

Field Activity Advisory

Adult Spring-Run Chinook Salmon Migration and Habitat Study

June – November, 2016

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, as part of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program, will release 25 adult Spring-run Chinook salmon into Reach 1 of the Restoration Area as part of a holding and spawning habitat use study. This effort will track and assess spring-run Chinook salmon summer holding areas and spawning habitat using telemetry and snorkel surveys. Per state fish and game regulations, no recreational fishing activities intended to target these salmon are allowed. Any salmon inadvertently caught should be returned to the river immediately.

Who: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

What: Fifteen male and ten female spring-run Chinook salmon from brood year 2012 and 2013, raised at the Interim Salmon Conservation Facility (iSCARF) in Friant, California, were selected as potential sexually mature spawners based on ultrasound examinations of developing gonads. Salmon will be transported to a location where the 7-day mean daily river water temperature is below 20°C (68°F) and released. Once in the river, the fish will be tracked and individually identified using acoustic telemetry, Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags, and parental-based tags. Fish behavior and movements will be monitored using a network of fixed-site acoustic receivers and a portable acoustic receiver, in addition to snorkel surveys of potential holding habitat. Surveys will include a crew of two to four individuals floating the river by drift boat or kayak one to three times per week. All adult spring-run Chinook salmon are individually marked and in the event that these fish spawn and there is a connected river, offspring can be accounted for downstream using parental-based tagging.

Where: Reach 1, Friant Dam to Gravelly Ford (approximately 40 river miles). Drift boats and kayaks will be launched from publicly accessible areas or from private property with landowner permission.

When: June 30 – November 30, 2016

Questions about the SJRRP's field activities on public and private land should be directed to the SJRRP Outreach Coordinator or Landowner Coordinator using the information provided below.

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Figure 1: SJRRP biologist mobile tracking of Chinook salmon

Contact the SJRRP Hotline, 916-978-4398, or email RestorationFlows@restoresjr.net if you see any problems or have any concerns.

For more information, please visit the SJRRP Web site at www.restoresjr.net. Field Advisories for activities are available at www.restoresjr.net/get-involved/field-advisories/