Annual Report to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for Fisheries Restoration Grant Program Projects conducted under the Department of the Army Regional General Permit No. 78 (Corps File N. SPL-2019-00120-CLH) within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District.

For the period of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025

Prepared by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife

March 1, 2026

Cover photo: Quiota Creek Crossing 8 Fish Passage Improvement Project, tributary to the Santa Ynez River, Santa Barbara County, California.

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Introduction

The Los Angeles District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) issued Regional General Permit No. 78 (RGP 78) to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP), pursuant to section 404 of the Clean Water Act, on September 16, 2019. The previous authorization for RGP 78 expired on September 16, 2024. A reauthorization was signed on September 10, 2024, and expires on September 14, 2029. RGP 78 authorizes an array of instream, riparian, and upslope habitat improvement activities within the geographic purview of the USACE, Los Angeles District (Figure 1). These restoration activities take place in coastal watersheds within all or part of the following counties: San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernadino, Riverside, and San Diego. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (NOAA) Biological Opinion (BiOp) specifies the US Geological Survey (USGS) Fourth Field Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 8 and Fifth Field (HUC 10) for USACE RGP 78. Projects presented in this report are grouped by USGS HUC 8 (Figure 2). The HUC 8 watersheds covered by RGP 78 include the South Coast area and a portion of the Central Coast area. The authorization applies to salmonid habitat restoration projects that are specifically funded and/or authorized under the FRGP administered by CDFW.

Special Condition #10 of RGP 78 (SPL-2019-00120-CLH) requires CDFW to comply with mandatory terms and conditions associated with incidental take authorized by a BiOp issued under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by NOAA, dated June 25, 2019, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), dated December 9, 2008. The NOAA BiOp (section 1.3.8) stipulates that CDFW submit an annual report on the previous year's restoration activities to NOAA. This report is submitted in compliance with those terms and conditions. The annual report, required under the USFWS BiOp, was submitted separately by FRGP.

This report summarizes implementation information provided by CDFW grant managers for restoration projects with activity during 2025. Also summarized is Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission Fisheries Fishery Biologist provided pre-treatment and post-treatment effectiveness information.

Figure 1. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Districts.

