

Stanislaus River Juvenile Outmigration Summary # 8

March 4th - March 9th, 2003

Note: Data is preliminary and subject to revision.

Oakdale:

Between March 4th and March 9th 959 Chinook were captured increasing the season total to 82,293. Daily catch fluctuated between 90 and 219 Chinook. Mean forklength for the week was 42.0 mm (range: 29 mm to 85 mm), which was an increase of 2.8 mm over the previous week. Mean weight increased by 0.3 g over the previous week to 0.8 g. Two rainbow trout were captured between March 4th and March 6th increasing the season total to 16 at Oakdale. Please refer to the table below for date of capture, forklength and smolt indices.

Date	Species	Forklength (mm)	Smolt Index
03/04/03	RBT	28	2
03/06/03	RBT	249	5

Flow at Orange Blossom Bridge (OBB) fluctuated between 460 cfs and 466 cfs due to varying releases at Goodwin Dam (GDW). It appears that a discrepancy remains between the GDW and OBB gauges (OBB reading less than GDW reading); however, the difference is currently less than 50 cfs. Turbidity fluctuated between 0.7 NTU and 1.8 NTU. Temperature ranged between 50 and 52 degrees Fahrenheit.-

Trap efficiency releases were conducted on three consecutive nights using the traditional method (check livebox ~ 1 hour after release). A total of 349 natural Chinook marked caudal fin green (CFG) were released between March 4th and March 6th. Flow at release ranged between 462 cfs and 466 cfs at OBB and turbidity was between 0.7 NTU and 0.8 NTU at Oakdale. The pooled estimated trap efficiency was 10.9%, which is consistent with previous releases conducted at similar flows using the same release method. Mean length for the three groups was 41.7 mm at release and 40.9 mm at recapture.

Livebox efficiency tests were conducted on three consecutive nights between March 4th and March 6th, and consisted of 92 to 97 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. Flow during the tests ranged between 462 cfs and 466 cfs at OBB. Estimated livebox efficiency for the tests ranged between 88.7% and 91.3%. Mean length for the three groups was 38.1 mm at release and 38.8 mm at recapture.

Caswell:

The traps resumed sampling the evening of March 3rd and sampled for a four-day period. Between March 4th and March 7th a total of 194 Chinook were captured increasing the season total to 8,172. Daily catch fluctuated between 33 and 69 Chinook. Forklengths ranged between 31 mm and 81 mm, and mean length was 55.9 mm. Mean length at Caswell increased more than 12 mm from the previous week and was 14 mm greater than the mean length at Oakdale for the week. This difference in length between the two sites was also observed in previous years. Mean weight doubled since the previous week to 1.8g. Due to consistently low catch and no significant change in flow, the traps were raised on March 7th. The traps will continue to sample

intermittently as long as catch and flow remain stable. No trout were captured during the sampling period.

Flow at Ripon (RIP) fluctuated between 497 cfs and 521 cfs during the four days of sampling. Turbidity ranged between 1.6 NTU and 3.1 NTU, and temperature remained stable between 52 and 53 degrees Fahrenheit.

No trap efficiency releases were conducted this week due to low catch; however, two livebox efficiency tests were conducted. The tests were conducted the evenings of March 5th and March 6th, and consisted of 66 and 33 natural Chinook marked caudal fin pink (CFP), respectively. The tests were conducted in a similar fashion as the Oakdale livebox efficiency tests with the exception of the release groups being divided equally and released into two liveboxes (two traps). Flow during the first test was 502 cfs and 497 cfs for the second test at RIP. Estimated livebox efficiency for the first test was 69.7% and 81.8% for the second test. Mean length at release for the two groups was 54.8 mm at release and 55.4 mm at recapture.