

Meeting to Inform Re-Adoption of Drought Emergency Regulation for Scott River and Shasta River Watersheds

State Water Resources Control Board and
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Staff

May 4, 2022 – Virtual Meeting



Meeting Logistics

- This meeting is being recorded
- Make sure your screen name reflects your actual name and affiliation, if applicable
- Participants will be able to unmute themselves once called upon
- Chat is disabled. You can email your comments.

Ground Rules

1. This is a public discussion.

We're here to listen to and respect the perspectives and ideas shared.

2. Listen actively and with an open mind.

We can better understand other perspectives when we try to see things from their lens. You can respect another person's point of view without agreeing with them.

3. Stay on point and on time.

We have limited time today. Please respect the group's time and help give everyone an opportunity to be heard. Keep comments brief and to the point.



Meeting Overview

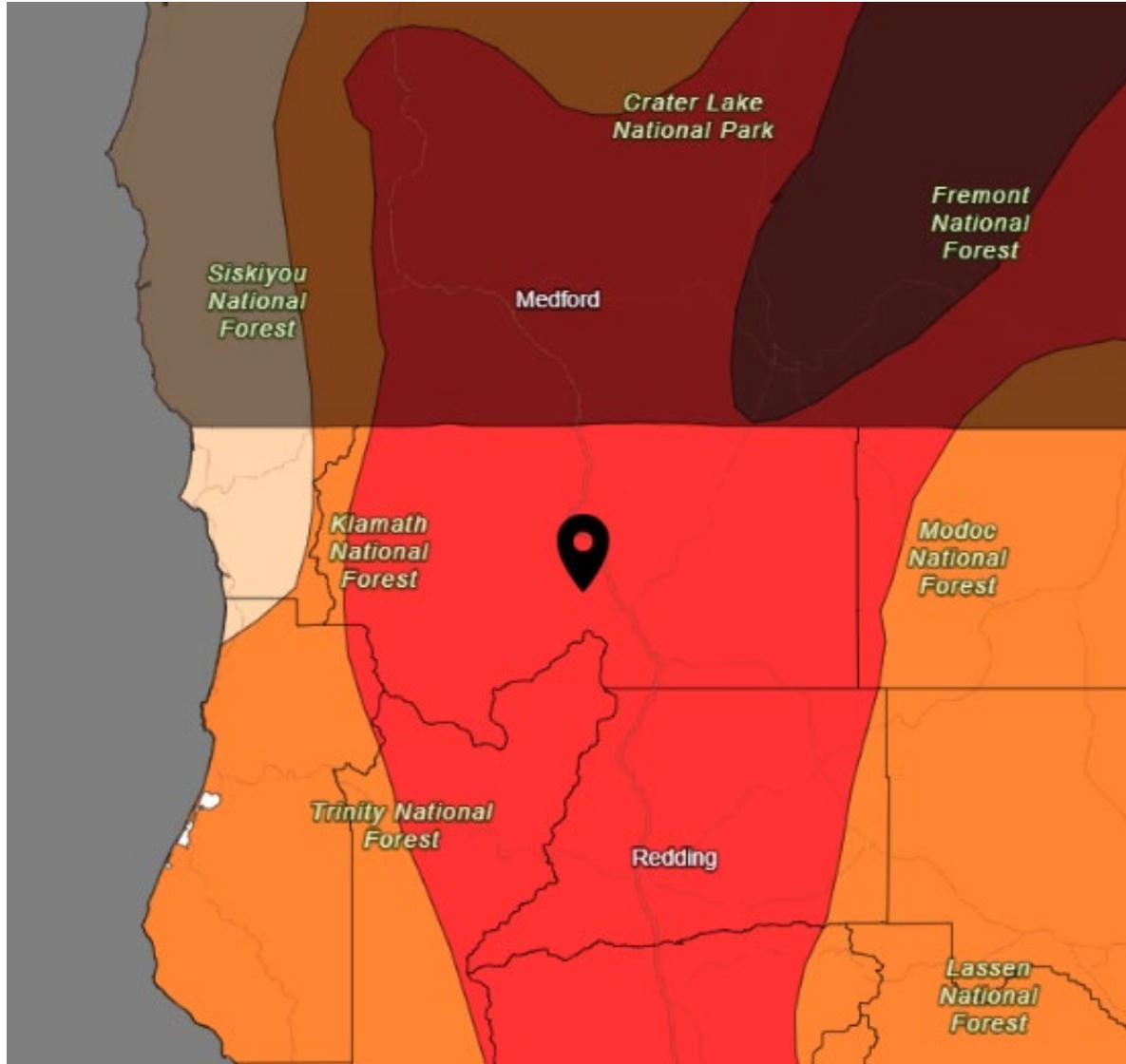
- Purpose of Meeting
- Conceptual Potential Updates to Drought Emergency Regulation + Re-adoption Timeline *(State Water Board staff)*
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife Recommendations *(CDFW staff)*
- Comments *(Interested Persons)*

Drought
Conditions
Persist



09/16/2021

Siskiyou County In Severe Drought



National Integrated Drought Information System



D0 - Abnormally Dry

- Soil is dry; irrigation delivery begins early
- Dryland crop germination is stunted
- Active fire season begins



D1 - Moderate Drought

- Dryland pasture growth is stunted; producers give supplemental feed to cattle
- Landscaping and gardens need irrigation earlier; wick patterns begin to change
- Stock ponds and creeks are lower than usual



D2 - Severe Drought

- Grazing land is inadequate
- Fire season is longer, with high burn intensity, dry fuel and large fire spatial extent
- Trees are stressed; plants increase reproductive mechanisms; wildlife diseases increase



D3 - Extreme Drought

- Livestock need expensive supplemental feed; cattle and horses are sold; little pasture remains; fruit trees bud early; producers begin irrigating in the winter
- Fire season lasts year-round; fires occur in typically w parts of state; burn bans are implemented
- Water is inadequate for agriculture, wildlife, and urban needs; reservoirs are extremely low; hydropower is restricted



