

April 2020  
Special Quarantine Edition

# Headwaters

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
STANISLAUS FLY FISHERS

Stanislaus  
Fly Fishers

**A CHARTER  
CLUB OF FLY  
FISHERS  
INTERNATIONAL**

**MEMBER OF THE  
NORTHERN  
CALIFORNIA  
COUNCIL OF FLY  
FISHERS  
INTERNATIONAL**

**General Meeting**

**NO MEETING IN  
APRIL!**

Grace Lutheran  
Church  
617 W Orangeburg  
Ave, Modesto, CA  
95350

## *President's Message*

Holy Cow! How our world has changed! I hope you, your family and friends are all healthy. I also hope the shelter in place orders aren't giving you a case of cabin fever. We are all finding ways to stay busy while following health safety guidelines.

For instance Pat Poe will now post a newsletter addition, "Pat's Flybox." Pat will select a pattern appropriate for the season and provide tying instructions and when possible a video to demonstrate the tie.

Tying flies, cleaning and organizing gear, and watching fishing videos are ways to stay in and still help with your much needed fishing fix. If you have Amazon Prime there are over three hundred fly fishing videos available. There are other sites such as Orvis

that's are posting videos to help stave off the shack nasties.

I did a little fishing yesterday. I went to a remote location, saw only three other vehicles and no other people. I didn't catch, but it was good to stand in a river for a little while. If you research and plan and follow current safety guidelines, it is possible to wet a line.

Speaking of health and safety guidelines we will not have a club meeting this month. If conditions allow we will resume meetings next month. There are several club plans that have changed due to current circumstances. Mike Hewitt will detail these changes in his portion of the newsletter. In the meantime please stay safe and healthy and let's all do our part to get this behind us so we can get out and get fishing again.

~ Jim

# Stanislaus Fly Fishers Membership Information

Membership dues are \$40 per year for members.

Members must also join Fly Fishers International. Dues for the IFF vary, but do not exceed \$35 for a single, one-year membership.



Like us on Facebook 

**We're on the Web!**



## Club News

### Monthly Meeting:

*Due to the CoVid-19/Coronavirus protocols for social distancing, there will be no general meeting in the month of April. We will return to regularly scheduled meetings when it's safe to do so. In the meantime, hopefully, you will find some useful information in this month's newsletter.*

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This month sees a new monthly column appear ... **Pat's Fly Box**. This will feature a curated selection of flies recommended by Pat Roe, with a list of materials and a link to an instructional video. Don't be surprised if Pat enlists our fly tying guru Bud Heintz for recommendations as well.

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As the guy in charge of putting the newsletter together each month, I would greatly appreciate submission of articles and links to articles and videos, etc. relevant to fly fishing and conservation. I do my best to find things, but it takes a village and this village idiot could use some helpful assistance. Did you fish recently? When and where? How did you do (or not do)? Have a picture? Best/least productive fly of the day? It's all good! Even a couple of lines about it would be great. Send your submissions to [webmaster@stanislausflyfishers.org](mailto:webmaster@stanislausflyfishers.org).

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The **Fly Fishing Film Tour** fundraiser benefit for **Rivers of Recovery** has been postponed. The committee has rescheduled the date to **September 10, 2020**. Hopefully, everything will have settled down by then and we'll all be glad to have a night out and a chance to support our veterans.

The **Pyramid Outing** in April has been canceled due to facilities issues. Jim Bowen spoke with Rob Anderson and due to current circumstances there are very few motels available and all restaurants have been closed. Crosby's is not serving food and the store is on limited hours allowing only five customers in the store at one time. In the name of safety and in good conscience, we are canceling and will do lab for next year. Sorry folks. You will be reimbursed your fees shortly.

## Stanislaus Fly Fishers 2019 Board of Directors

President – Jim Bowen  
Vice-President – Pat Roe  
Treasurer – Dennis Stambaugh  
Secretary – Michael Hewitt  
Membership – Dennis  
Stambaugh  
Outings – bob Bullock  
Raffles – Jim Goodwin  
Webmaster – Mike Hewitt  
At-Large – Bud Heintz

*Board Meetings are held  
on the fourth Tuesday of the  
month at 5:00 p.m. at Me & Ed's  
Pizza on Pelandale Ave. in  
Modesto. All members are*

## Club News (cont.)

The May 3rd **Kistler Outing** has also been canceled. Stay tuned for other group opportunities that we'll try to schedule once it is determined to be safe and prudent to get together again. In the meantime, be safe and stay at home as much as possible.

