

## Stanislaus River Juvenile Outmigration Summary # 7

**February 25<sup>th</sup> - March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2003**

*Note: Data is preliminary and subject to revision.*

### **Oakdale:**

Between February 25<sup>th</sup> and March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2,915 Chinook were captured increasing the season total to 81,334. Daily catch fluctuated between 81 and 752 Chinook. Mean forklength for the week was 39.2 mm (range: 29 mm to 82 mm), which was an increase of 2.9 mm since the previous week. Mean weight increased by 0.1 g over the previous week to 0.5 g. Three rainbow trout were captured between February 26<sup>th</sup> and February 27<sup>th</sup> increasing the season total to 14 at Oakdale. Please refer to the table below for date of capture, forklength and smolt indices.

Date	Species	Forklength (mm)	Smolt Index
26-Feb-03	RBT	270	5
26-Feb-03	RBT	275	5
27-Feb-03	RBT	345	5

Flow at Orange Blossom Bridge (OBB) decreased from 501 cfs to 466 cfs during the week due to a 45 cfs reduction in release at Goodwin Dam (GDW) between February 25<sup>th</sup> and February 26<sup>th</sup>. A slight peak in catch from 232 to 752 Chinook was observed at Oakdale following the reduction in flow. There still appears to be a discrepancy between the GDW and OBB gauges (OBB reading less than GDW reading); however, the difference is currently less than 50 cfs. Turbidity remained stable throughout the week and ranged between 0.8 NTU and 1.4 NTU. Temperature fluctuated between 49 and 52 degrees Fahrenheit.-

Two trap efficiency groups were released last week using the traditional method (check livebox ~ 1 hour after release). The first group was released on February 25<sup>th</sup> and consisted of 130 natural Chinook marked caudal fin green (CFG). Flow at release was 501 cfs at OBB and turbidity was 1.0 NTU at Oakdale. Trap efficiency was estimated at 8.1%, which was similar to previous releases using the same method. Mean length at release was 37.1 mm and 36.7 mm at recapture

The second group was released on February 27<sup>th</sup> and consisted of 321 natural Chinook marked CFG. Flow at release was 477 cfs at OBB and turbidity was 1.3 at Oakdale. The estimated trap efficiency was estimated at 11.0% for the second release. Mean length at release was 36.7 mm and 37.0 mm at recapture.

Livebox efficiency tests were conducted on three consecutive nights between February 25<sup>th</sup> and February 27<sup>th</sup> at Oakdale, and consisted of 37 to 88 natural Chinook marked caudal fin orange (CFO). Each test was conducted by placing a known number of marked Chinook in the livebox overnight. The percentage remaining in the morning represented livebox efficiency. The first test was conducted at a flow of 501 cfs at OBB and estimated livebox efficiency was 25%. After the first test the livebox seal was inspected, and a small gap (less than finger-width) was identified and repaired. Following the repair, livebox efficiency for the second and third groups was estimated at 73% and 63%, respectively. Flow at OBB during the second test was 494 cfs and 477 cfs during the third test. Average length at release for the three groups was 37.0 mm and 37.9 mm at recapture.

**Caswell:**

Between February 25<sup>th</sup> and February 27<sup>th</sup> a total of 32 Chinook were captured increasing the season total to 7,978. Daily catch remained stable and ranged between 8 and 14 Chinook. Forklengths ranged between 29 mm and 70 mm, and mean length was 43.4 mm. Mean length at Caswell was more than 4 mm greater than at Oakdale for the week. This difference in length between the two sites was also observed in previous years. Mean weight increased 0.2 g over the previous week to 0.9g. Due to low catch and no significant change in flow, the traps were raised on February 27<sup>th</sup>. The traps will continue to sample intermittently as long as catch and flow remain stable.

Flow at Ripon (RIP) gradually decreased from 543 cfs to 527 cfs during the three days of sampling. Turbidity ranged between 1.6 NTU and 3.1 NTU, and temperature remained stable between 53 and 54 degrees Fahrenheit.

No livebox or trap efficiency releases were conducted due to low catch numbers. No trout were captured last week.