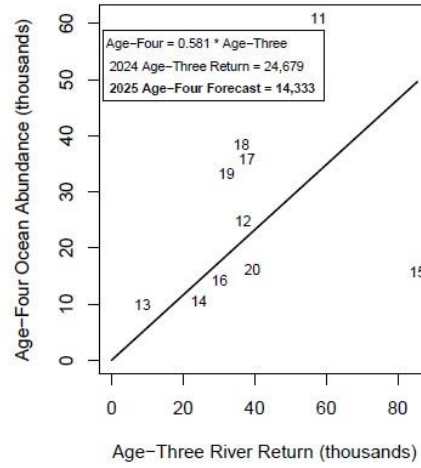
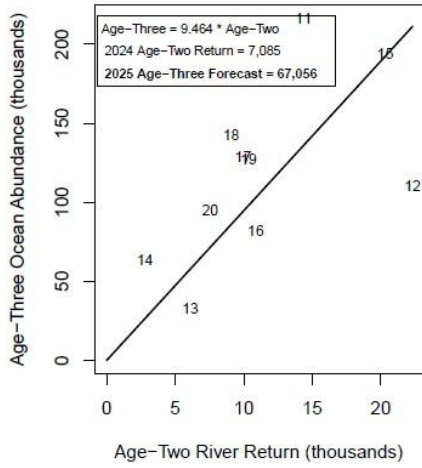
- 2025 forecast lower than 2024
- Must target an escapement of at least 122,000 (max 26.4% exploitation rate)
- Will constrain 2025 fisheries

2025 Winter Chinook management

- Abundance forecast: 4,507 (higher than 2024)
- Maximum allowable age-3 impact rate: 20%
- May constrain CA ocean fisheries



2025 Klamath abundance forecast

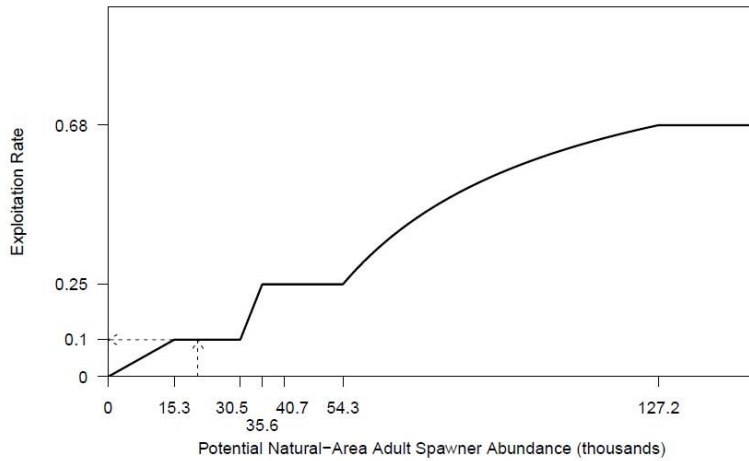


Age-3:
67,056

Age-4:
14,333

Age-5:
1,283

2025 Klamath fall Chinook management



- Potential spawner abundance: 20,763
- Max exploitation rate: 10%
- Minimum natural-area adult escapement: 18,687
- Will constrain fisheries