



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Northern Region
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GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



Memorandum

January 20, 2022

To: Erik Ekdahl, Deputy Director
Division of Water Rights
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 14th Floor
Sacramento, CA 94814
erik.ekdahl@waterboards.ca.gov

From: Tina Bartlett, Regional Manager 
Northern Region
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
601 Locust Street
Redding, CA 96001

Subject: Notification to the State Water Resources Control Board that Adult Salmon Migration for the 2021 Spawning Cycle is Functionally Complete on the Shasta River

Dear Deputy Director Ekdahl:

The purpose of this memorandum is to notify the State Water Resources Control Board that adult salmon migration for the 2021 spawning cycle is functionally complete on the Shasta River. This notification is relevant to the prohibition against inefficient livestock watering in the emergency regulation. Section 875.7 (b) describes the criteria under which this prohibition may be suspended:

*When there are no active curtailment orders in the relevant watershed, the Deputy Director shall suspend operation of this provision upon a finding that suspending the provision will not result in a decrease in flows that would either require curtailment **or inhibit salmonid migration**. Such a finding will include consideration of information that could affect the need for curtailments to meet minimum flow needs for fisheries purposes,*

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including weather forecasting, the need for flows to ramp up or down, the contributions of voluntary flow measures, and future flow needs.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) installed an adult salmon escapement monitoring weir on the Shasta River on September 1, 2021. The monitoring weir counts salmon at the mouth of the Shasta River and there is additional time needed for them to migrate to traditional spawning habitat. The last migrating adult Chinook Salmon was detected on December 18, 2021, and the last migrating adult Coho Salmon was detected on January 1, 2022. The weir was removed on January 5, 2022, and the juvenile salmon monitoring rotary screw trap was installed on January 12, 2022. CDFW monitored adult salmon migration, conducted limited spawning surveys, and assessed natural history patterns.

All things considered, CDFW has determined that the adult salmon migration for the 2021 spawning cycle is functionally complete on the Shasta River. If the State Water Resources Control Board (SWB) determines that suspending the inefficient livestock watering prohibition will not result in curtailments, then this prohibition should be suspended.

CDFW appreciates the continued coordination with the SWB staff and is grateful to those in the community that are implementing or contemplating voluntary efforts to ensure the survival of salmon in the Shasta River. If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please contact Environmental Program Manager Joe Croteau at joe.croteau@wildlife.ca.gov.

ec:

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