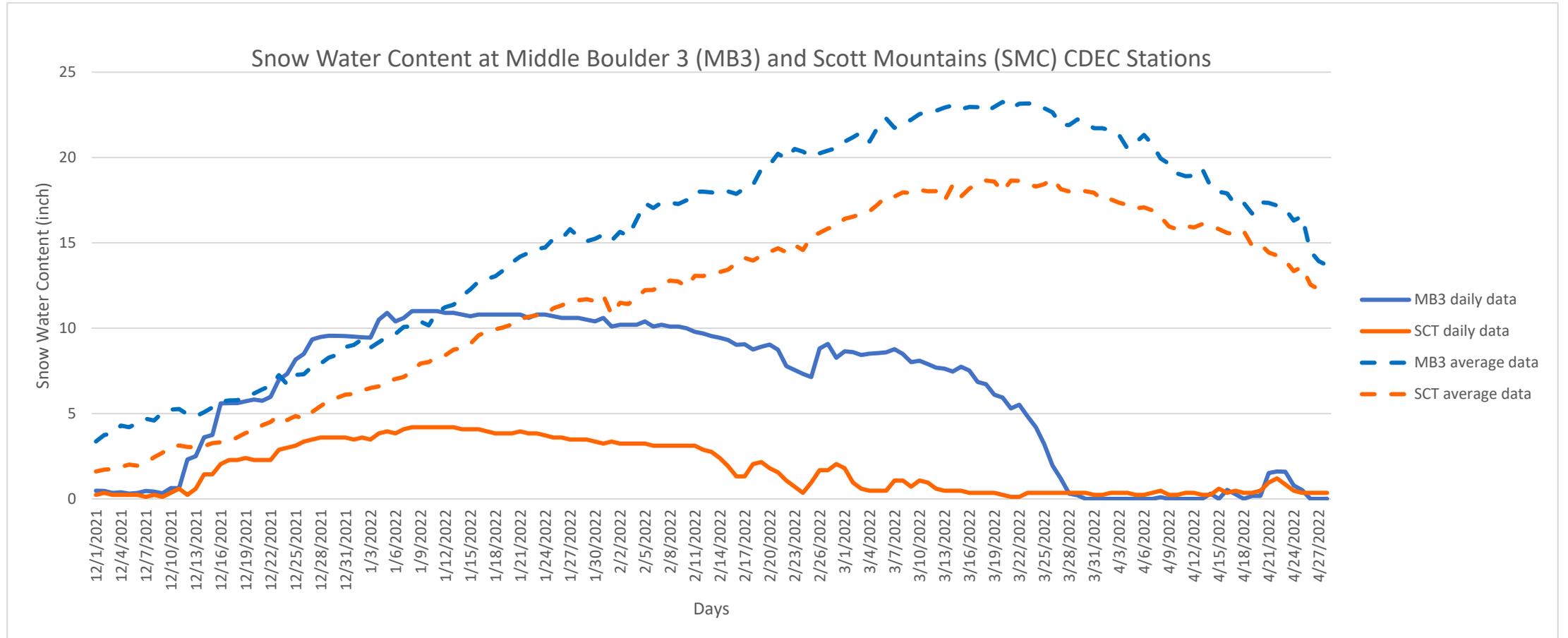
D4 - Exceptional Drought

- Fields are left fallow; orchards are removed; vegetable yields are low; honey harvest is small
- Fire season is very costly; number of fires and area burned are extensive
- Fish rescue and relocation begins; pine beetle infestation occurs; forest mortality is high; wetlands up; survival of native plants and animals is low; fewer wildflowers bloom; wildlife death is widespread; algal blooms appear

Snow Water Content

Middle Boulder 3 and Scott Mountain Stations

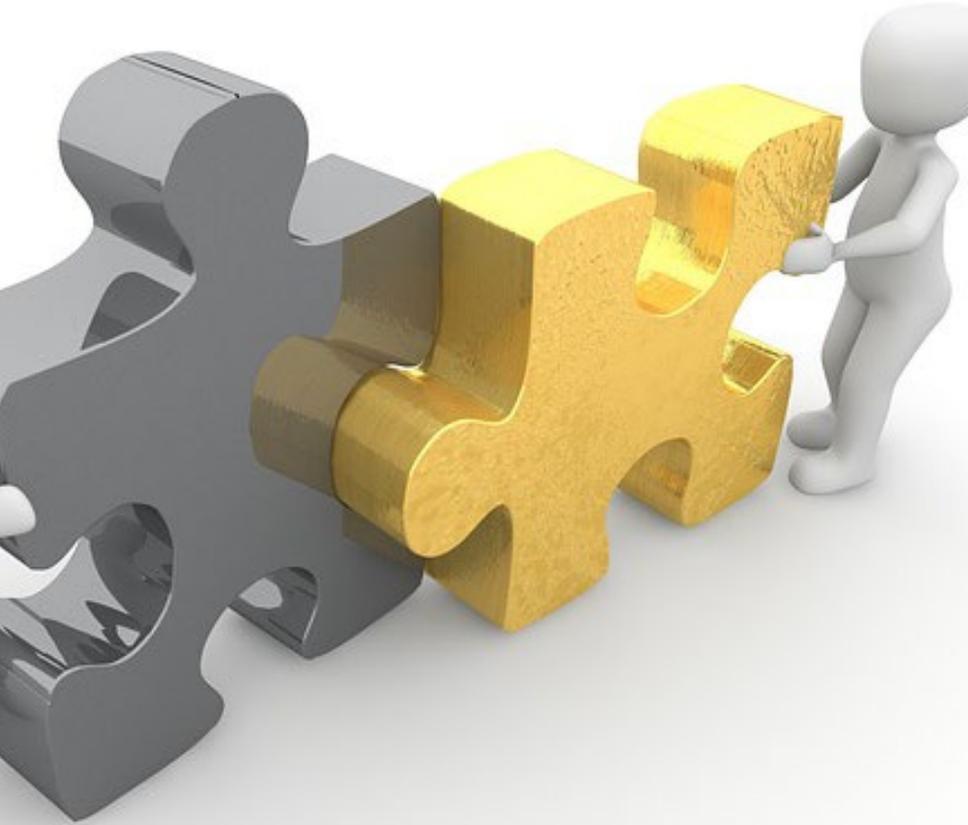
December 2021 - April 2022





Conceptual Potential Updates to Regulation proposed by Board staff *(soliciting feedback)*

- Include updated CDFW flow recommendations
- Local Cooperative Solutions
- Inefficient livestock watering-related provisions
- Other minor updates *(definitions)*

