



One Water and Stewardship Committee

Update on California Salmon Strategy for a Hotter, Drier Future

Item 6c

April 8, 2024

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Update on California Salmon Strategy

Subject

Update on the California Salmon Strategy for a Hotter, Drier Future

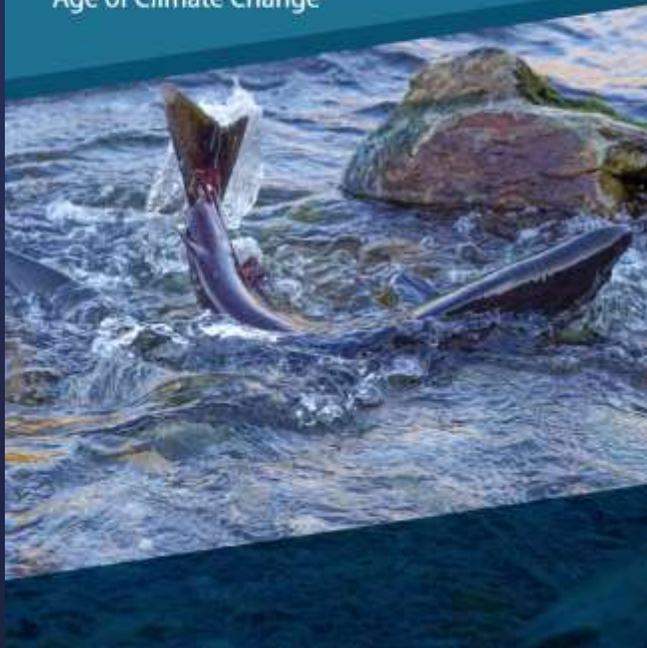
Purpose

The California Salmon Strategy identifies priority actions to be undertaken to restore salmon populations state-wide. Some of the priority actions were identified based on science supported or conducted by Metropolitan. Along with its state and federal partners, Metropolitan is currently involved in executing many of the priority actions.

The California Salmon Strategy

CALIFORNIA SALMON STRATEGY FOR A HOTTER, DRIER FUTURE:

Restoring Aquatic Ecosystems in the
Age of Climate Change



- Released in January 2024
- Goal to recover salmon across the state
 - Sacramento – San Joaquin Basin, Klamath River, North Coast coastal watersheds, Southern California streams
- Six priorities and 71 actions over next three years led by state agencies and partners

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Salmon-Strategy-for-a-Hotter-Drier-Future.pdf>



Spawning gravel augmentation on the Feather River.
Photo Credit: The California Department of Water Resources

Six priorities for recovering salmon

Priority 1: Remove barriers to migration

- Remove, modernize, or move salmon over barriers

Priority 2: Restore and expand habitat

- Create 36,000 acres of in-river & floodplain salmon habitat

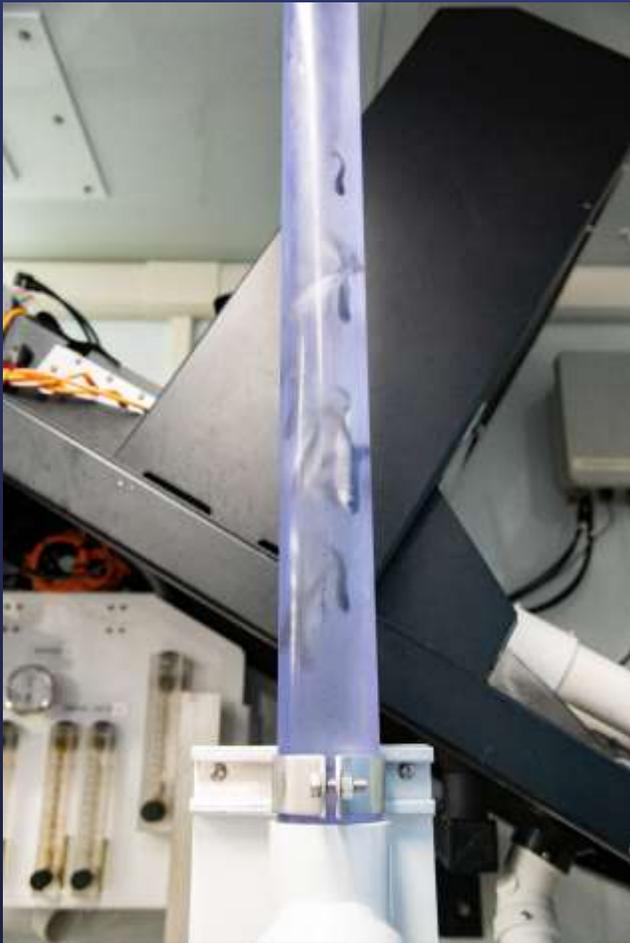
Six priorities for recovering salmon

Priority 3: Protect water flows in key rivers

- Adopt Bay-Delta WQCP, potentially including VAs to support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes
- Revise state and federal permits for SWP and CVP

Priority 4: Modernize hatcheries

- Evaluate increases of fall-run Chinook salmon production
- Complete Hatchery Genetic Management Plan



Automated tagging of hatchery salmon prior to release.
Photo Credit: The California Department of Water Resources



Commercial fishing vessels at dock.
Photo Credit: Paul Brennan

Six priorities for recovering salmon

Priority 5: Transform technology and management systems for climate adaptability

- Improve temperature modeling below reservoirs
- Improve salmon abundance and ocean harvest models
 - [OWS 05082023 item 7b](#)

Priority 6: Strengthen partnerships

- Form working groups to find holistic approaches to rebuild Chinook salmon populations
 - [Reorienting to Recovery, IW 09072022 item 6a](#)



Lookout Slough tidal habitat restoration.
Photo Credit: The California Department of Water Resources

Actions & investments underway

- In March CDFW awarded \$50 million to boost salmon populations
 - \$11.5 million to support re-introduction of winter-run salmon above Shasta Dam
 - Includes support for Winnemem Wintu Tribe participation
 - \$9 million to remove barriers to fish passage in the Feather River
- \$750,000 to restore Delta intertidal marsh

Potential Impacts to Metropolitan

- California Salmon Strategy is an opportunity for Metropolitan to work with partners on actions that align with the state's vision for recovering California's salmon populations
- Recovering salmon populations should reduce regulatory uncertainty and increase SWP reliability



Adult Chinook salmon below the Nimbus Hatchery Fish Ladder.
Photo Credit: The California Department of Water Resources

