

# 2025-2028 Kokanee Research at Stampede Reservoir

## How to Participate

### Mark-Recapture Project Description

In May 2025, 50,000 fingerling Kokanee salmon were marked and released into Stampede Reservoir. We clipped their adipose fins so we can distinguish them from naturally spawned fish. From 2026-2028, we are gathering information from creel surveys, spawn surveys, egg-take operations, angling events, and from anglers like you over Kokanee's 3+ year lifespan.

Stampede Reservoir plays a critical role in California's Kokanee program, serving both as a productive recreational fishery and as the only source of eggs for statewide stocking efforts, which is why we chose it for this research. This study will help us understand the importance of these stocked fish on the population.

- 1) What proportion of Kokanee caught by anglers are stocked versus naturally produced?
- 2) Are stocked Kokanee generally smaller, larger, or similar in size compared to wild fish?
- 3) Do stocked Kokanee return to spawn at the same age as wild fish?

Overall, Stampede has a very healthy Kokanee population, and recent creel surveys suggest that there are many fish in the lake; but if we reduce the number stocked, would that remove a huge proportion of the population that we heavily rely for the recreational fishery, or would it go unnoticed? There are many factors that impact Kokanee growth and abundance – food availability, water temperature, weather patterns, water releases and retention, natural reproduction, and stocking -- but stocking is the only factor we can directly manage. By understanding the dynamic impact of stocking on the recreational fishery and the spawning population, we can make more informed decisions about Kokanee management for years to come.

### How Can You Help?

While fishing, record your catch data in a notebook or in your favorite phone application.

#### Report your catch in one of three ways:

- 1) Report through the new [California Inland Recreational Angler Survey](#) (CIRAS) webpage on your phone or computer
  - a. Answer and submit the main Angler Survey, then **make sure to answer and submit the "Fish Marking" Optional Data question** afterwards.
- 2) Report to Creel Survey staff at the boat ramp (if they are surveying when you are there)
- 3) Email, mail or text documents or photos of your paper logs to [Rachel.Fichman@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Rachel.Fichman@wildlife.ca.gov) or 916-206-3858

**Requested data includes the date, accurate fish measurements in inches, adipose fin statuses, and if captured Kokanee were kept or released (further details below).** To ensure accurate results, we need reports for all Kokanee caught, not just clipped fish. Sharing only certain catches can skew the data and make clipped fish appear more common than they actually are.

We want this to be convenient and easy for you, whether that means a quick text with the day's catch or sharing a month or two of data at a time.

## Into The Details: How To...

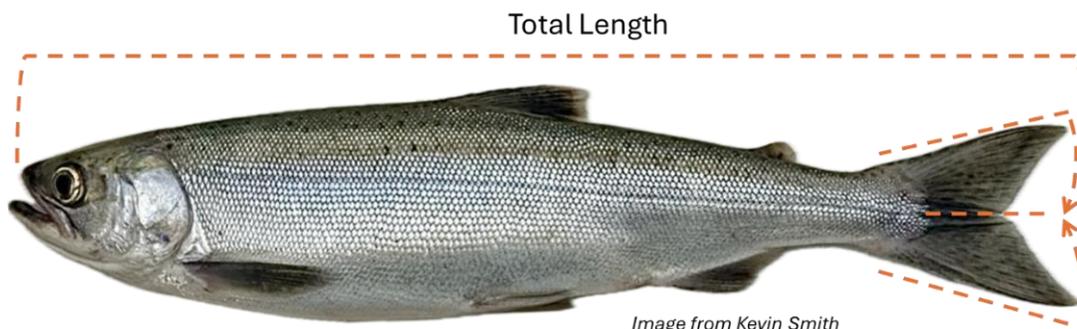
### ... Identify an adipose fin clip



**Close inspection is necessary to determine if the adipose fin is clipped.** When you initially land a fish, the adipose fin could be flattened by gravity against the fish's back. Make sure it is partially or fully removed before recording the fish as "clipped." Above is an example of a trout with an intact adipose fin (left) and a clipped fin (right): note the scar tissue and clear sign that the adipose fin is no longer there. If you measure and release a fish but forget to check its adipose fin area, please record the fish as "Unknown" instead of assuming it did or did not have a clip; it can be hard to tell from a distance

### ... Measure total length

Total length is the longest straight-line measurement of a fish from the snout to the tip of the tail while lying in a natural resting position. Round length measurements to the nearest inch (i.e. 12.5 - 12.9 would round to 13, while 12.1- 12.4 would round to 12).



*Image from Kevin Smith*

### ... Identify Kokanee salmon

Here are key features of a non-spawning phase Kokanee salmon, as seen in the "Total Length" Photo above:

- Bright silver sides with dark blue to green back
- Can have fine dark spots on back and tail fin
- Deeply forked tail (distinguishes Kokanee from Rainbow Trout)

## ... Collect and record data

Use a piece of paper, notebook, or your favorite application on your phone to record the following information for each landed Kokanee:

1. Date
2. Species (we only need Kokanee data, however CIRAS would like all species)
3. Total length from tip of snout to end of tail (in inches, rounded to the nearest inch)
4. Kokanee adipose fin clipped (**"yes"** if there is a scar or nub from removing the fin, **"no"** if the full fin is present and intact, **"unknown"** if you did not inspect the fin location closely to confirm either way)
5. Did you keep the fish (**"yes"** for kept, **"no"** for released)

Example datasheet (lengths are rounded to the nearest inch)

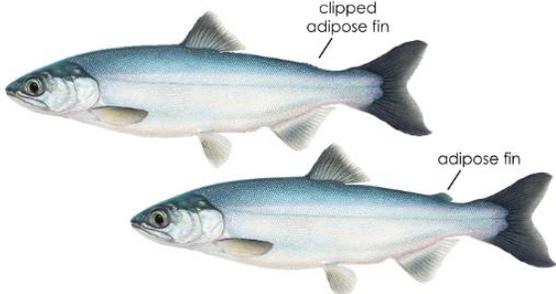
Date	Species (KOK only)	Total Length (inches)	Adipose Fin Clipped?	Did You Keep It?
6/15/2025	KOK	12	No	Yes
6/15/2025	KOK	10	Unknown	No
6/15/2025	KOK	11	Yes	Yes

## ... Submit data

If choosing to submit data through CIRAS, fill out the main angler survey, click submit, then answer and submit the "optional" question afterwards (screenshot below). **Select "Yes (Adipose)" for Kokanee when the adipose fin was clipped**, select "No" if the full adipose fin was intact, or "Unknown" if you were unable to look closely and confirm either way.

### Fish Marking

Submitting data to CIRAS is not a substitute for species specific report cards (steelhead, Chinook, Sturgeon).



### Fish Fin Clip

Did any of your fish have a clipped fin?

Size	Action	Yes (Adipose)	Yes (Other)	No	Unknown	
Kokanee	99	Kept	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Otherwise, please report data to Creel Survey staff at the boat ramp if they are surveying when you are there, or send data to Rachel Fichman at [Rachel.Fichman@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Rachel.Fichman@wildlife.ca.gov) or 916-206-3858.