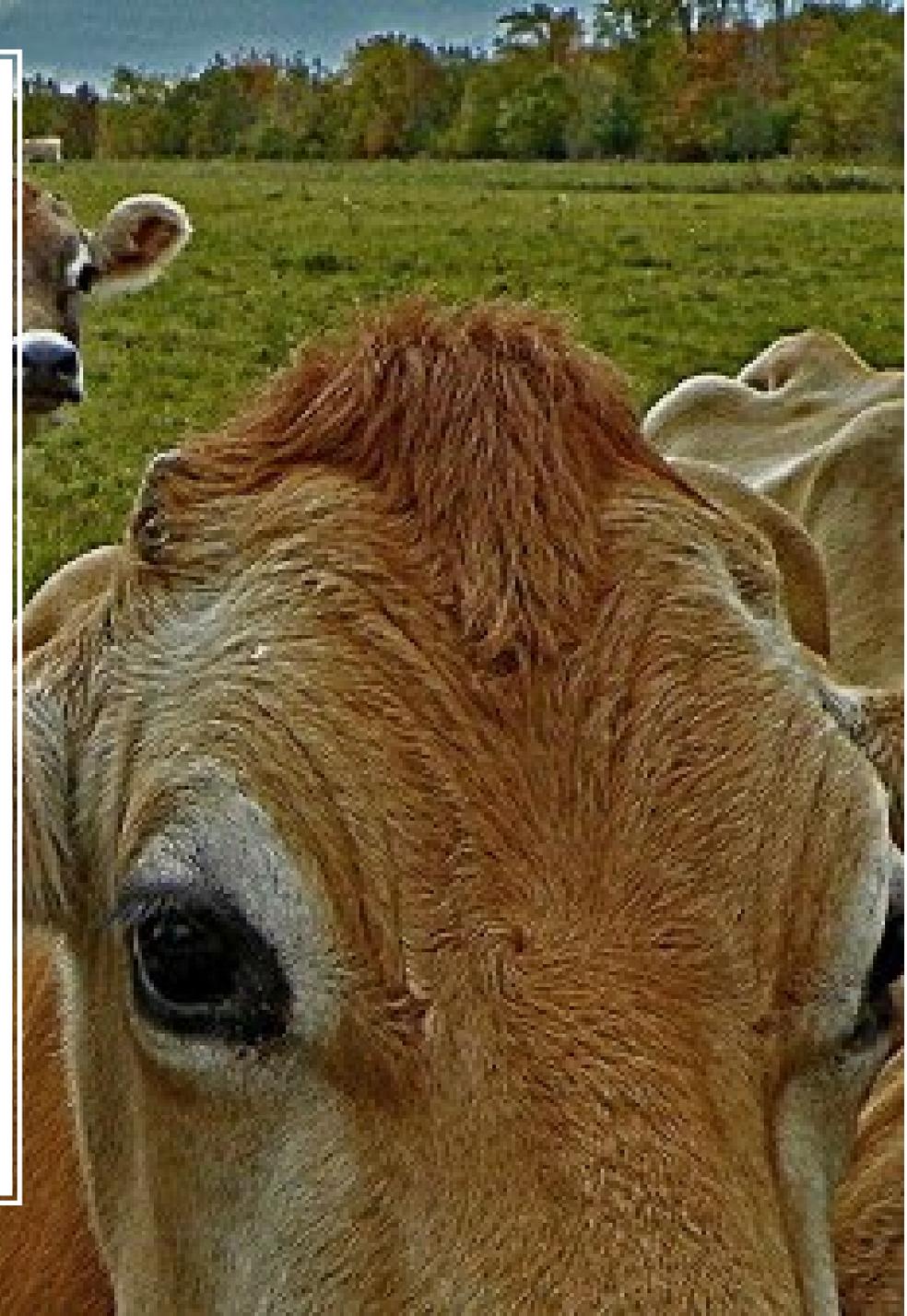


Local Cooperative Solutions: Potential Updates

- Groundwater: Watershed-wide acreage minimum rather than individual 400-acre minimum
- Protect Dedicated Flows: Clarify that dedicated flows that are part of local cooperative solution from senior water rights shall be allowed to remain instream to gage and are not available for diversion by other water users
- Inefficient Livestock Watering: See next slide

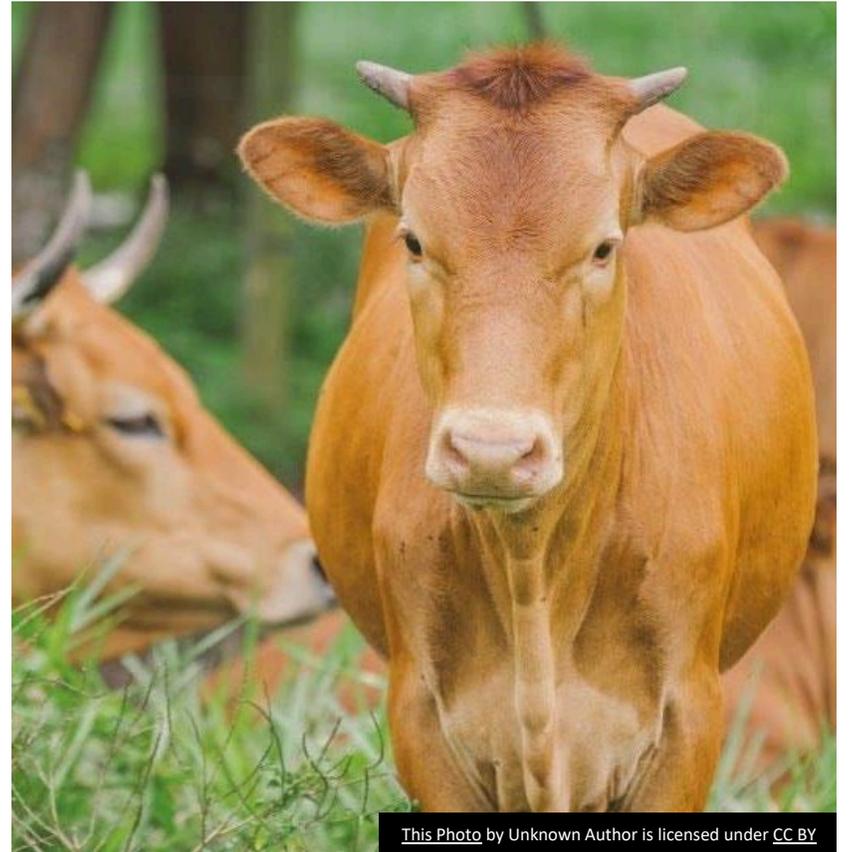
Inefficient Livestock Watering: Potential Conceptual Updates

- Add local cooperative solution option for livestock watering during prohibition period – would provide for coordinated diversions during high flow events
 - Include all or most diverters at tributary level
 - Avoid impacts to fish (e.g., ensure redds are not dewatered, allow fish movement, etc.)
 - Include gaging or other monitoring of flows at tributary scale to ensure high flow events and diversions are monitored



Inefficient Livestock Watering: Potential Conceptual Updates

- Extend prohibition until March 31 (rather than January 31) to help protect fish and limit curtailments of more efficient diversions during this period
 - Maintain ability to lift prohibition early with recommendation from CDFW and a finding that lifting prohibition will not result in issuance of curtailments
 - Prohibition concluded early (January 21) in Shasta River watershed