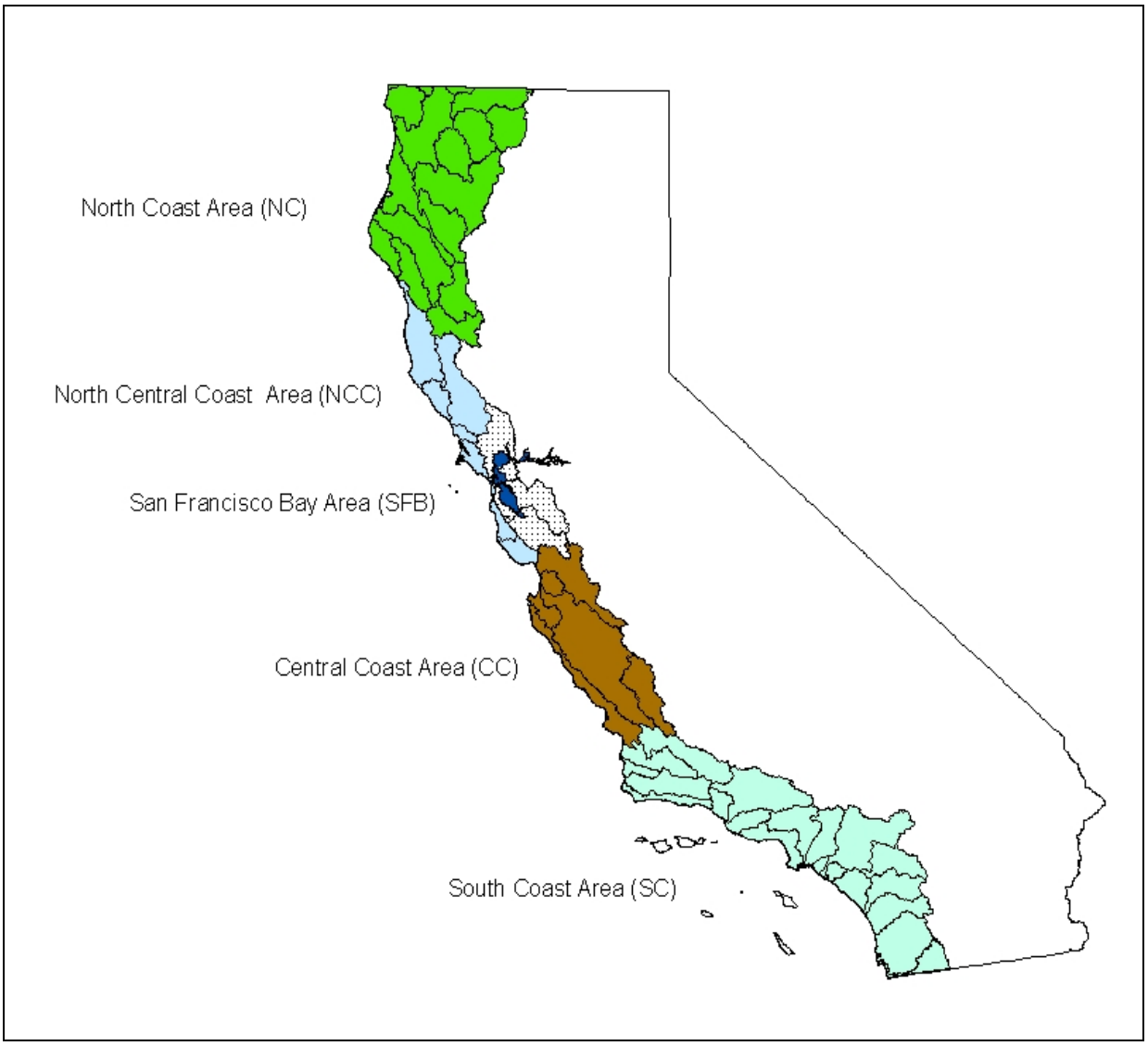

Figure 2. Geographic Areas and USGS Fourth Field Hydrologic Units (HUC 8) included in CDFW Fisheries Restoration Grants Program.

Questions regarding this report should be directed to Mr. Timothy Chorey at (916) 838-0760 or via email at Timothy.Chorey@wildlife.ca.gov.

2025 FRGP Implementation Monitoring

NOAA BiOp (Section 1.3.7) requires CDFW to notify NOAA with a list of projects authorized under RGP 78 to be conducted each year (Notification List). Projects on the Notification List are identified by the Project ID and Grant Number, as assigned in the FRGP grant tracking database WebGrants. The descriptions of the status types used to report the work status of projects are provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Project status as used for this report.

Work Status	Description
Not started	Proposal selected for funding, but grant not written yet, or grant written, but on-the-ground work has not started yet.
Ongoing	From the start of on-the-ground work to the end of work.
Completed	From the end of on-the-ground work until the grant is closed out, or grant has been closed out.

Projects that do not start during the reporting year (i.e., no on-the-ground work was performed) and subsequently have no implementation monitoring conducted are recorded as Not Started. Projects are considered Ongoing if they were started in 2025 or earlier, but were not completed during 2025 and will continue work in 2026. Restoration activities for any given project could consist of one or more distinct features. Features are defined as a physical element that is intended to interact with the environment to improve anadromous salmonid habitat. For Ongoing projects, implementation monitoring was conducted only on features that were completed during 2025. For example, the objective of an instream improvement project might be to construct seven instream structures, but work was completed on only four structures during 2025; therefore, implementation monitoring for 2025 would only be reported for those four completed project features. Implementation monitoring on the remaining features would then be conducted in the year of construction. Projects with all work finished in 2025 were recorded as Completed.

A summary of the project status by FRGP Project Type at the end of 2025 is presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Work Status of restoration projects proposed for 2025 summarized by FRGP Project Type.

FRGP Project Type	Not Started	Ongoing	Completed	Terminated/ Cancelled	Total
Fish Passage	0	2	1	0	3
Riparian Restoration	0	1	0	0	1
Sum	**0**	**3**	**1**	**0**	**4**
% Total	**0%**	**75%**	**25%**	**0%**	**100%**

The location of projects proposed for implementation in 2025 is presented in Figure 3. Project details stratified by HUC 8 and by DPS are provided in an attached Excel file *Appendix_1_Projects_RGP78_2025.xls*.