### Raffle News

#### SMALL RAFFLE

When held, the small item raffle is \$5 per ticket or 3/\$10 and only for members in attendance the night of the meeting. The items will be on display and the raffle tickets sold prior to the meeting. The raffle will be held at the end of the meeting time.

#### LARGE RAFFLE (52 Playing Cards + 2 Jokers)

There is no current large raffle, but stay tuned ! Something's coming!

### Pat's Fly Box – A.P. (All Purpose) Emerger

I was asked to share a fly and video for our new feature to the newsletter. When I went to the fly show this year, I listened to Denny Rickards speak on fishing stillwaters. It was a really good presentation, and I wound up buying one of his books, "Tying Stillwater Patterns for Trophy Trout." There are a lot of good flies in the book that should be in all of our boxes, but I thought I would show one that you could start the trout season off with. That is if we ever get to go out fishing again.

One of the first flies I tie on when I hit the water these days is a Bird's Nest. I think the pattern featured here is very similar and a little easier to tie. Although a stillwater pattern, I fish these in streams as well with good success. The pattern is the A. P. (all purpose) Emerger. Rickards ties it in black, gray, and olive, and it imitates a mayfly, caddis fly, damselfly or midge. It also works well as a scud when fished on the bottom, depending on the color and size of course. He recommends an intermediate or floating line for subsurface and a sink tip for bottom fishing in shallow water. For sub-surface fishing, try to keep it in the top three to four inches or on the bottom in shallow water (6 ft. or less). Recommended retrieve: hand twist or slow 4 in. pull and pause.

Good Luck with it. Hope it works for you! – Pat Roe



Hook: TMC 3761 #10-#18  
Thread: 6/0 Uni Rusty Dun  
Tail: Wood Duck  
Body: Hare's Ear  
Rib: Copper Wire  
Thorax: Peacock  
Wing Case: Wood Duck  
Hackle: Partridge

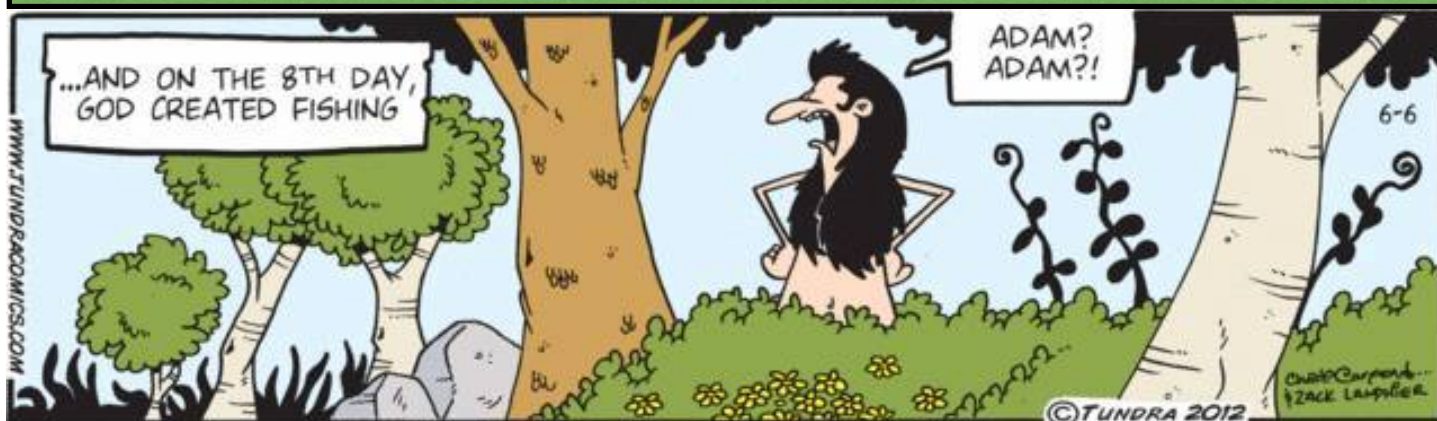
[Click Here for Video](#)

