

Follow up Questions from Anadromous Fish Webinar

General information to help answer questions:

1. Here's a link to California Department of Fish and Wildlife and NOAA's Monitoring Plan for Salmon and Steelhead:
<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Fishes/Salmonid-Monitoring/CMP>
2. Here's a link to learn more from NOAA Fisheries about Pacific Salmon and Steelhead:
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/pacific-salmon-and-steelhead>. From this page, you can click to learn more about hatchery programs, reintroduction efforts, recovery plans, and more.

What other species of fish are found in San Mateo County waterways?

You might see California roach, three-spine stickleback, tidewater goby and various other fish in our waterways. Check out <https://calfish.ucdavis.edu/species/> for more.

How are you addressing the highly toxic to coho 6 ppd in the stormwater runoff?

The RCD monitors water quality in many local creeks and we work with landowners to address water quality through various methods including projects that slow, spread and sink storm water from impervious surfaces into the ground to help filter pollutants before they make it to streams, finding areas of point source pollution and working to address them at the source, creating water storage that captures storm water runoff, and more.

What processes are in place to prevent people from taking too much water from the creek in rural areas? How is it actually monitored?

The RCD is non-regulatory but we do work in partnership with many local water users to create water storage and improve water infrastructure efficiency to reduce demand on our local streams. Many water systems have meters which can monitor how much water is taken and when.

Are Coho the only type of salmon we have here?

Chinook salmon might also rarely be found in coastal San Mateo County streams. Steelhead are a type of trout, but are also in the salmon family, and can be found in our local streams.

You briefly mentioned that hatcheries can help with promoting genetic diversity (I think). How does that work?

From Monterey Bay Salmon and Trout Project <https://mbstp.org/coho-salmon>:

Kingfisher Flat Hatchery rears three year-classes of captive brood-stock. Brood-fish are selected for captive rearing on the basis of greatest genetic diversity. The intention is to maximize genetic diversity, and produce 'high quality' coho smolts for release. The captive coho are reared on a diet of fresh-frozen krill and exercised by water currents generated in the rearing pools. Once mature, the coho are spawned according to a spawning matrix developed on the basis of genetic differences. In this way the local native gene-pool can be conserved and used to recover the local coho

Is fishing regulated to avoid taking during the spawning seasons?

Yes, particularly for salmon. If you're a fisher, check out local CDFW regulations for location and fish type. <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing>

In the area of Butano Creek, can you talk a bit about the changes made to prevent sedimentation of the creek?

There are several projects that have been completed upstream of the sediment removal project in Pescadero Marsh that reduce the amount of sediment making its way downstream and into the marsh. These projects use habitat features to sort and store sediment and increase the creek's access to, or enhance existing floodplain, which gives the water in the creek a place to spread out and slow down. When this happens the sediment that the water is carrying drops out and deposits on the floodplain instead of downstream. There are also many efforts to reduce erosion and runoff from fields and roads.

Are there safe for the fish, ways to observe spawning local salmon?

You can look for them in our local parks, especially around Pescadero such as Memorial County Park, Pescadero Creek County Park, Portola Redwoods State Park. Observing from a trail at the bank of the creek is the best way not to disturb them.

How big do lamprey grow?

Pacific lamprey can grow up to about 2.5 feet long as adults. Here is a link to some really great talks on Lamprey that go over life cycles and their growth. [A Note on Lampreys | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service \(fws.gov\)](#)

What agency controls and manages creek water quality?

The Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Are there any restoration projects planned for the Pilarcitos creek watershed? Obvious hurdles as it goes flows through more urban areas like HMB.

The RCD is working with public and private landowners to improve habitat in the Pilarcitos Watershed for people and wildlife. Efforts include forest health and fire resilience, creek and wetland restoration, agricultural stewardship, water conservation, and more. If you would like advice or help conserving natural resources on your property, contact us as info@sanmateoRCD.org.

I live on Arroyo de Leon creek. Old timers tell me they saw salmon in the creek. Is it included in your RCD area?

It is, we have several ongoing projects related to habitat and streamflow along Arroyo Leon Creek.