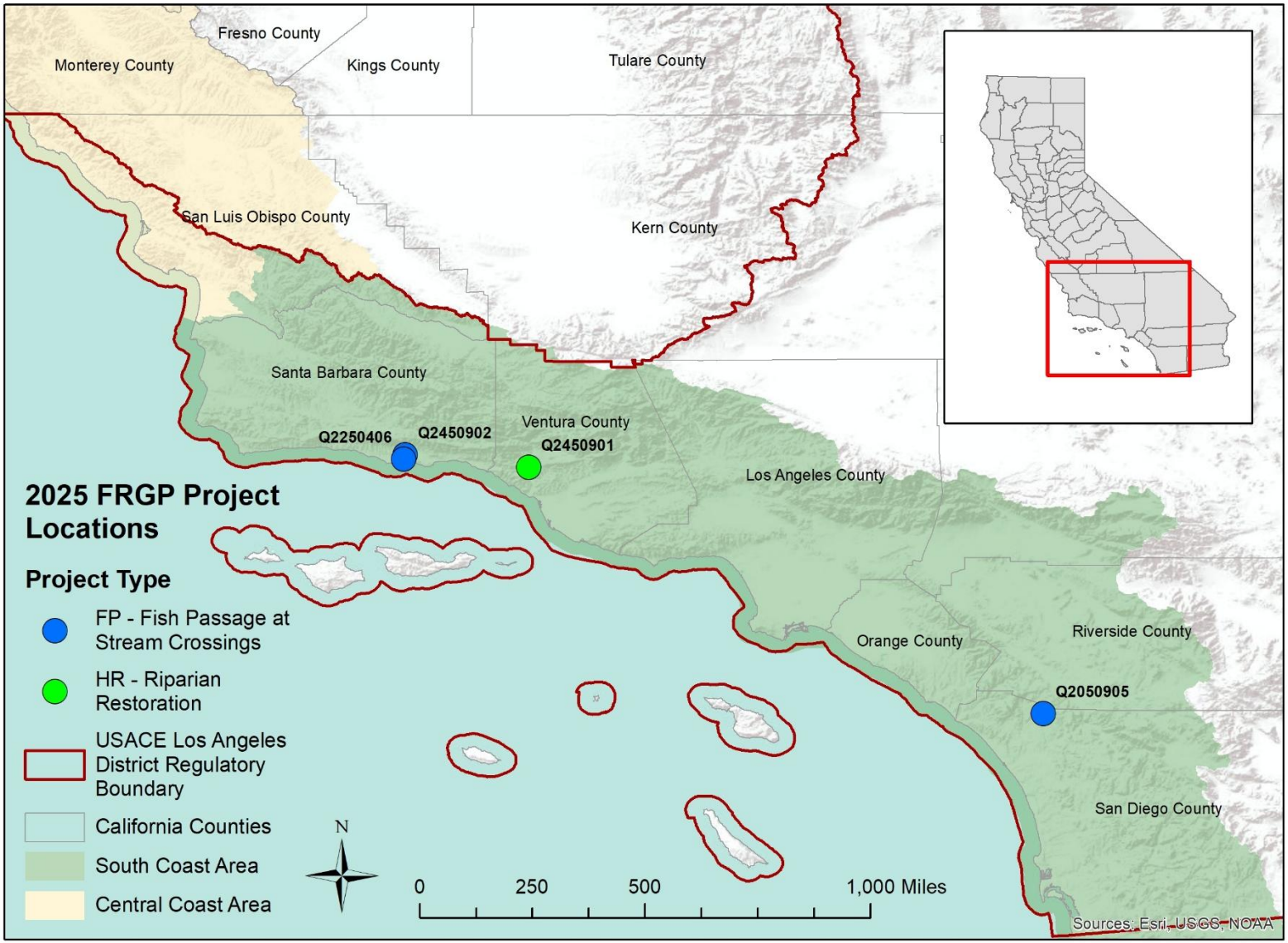

Figure 3. Location of the 2025 proposed projects for the Fisheries Restoration Grants Program within the area covered by RGP 78.

Implementation monitoring consists of assessing the installation of individual restoration features. Each completed feature is rated as Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor, or Fail, based on the criteria presented in Table 3. Implementation ratings are assigned by CDFW grant managers who inspect project features throughout construction.

Table 3. Implementation feature rating criteria.

RATING	IMPLEMENTATION	ACTION
Excellent	Meets all specifications and exceeds expectations.	No action required.
Good	Meets all specifications and expectations.	No remedial action required.
Fair	Does not meet some specifications and expectations but implemented adequately.	Probably not serious enough to require remedial action.
Poor	Does not meet most specifications and expectations, implemented inadequately.	Serious enough to require remedial action.
Fail	Fails to meet specifications, implemented incorrectly, or not implemented.	Serious enough to require remedial action.