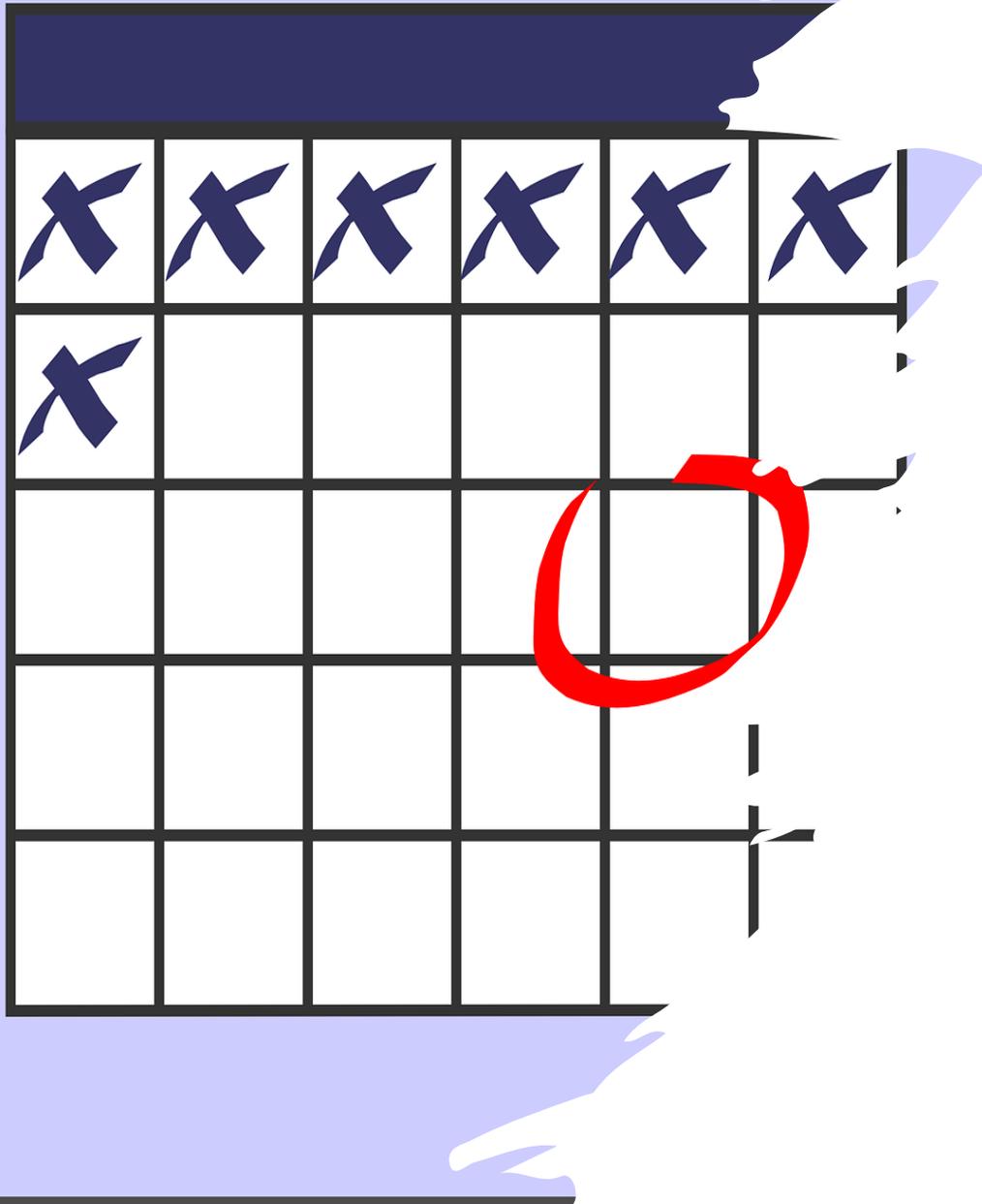
Updated Definitions: Potential Updates



- Definitions

- De Minimis Groundwater Use: less than two acre-feet per year for domestic use (consistent with Sustainable Groundwater Management Act)
- Coordinating Entity: an entity is not an individual, and relevant experience is required

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Anticipated Next Steps

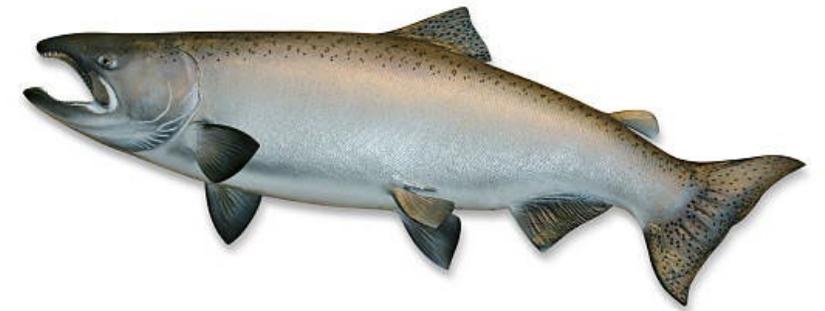
- Review feedback from this meeting and develop proposed regulation updates
- Release draft regulation – week of May 16
- Public meeting on draft regulation – May 25
- Release notice of proposed rulemaking, including final proposed regulation and digest – week of June 6
- Board meeting for consideration – June 21



Re-adoption of the Drought Emergency Regulation for the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds

Overview of CDFW Recommendations

May 4, 2022



Summary and Outline

Regulation Benefits

Update on Migration Monitoring

Adjustment to Shasta River Winter
Flows

Retention of Minimum Summer Flow

Extension of Inefficient Livestock
Watering Prohibition

Request for Expanded Coordination

Regulation Benefits

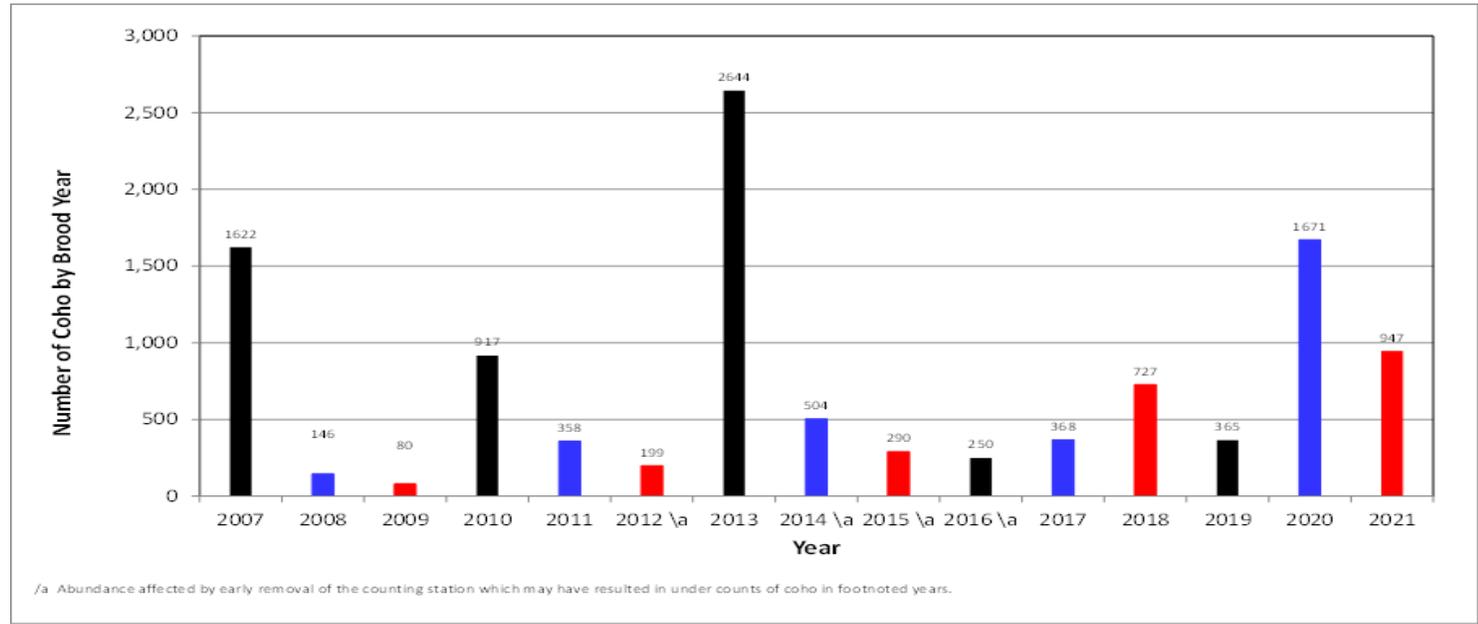
- Improved Communication
- Information Gathering
- Local Cooperative Solutions
- Expanded Stream Gaging
- Resolution 6





