



Historical Events Data Sheet

- 1957** The California Water Plan creates a framework for making water decisions.
- 1960** Log jams and sediments from lumber harvesting clogged most salmon habitat.
- 1965** Draining and filling San Francisco tidal land halted, 77% of wetlands destroyed.
- 1968** US established Wild and Scenic Rivers Act; 1,900 miles of California rivers (about 7%) are under wild and scenic protection.
- 1970** National Environmental Policy Act established the Endangered Species Act.
- 1972** The Federal Clean Water Act improves quality of municipal and industrial effluent, urban and agricultural runoff remain a major pollutants source.
- 1975** 28% of state population lives in San Francisco Bay and the Central Valley watershed.
- 1976** Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act gave federal authority over ocean fishing 3 to 200 miles from shore and created the Pacific Fishing Management Council (PFMC).
- 1976-77** California drought years (1977 the driest on record).
- 1979-80** Woody riparian habitat along Sacramento River decreased to 2% of historic levels and valley riparian vegetation less than 10% of historical level.
- 1987-92** California drought years.
- 1992** Central Valley Project Improvement Act gave 800,000 acre-feet of water for environmental use and ecosystem restoration for Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program (AFRP).
- 1994** Delta Accord signed to protect listed fish species, including Chinook Salmon, steelhead, and Delta Smelt.
- 1998** 20% of state population lives in the 9-county San Francisco Bay Area, 17% reside in remaining 28 counties of the Central Valley watershed.
- 2005-06** NOAA documented a collapse of the marine food chain structure resulting largely from a weak and delayed upwelling of cold and nutrient rich water that typically greets and sustains the juvenile salmon when they reach the ocean.
- 2006** Bay Delta Conservation Plan provided for conservation of Delta fisheries while supplying water to 25 million Californians.
- 2007-08** California drought years.
- 2008** Inland and Ocean Salmon Fishing Season closed for commercial and recreational fishing.
- 2010** Commercial and recreational fishing resumes.
- 2014-17** Severe statewide drought results in critically low flows and high temperatures in Central Valley rivers, and water quality and quantity are impacted in salmon hatcheries. Hatchery salmon are trucked rather than released in-river to avoid mortality. Many of the naturally spawned fish die before out-migrating to the ocean. Starting in 2016, extremely low returns of spawning adult fish result in curtailed fishing in the oceans and rivers.

Historic Event References:

- From the Sierra to the Sea: The Ecological History of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Watershed by The Bay Institute, July 1998
- California's Rivers: A Public Trust Report, prepared for the California State Lands Commission 1994
- California Department of Fish and Game publication: Pacific Salmon: King of California Fish, 2009
- Outdoor California Magazine Special Issue: Salmon Crisis, July-August 2009
- California Department of Fish & Wildlife, email correspondence to AFWA, May 2019