An overall implementation rating is then assigned to the project based on the criteria presented in Table 4. For example, a project would be rated as Good if 80% or more of its features sampled were rated as either Good or Excellent, with no more than 10% of the project features rated as Poor, and no project features rated as Failed.

Table 4. Overall project rating criteria based on cumulative percentage of feature ratings.

	Excellent Feature Ratings	Good Feature Ratings	Fair Feature Ratings	Poor Feature Ratings	Fail Feature Ratings
Excellent Project Rating[1]	≥ 80%			0%	0%
Good Project Rating[2]	≥ 80%	≥ 80%		≤ 10%	0%
Fair Project Rating[3]	≥ 80%	≥ 80%	≥ 80%		<10%
Poor Project Rating[4]	≥ 50%	≥ 50%	≥ 50%		<25%
Failed Project Rating[5]	<50%	<50%	<50%	≥ 50%	≥ 50%

These formulas should be read as:
[1]80% or more of the project features were rated as Excellent, and no project features were rated as either Poor or Failed.
[2]80% or more of the project features were rated as either Good or Excellent, no more than 10% of the project features were rated as Poor, and no project features were rated as Failed.
[3]80% or more of the project features were rated as either Fair, Good, or Excellent, no more than 10% of the project features were rated as Failed.
[4]50% or more of the project features were rated as either Fair, Good, or Excellent, and no more than 25% of project features were rated as Failed.
[5]50% or more of the project features were rated as either Poor or Failed.

Implementation monitoring data in this annual report is provided by CDFW grant managers, sometimes using grantee data, through WebGrants, as of February 2026. Two projects had work in 2025 and both received implementation monitoring. One of these projects, Ventura River Arundo Removal & Riparian Restoration, was in the process of being implemented at the end of the calendar year and will continue in 2026. For this project, only one of the two proposed features had work done. This feature was partially completed, and only the work completed as of the end of the calendar year was monitored. The remaining, unfinished part of this feature will receive implementation monitoring next year. All features that had work in 2025 received implementation monitoring and ratings are summarized in Table 5.

Table 5. Features rated in 2025 after implementation.

Project Name	Total Number of Project Features	Number of Features Monitored	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Fail
Maria Ygnacio Creek Fish Passage Project Implementation - Patterson Ave Bridge	4	4	0	3	1	0	0
Ventura River Arundo Removal & Riparian Restoration - South Santa Ana Site (HR)	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Total Feature Ratings	**5**	**5**	**1**	**3**	**1**	**0**	**0**
% Of Total			**20%**	**60%**	**20%**	**0%**	**0%**

Both projects that received implementation monitoring in 2025 received overall project ratings of Good.

Annual Performance Measures

FRGP funding is provided by the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF), established by Congress in FY 2000 to provide grant funding for salmon conservation and recovery, as well as performance metrics to evaluate those efforts. In addition, there are requirements regarding performance and impact measures for projects covered under RGP 78 and its accompanying BiOps. CDFW utilizes these measures to provide a consistent means to report project results by the various entities that receive grants. This information assists CDFW and NOAA to aggregate project data summarizing salmonid recovery, conservation, and enhancement efforts. Project-specific annual performance and impact measures of restoration projects are reported in the attached *Appendix_2_PerformanceMeasures_RGP78_2025.xlsx*.

The reporting metric data included in this annual report reflects information provided by CDFW grant managers. A summary of the performance and

impact measures for the projects that had work during 2025 within the South Coast area is presented in Table 6.

Table 6. Annual performance measures of projects with features implemented in 2025.

Performance and Impact Measures	Total
Number of instream structures implemented within the stream channel.	1
Type of instream structures implemented within the stream channel.	Boulder structures (other)
Length of stream bank (feet) stabilized or planted with riparian species.	0
Number of culverts replaced or repaired.	0
The number of miles of restored access to unoccupied salmonid habitat (from culverts replaced or repaired).	0
Distance (miles) of road decommissioned.	0
Distance (feet) of aquatic habitat disturbed at each project site.	273

2025 FRGP Effectiveness Monitoring

Effectiveness monitoring by MESHR is conducted on a stratified random selection of 10% of each project type in each USACE watershed funded each year with a minimum of three projects selected in each watershed. Effectiveness monitoring has two phases: pre-treatment monitoring and post-treatment monitoring. Pre-treatment monitoring documents baseline data on habitat conditions and selected salmonid population attributes before on-the-ground restoration treatments begin, providing a benchmark to evaluate restoration activity effectiveness. Pre-treatment monitoring is generally conducted the same year as project implementation. Post-treatment monitoring is usually conducted three years after project completion to ensure projects experience multiple winter high-flow periods. Post-treatment monitoring may be deferred to other years, or additional monitoring may be added if appropriate and resources are available. Two projects received effectiveness monitoring by MESHR staff in 2025 (Table 7).