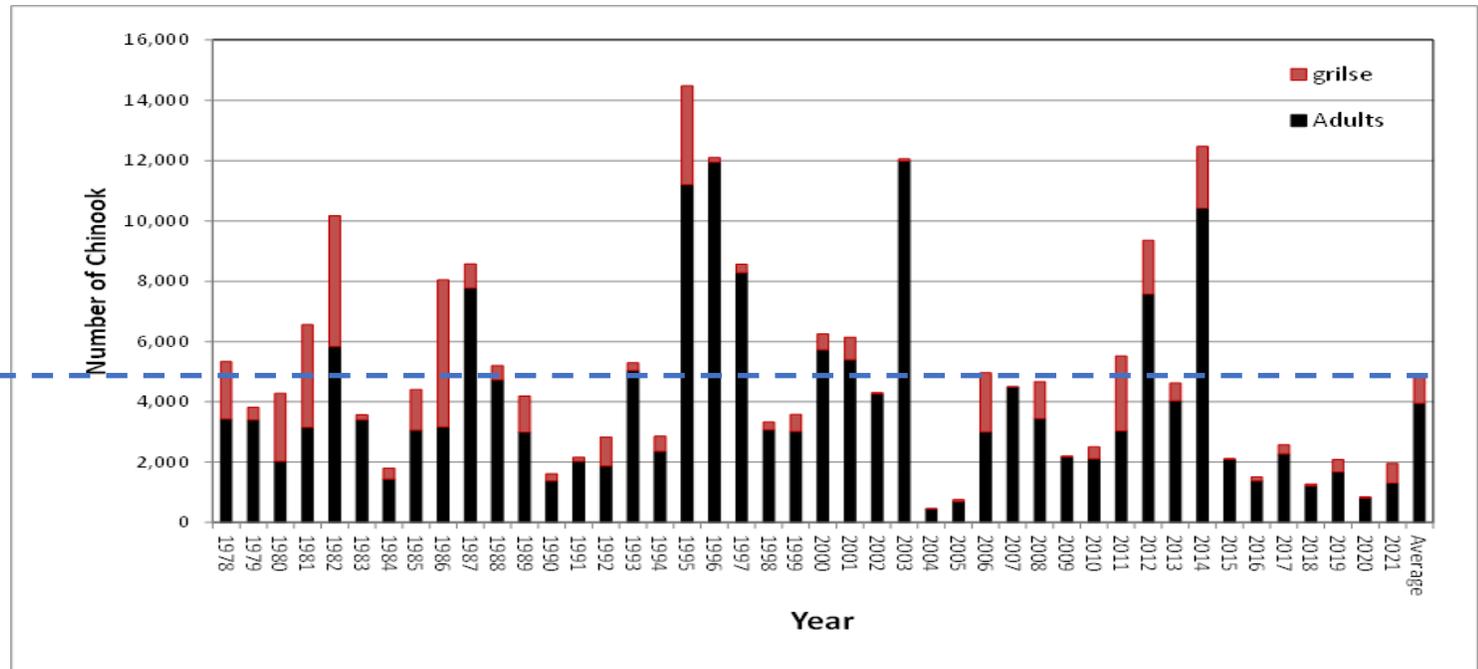
Coho Salmon

Scott River Adult Salmon



Average = ~5,000

Chinook Salmon

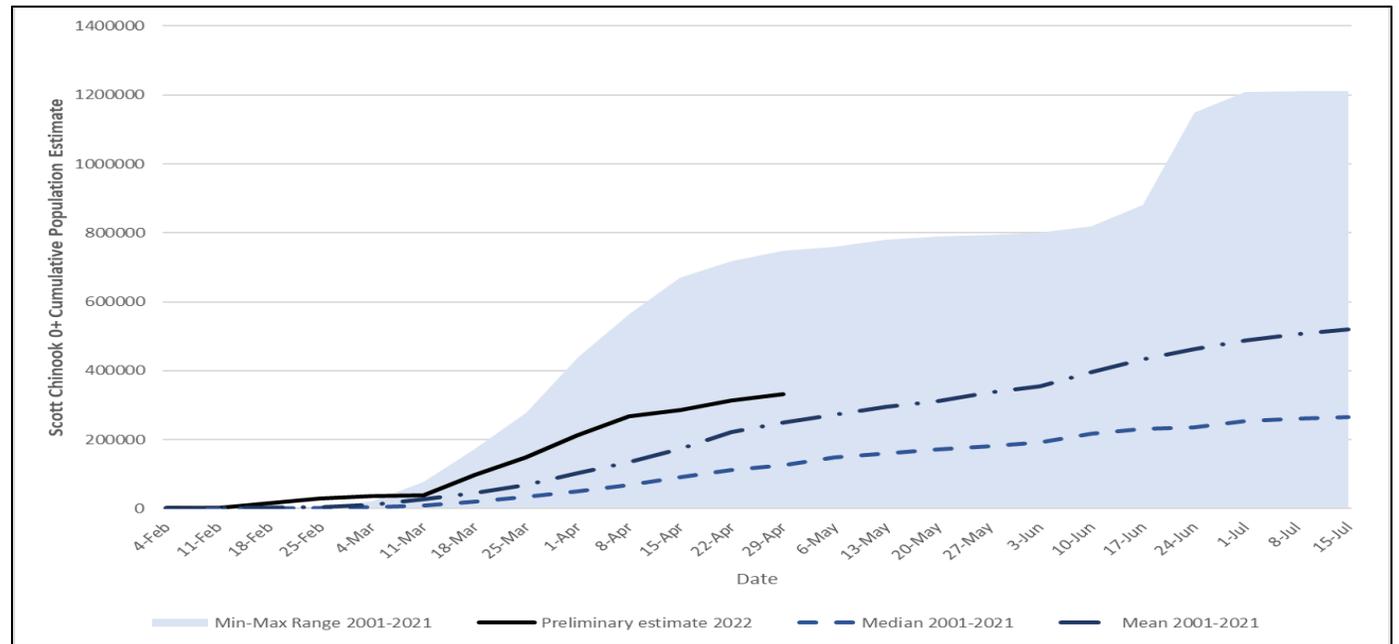
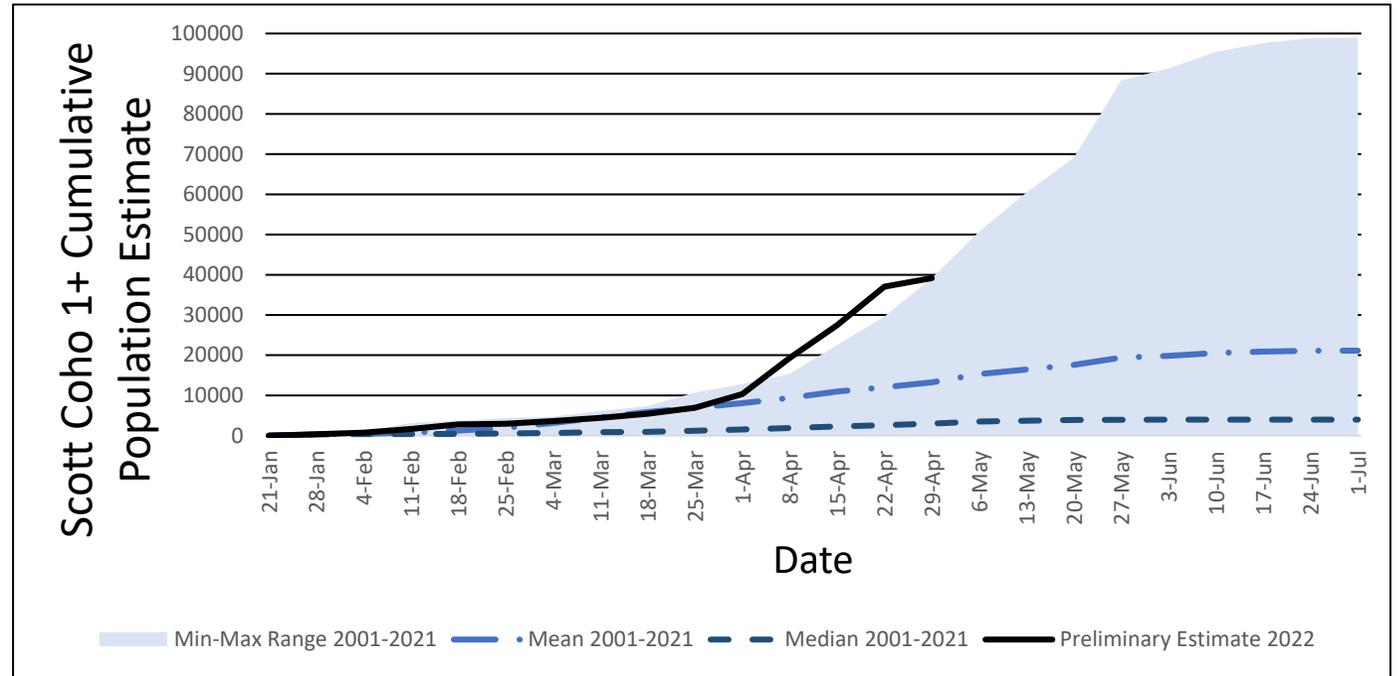




