

Field Activity Advisory

Juvenile Chinook Salmon Floodplain Production Study

February 2, 2016

The Bureau of Reclamation, as a component to the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP), in coordination with California State University, Fresno and Cramer Fish Sciences, is conducting a floodplain production study for juvenile Chinook salmon in the lower San Joaquin River from below Friant Dam to the Merced Wildlife Refuge.

Who: California State University Fresno, and Cramer Fish Sciences, on behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation.

What: The purpose of the study is to measure and compare the growth and survival of juvenile fall-run Chinook salmon in various geographic locations and aquatic habitat within the Restoration Area. The study includes installation of net pens at up to five sites on both private and public land in the lower San Joaquin River. The net pens will be made of mesh and t-posts and will include up to 100 fish in each (Figure 1). Staff will be visiting the locations weekly to conduct field evaluations for survival, growth rates, diet, water quality (temperature, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity), and water depth.

When: Installation of the net pens is scheduled for Feb. 19-23, with fish placed in the net pens by the end of the month. Each site will be monitored weekly through mid-April, depending on water temperature. All sites are being accessed via permission from the private landowner or appropriate agency.

Where: Sites planned for the study include one each in Reaches 1A and 1B, two in the Eastside Bypass downstream of Sand Slough, and one facility on private property near Bear Creek. A minimum of three sites are planned.



Figure 1. Example of net pens installed. Photo courtesy of Cramer Fish Sciences.

If you have questions, please contact the SJRRP Landowner Coordinator, Craig Moyle. Craig's contact information is provided below.

Craig Moyle, Landowner Coordinator
Office (operator): 916-924-8844
Office (direct line): 916-418-8248
Mobile: 916-642-6383
Fax: 916-924-9102
Email: craig.moyle@mwhglobal.com

For more information, please visit the SJRRP Web site at www.restoresjr.net.