



Frequently Asked Questions about Release Sites & Reporting Procedures

What is an approved release site?

An approved release site is the exact water body selected on your application and authorization form. Fry must be released only at this location. Nearby creeks, tributaries or alternate water bodies are not permitted.

How are release sites approved?

CDFW scientists evaluate water bodies statewide as part of Federal Endangered Species Act compliance. Suitable sites are submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for final approval. CDFW reviews and updates the approved list each year and sites may be removed based on new biological or ecological findings.

Why is the approval process so important?

- ✓ To prevent the spread of invasive species: introducing fish outside approved sites can unintentionally spread non-native species that may harm native wildlife.
- ✓ To control disease: water bodies showing harmful fish pathogens are not approved to protect released fry and native fish populations.
- ✓ To maintain genetic integrity: CAEP trout are sterilized (triploid) to prevent interbreeding with native trout species.
- ✓ To ensure correct release of anadromous fish: salmon and steelhead return to the same rivers that they were born in to complete their life cycle.
- ✓ To protect overall ecosystem health: each watershed functions as a connected system. Release sites go through rigorous evaluation processes and are approved for ecological compatibility.

Why do I have to reapply every year?

Approved sites can change annually due to water levels, ongoing research, species monitoring, disease detection, invasive species findings or changes in native fish population status. Previous approval does not guarantee continuous authorization.

Why must I submit my Online Release Summary Form within 14 Days?

The data from your form is used to support statewide fisheries studies, verify proper site compliance and maintain complete program records. Failure to submit this information may result in removal from CAEP as agreed upon during the training and application process.

For questions about your approved site, reporting requirements, or any issues during the release process, contact your regional CAEP Coordinator.