Coho Salmon

Scott River Juvenile Salmon

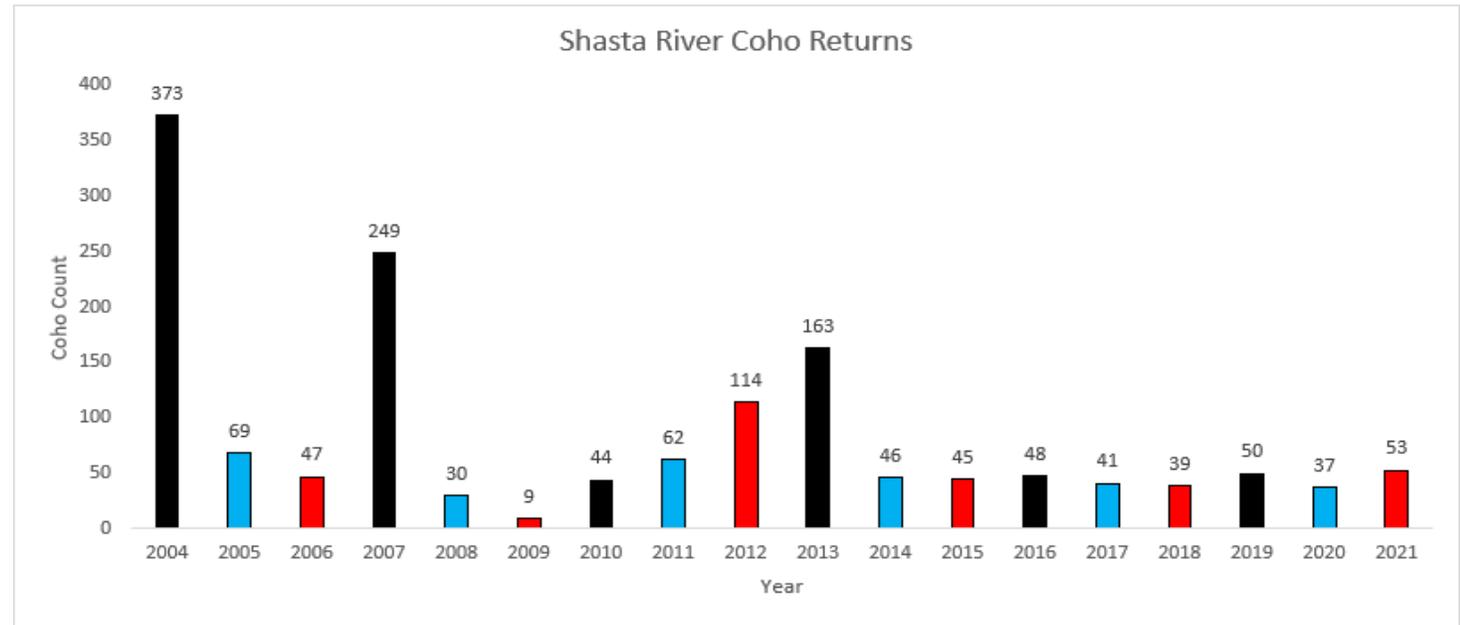
Chinook Salmon





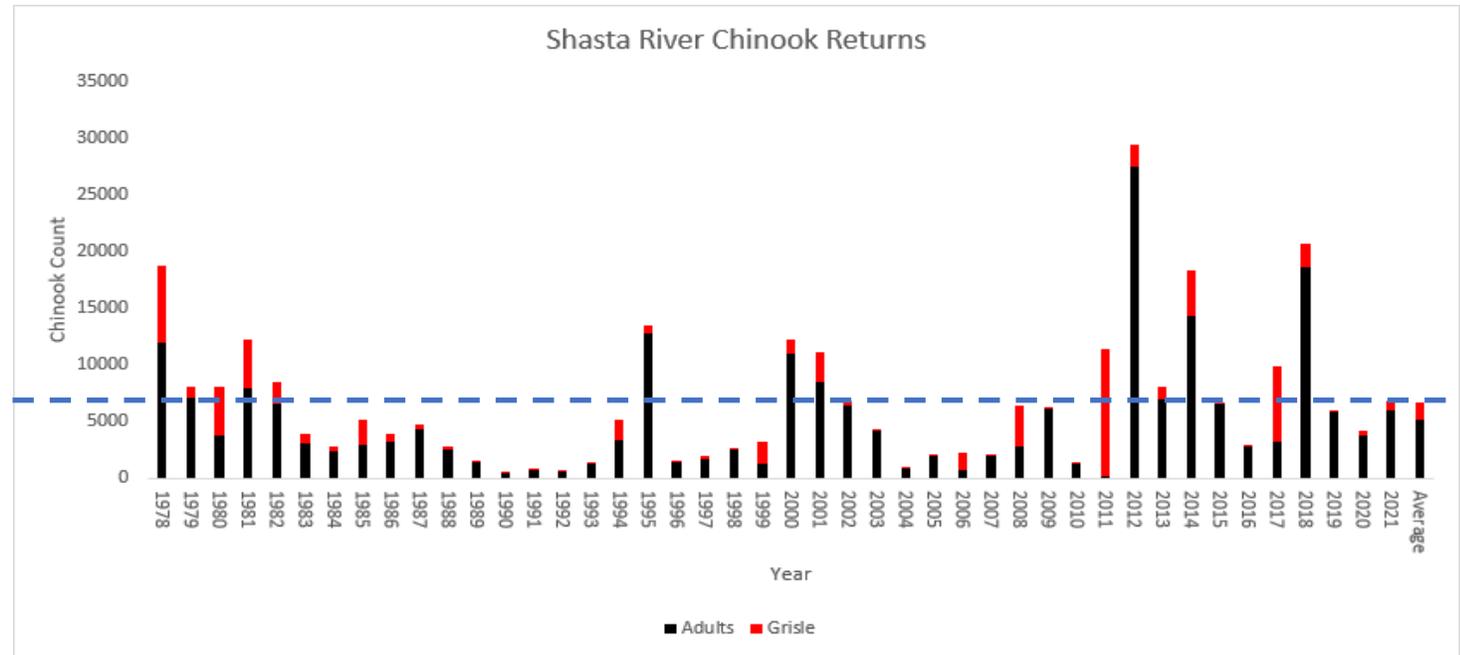
Coho Salmon

