

Field Activity Advisory

Adult Spring-Run Chinook Salmon Migration and Holding Habitat Study

April 2022– August 2022

The San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) will release naturally returning adult spring-run Chinook salmon that have been trapped and transported to Reach 1 of the Restoration Area. Field efforts will track and assess spring-run Chinook Salmon migration, over summer holding, and survival using acoustic telemetry. Monitoring efforts for the study will continue until spring-run Chinook salmon spawning commences, anticipated to begin in September. This study will assist the SJRRP in identifying migration behavior, available over summer holding habitat, and survival of spring-run Chinook salmon.

Who: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

What: Naturally returning adult spring-run Chinook salmon will be trapped within Reach 5 and transported for release to Reach 1 of the Restoration Area. Released fish will be tracked and individually identified using a combination of acoustic telemetry, passive integrated transponder (PIT), external anchor tags, and parental-based (Genetic) tags to study habitat use and survival. Fish movements and summer holding habitat will be monitored using a portable acoustic receiver (mobile monitoring) and a network of fixed-site acoustic receivers. Mobile monitoring will continue through August at which point SJRRP efforts will transition to monitoring spawning habitat selection and redd morphology by redd and carcass survey crew members. Mobile monitoring surveys will include a crew of two to three individuals floating river by drift boat, one to three times per week.



SJRRP biologist tracking Chinook salmon using acoustic telemetry

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Where: Reach 1, Friant Dam to Skaggs Bridge (approximately 35 river miles). A drift boat will be launched from publicly accessible areas or from private property with landowner permission.

When: April 2022 – August 2022

Recreational Fishing: No recreational fishing that uses bait, lures or other means to target salmon in the San Joaquin River above the Merced River confluence is allowed per state fish and game code. Any inadvertently caught salmon must be immediately returned to the river. To confidentially report poaching, call the CDFW CalTIP line at 888-334-CalTIP (888-344-2258).

Salmon Carcasses: Salmon die after spawning, and the carcasses of these fish will remain in the river. The carcass supports ecosystem function, returning nutrients and other beneficial products back into the river's ecosystem as it biodegrades. River users that find a tagged salmon carcass or tag are asked to call the hotline number and report the tag color and location of the find.

Questions about this activity should be directed to the study's agency points-of-contact provided below.

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Questions about field activities on public and private land should be directed to the Landowner Coordinator using the information provided below. Questions about the SJRRP should be directed to the Program Public Affairs Specialist using the information provided below.

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San Joaquin River Restoration Program
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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/activities/field/index.htm**