



Newsletter of Water4Fish.org

January, 2010

2009 Salmon Runs are Down and our Future is Threatened Again

In bad news for fishermen, the fall-run salmon returns to the Central Valley appear to be headed to another all time low. State water mismanagement continues to spiral the populations downward. In 2008, an all time low of only 66,000 fall-run fish returned. The minimum escapement for long term sustainability of these fish is 122,000. 2009 could be as low as 60,000 fish. It is clear that over pumping from the Delta and failure to protect fish in the state's water policies are to blame. The salmon fishing industry will issue a press release and a letter to congress expressing its outrage. A 2010 salmon fishing season is in question again.



***"And we've got to stop choosing
the Smelt and the Salmon over the
people and over farming"***

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

In a related issue, the National Marine Fisheries Service biological opinion is under attack. In June NMFS issued its new biological opinion on endangered Central Valley salmon steelhead, green sturgeon and offshore Orca killer whales. The agency also issued its Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives which require the offending agencies to correct the conditions that put the fish in jeopardy of extinction. The Delta and pumping operations received most of the blame for the fishery losses. The NMFS alternatives require pumping changes. The San Joaquin water interests have filed 13 lawsuits in an effort to overturn the opinion and stop the salmon recovery. They also funded a massive public relations program blaming the biological opinion for the water shortages and unemployment of farm workers. The truth is that most of the farm problems are because of the drought and the economy. However, they now have proposal before congress to bypass the Endangered Species Act for the Delta. This would be a fatal fisheries move and we must

fight it. Water4Fish and the salmon fisheries industry coalition are fighting hard supporting the science based biological opinion. Please support these efforts every way you can.

New Video Highlights the Salmon Political Attacks

If you want to see a power packed summary of the political attacks on salmon, log onto www.vimeo.com/8245848. This hard hitting 3 minute program is a must view for every fisherman and supporter of the salmon plight. Log on, watch it, then tell your friends. Other videos which provide excellent coverage of the salmon plight are available on the Salmon Water Now website: <http://www.salmonwaternow.org>.

Water4Fish to Exhibit at the January Sport Shows

For updates on the salmon crisis and what you can do to help, visit the Water4Fish booths at the San Mateo and Sacramento International Sportsmen's Expos. You can sign petitions, pick up literature or bumper stickers and see the

3 minute political action video. San Mateo runs Jan 14 – 17 and Sacramento runs Jan 21 – 24. For Water4Fish show discount tickets log onto <http://www.sportsexpos.com/promo.cfm?LNK=666>

On Saturday Jan 23rd at Sacramento, the annual Fisheries Forum and press conference will be held at 1:30PM in the Outdoor Sportsmen's Theater. Don't miss it. You will be briefed by top fishery experts and Assemblyman Jared Huffman who chairs the Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife Committee.

If you can spend some important volunteer time, we can always use help in the Water4Fish booth. Email Bob Mellinger at bob4fish@comcast.net.

Thanks for your continuing support. 74,000 supporters have now signed our petitions.

Dick Pool – Editor

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