Shasta River Adult Salmon



Average = ~6,700

Chinook Salmon

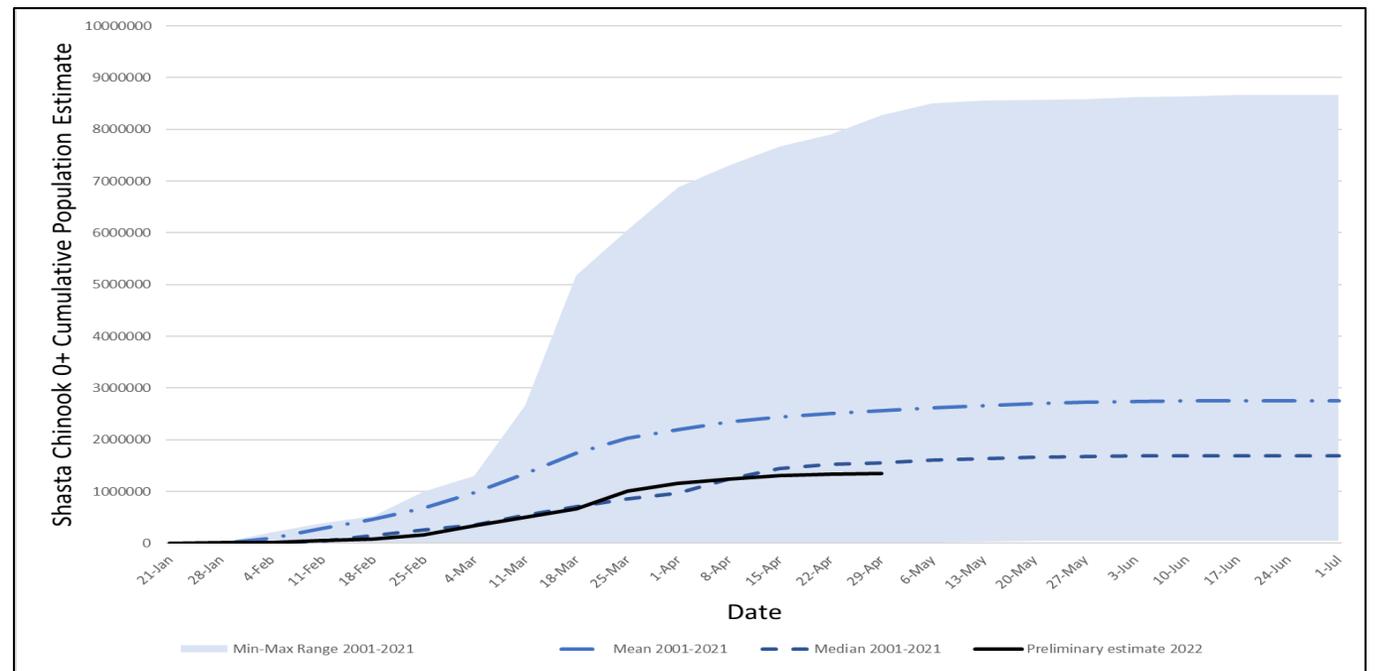
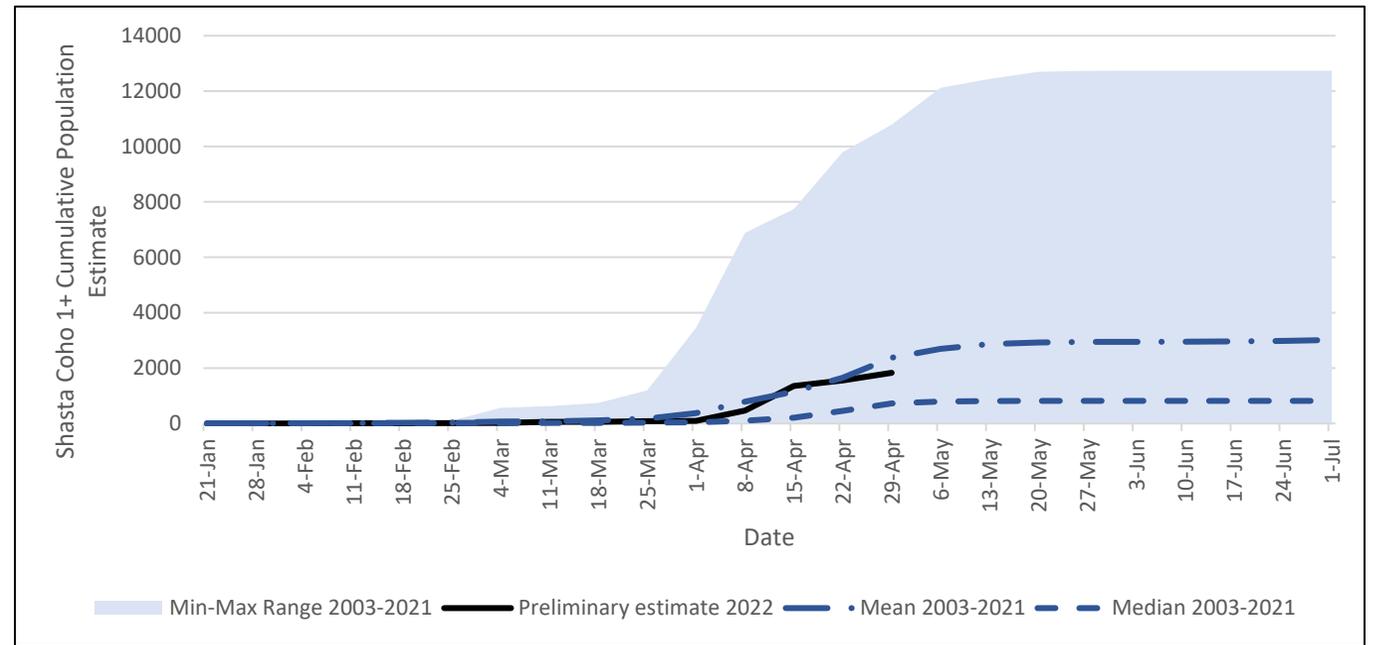