Table 7. Projects that received effectiveness monitoring in 2025.

Grant Number	Project Type	Grant Name	Monitoring Visit
Q2050905	Fish Passage at Stream Crossings	Santa Margarita River Bridge Replacement and Fish Passage Barrier Removal Project	Pre-treatment
Q2450901	Riparian Restoration	Ventura River Arundo Removal & Riparian Restoration - South Santa Ana Site (HR)	Pre-treatment

Pre-treatment effectiveness monitoring was conducted on two restoration projects in 2025 (Table 8) and evaluated all seven features planned to be implemented. One of these projects, Santa Margarita River Bridge Replacement and Fish Passage Barrier Removal Project, had previously received pre-treatment effectiveness monitoring in 2022 and was reported on in the 2022 RGP 78 NOAA Annual Report. Since then, the project has been postponed and redesigned, so pre-treatment monitoring was redone this summer to replace the previous and outdated monitoring. Results of these monitored projects will be reported three years following project implementation summarizing post-treatment monitoring. Pre-treatment monitoring for the remaining ongoing project, which will not begin construction until next year, was postponed until 2026.

Table 8. Number of pre-treatment projects monitored during 2025 by project type.

Project Type	Total
Fish Passage at Stream Crossings	1
Instream Habitat Restoration	0
Instream Barrier Modification for Fish Passage	0
Watershed Restoration (Upslope)	0
Riparian Restoration	1
Water Conservation Measures	0
Instream Bank Stabilization	0
Fish Screening of Diversions	0
Total	**2**

Post-treatment effectiveness monitoring evaluates structural integrity and function of completed restoration features at least three years after implementation. Each feature is rated as Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor, or Failed,

based on the criteria presented in Table 9, followed by an overall effectiveness rating for the whole project using criteria in Table 4. Project proposals do not always list specific numeric targets for habitat improvements, which is required for an Excellent rating. As a result, the maximum rating for many projects is Good.

Table 9. Post-treatment effectiveness feature rating criteria.

Rating	Goals	Targets	Unintended Effects	Structural Condition
Excellent	Achieved all stated goals.	Met or exceeded targeted values.	No negative unintended effects. Unintended positive effects may outweigh failure to achieve a targeted value.	Excellent to Good.
Good	Achieved most stated goals.	Did not quite meet targeted values. If no targets were specified, maximum rating is Good.	No negative unintended effects.	Excellent to Fair.
Fair	Partially achieved most goals, or goals not achieved were outside the control of the feature.	Did not meet targeted values, but the feature still has some functional value.	May have minor unintended negative effects that partially offset goals.	Excellent to Fair.
Poor	Achieved at least one goal; goals not achieved were the fault of the feature.	Did not meet targeted values, feature has little functional value.	May have minor or major unintended negative effects that offset or negate a targeted gain.	Excellent to Poor.
Fail	Achieved no goals; feature has no functional value.	Did not meet targeted values.	May have unintended negative effects that are degrading the habitat and outweigh achieved goals.	Excellent to Fail (may be completely gone).

There was no post-treatment effectiveness monitoring conducted in the areas that are covered by RGP 78 in 2025. Therefore, no effectiveness ratings were given for projects or their features.

Fish Relocation

Restoration project implementation may require fish to be excluded from the project site to minimize harm and mortality to salmonids and other aquatic species during project construction. In 2025, one restoration project required fish relocation. Project-specific relocation details are presented in the attached file *Appendix_3_Relocation_RGP78_2025.xlsx*. Fish relocation activities are reported for the following Distinct Population Segments (DPS):

- South-Central California Steelhead
- Southern California Steelhead

The BiOp (Section 1.3.3) states that mortality from fish relocation should not exceed 5 percent of the affected listed species for each project. A summary of reported juvenile steelhead by DPS captured and relocated prior to dewatering for project implementation are presented in Table 10.

Table 10. Juvenile steelhead captured and relocated prior to dewatering in 2025.

DPS	Total Captured	Number Injured	Number Killed	Number Relocated	Percent Mortality
Southern California Steelhead	17	0	0	17	0%