Coho Salmon

Shasta River Juvenile Salmon

Chinook Salmon



Shasta River Winter Flows

Flow-habitat results from the three sites in McBain and Trush Shasta River Canyon Instream Flow Needs Assessment (2014) were composited to calculate spawning habitat availability during a critically dry water year winter-flow scenario on the Shasta River.

The overall flow-habitat relationships display a relative peak of spawning habitat at 125 cfs in a critically dry water year.

Redd dewatering/water quality is influenced by changes in redd and tailspill depths.

Retain Minimum Summer Flow



Based on best available information to support salmon and steelhead



Need dry season flows to support stream function and fall migration



Flow values are intended to minimize lethal water quality conditions

Extend Inefficient Livestock Watering to March 31

- Drought emergency flow values do not represent adequate flows for all salmon and steelhead life history needs.
- We are concerned about redd mortality when the prohibition is lifted on January 31.
- The value of groundwater recharge from diversions is still relatively unknown to us.
- Streams and their tributaries re-charge groundwater too.

What is a cubic foot per second (cfs)?

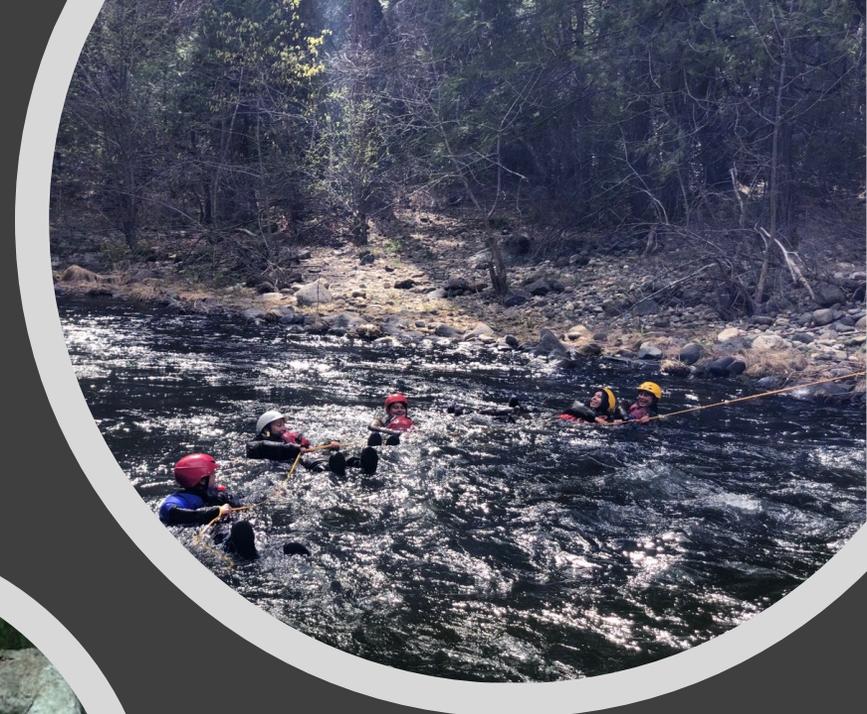
- * 1 cubic foot = 7.48 gallons.
- * 1 cubic foot per second is equivalent to 448.8 gallons of water flowing per minute
- * 1 cfs = 646,320 gallons, or 1.98 acre-feet per day
- * 5 cfs = ~3.2 million gallons per day, or 9.9 acre-feet per day
- * 10 cfs = ~6.4 million gallons per day, or 19.8 acre-feet per day

Coordination

- The focus of this recommendation is on critically-needed local coordination.
- A community-based coordination group with local subject matter expertise might be even better. A community-based group would need to include or coordinate with the SWB, Tribes, fish agencies, Watermaster District, and the GSA.

2004 Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon

The Recovery Strategy emphasizes cooperation and collaboration at many levels, and recognizes the need for funding, public and private support for restoration actions, and maintaining a balance between regulatory and voluntary efforts....The success of this Recovery Strategy will ultimately be determined by the long-term commitment and efforts **of all** who live in, or are involved with, coho salmon watersheds.



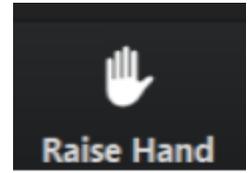


Final CDFW Slide

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How to Participate



1. Provide verbal comments:

Raise your hand to be placed in the speaker queue. When it is your turn, the facilitator will call your name and invite you to unmute yourself. **Please introduce yourself with your name and title/affiliation.**

Telephone callers:

- Press *9 to raise hand
- Press *6 to unmute when prompted

2. Email written comments to:

ScottShastaDrought@waterboards.ca.gov

How to Stay Informed

Visit: Scott and Shasta River Drought webpage:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/scott_shasta_rivers/

Visit: State Water Board's Drought webpage:
www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought

Subscribe: State Water Board Email
Subscription List titled "*Scott-Shasta Drought*"
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/instream_flows

Contact: Email:
ScottShastaDrought@Waterboards.ca.gov

A scenic view of a rocky river valley. The foreground is dominated by a steep, rocky slope covered in sparse, dry vegetation. A utility pole stands prominently in the middle ground, with power lines stretching across the valley. In the background, a white building is visible on a hillside, surrounded by more trees and shrubs. The overall atmosphere is quiet and somewhat somber, reflecting the 'closing' theme of the text.

Closing

Thank you for joining us.