## Upcoming Outings and Events

**Pyramid Lake Outing** - Canceled

**Rivers of Recovery/3FT Fundraiser** – *Tentative date* April 30, 2020.

**Kistler Ranch** – May 3, 2020 (Stay tuned for updates)



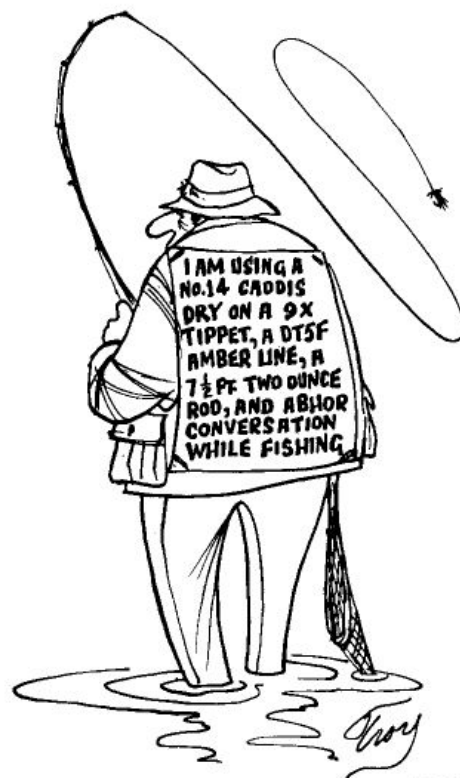
### Membership Information

Membership Dues (\$40) for 2019 were due January 1st. For your convenience, we can now accept a credit card for your dues, but there will be an additional fee of \$1.00 to cover the cost of the transaction.

All memberships are "Family Membership" status. Spouses, significant others and children are now all included in every membership.

**Reminder: These are the club dues and DO NOT include FFI dues.** FFI dues are paid directly to the FFI and must be maintained regularly since the SFF is an FFI Charter Club. If you are not an FFI Life Member, or do not pay for three years at a time, **you must renew your membership yearly!** Also, remember to list the Stanislaus Fly Fishers as your **Affiliated Club**. This is important due to our Charter Club status. The online application for FFI membership is linked below.

FFI Membership [Application](#)



## Tips You Can Use

### Pro Tip: Cleaning and storing your gear for the off-season

Author: Phil Monahan

Posted on December 17, 2012

<https://news.orvis.com/fly-fishing/Fly-Fishing-Pro-Tip-Storing-Gear>

For many of us, the fishing season never ends, but for those who do put away some of their equipment—dry-fly rods, the 2-weight you use for native brookies, etc.—for the long winter, storage is important. Although most fishing gear will last for years if you treat it right, incorrect storage can shorten that life span or ruin the aesthetics of a fine rod or reel. For instance, C. Boyd Pfeiffer, the godfather of tackle craft, tells of how he put a fly rod away wet, and when he retrieved it in the spring it was covered by tiny white blisters under the finish. Here are some tips to help you avoid such an unwelcome surprise.

1. The end of the season is the perfect time to clean all your gear. Before you store rods, reels, waders, and lines, you should wash them and allow them to completely dry.

**Rods:** An old toothbrush is perfect for lightly scrubbing around the hardware and guides. Pfeiffer notes that taking several rods into the shower with you is a convenient way to get the job done quickly. Make sure you rinse the rods thoroughly and allow them to air dry.

**Reels:** You can use the same toothbrush for getting all sand, salt, and grime off your reels. Take the lines off all reel before you wash them (although you can leave the backing on). Again make sure you rinse all parts thoroughly and put them on a towel to dry. When one side is completely dry, flip the parts over, so any water hiding in nooks and crannies can run out. Do this a few times.

**Waders:** Rinse them completely, wiping off any dirt or salt, and hang them to dry. Then turn them inside out and allow them to hang for awhile longer to air them out.

**Fly lines:** Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning your lines. Using dish soap will actually remove the slick coating. A moist rag will usually do the trick.

2. Now it's time to inspect and perform routine maintenance.

**Rods:** Check all the guides and ferrules to ensure they are in good shape. Apply ferrule wax to the male ends of the ferrules. Check the reel seat to make sure the threads are clear of debris.

**Reels:** If your reel requires lubricant (although few modern models do), follow the manufacturer's instructions for doing so. Make sure all screws are tight. Do a final inspection to see if you missed any sand or salt residue.

**Waders:** Check them for wear and tear or leaks. If there are abrasions or nicks that look like they may become leaks, you might want to do a prophylactic repair with a patch kit.

**Fly lines:** Check the line for nicks, and test the loops at both ends to ensure that they are still strong.

3. Storing your gear correctly will ensure that it's good as new when you need it.

**Rods:** Again, make sure the rod is completely dry before you put it in its sock or tube. Arrange your rod tubes horizontally, rather than standing upright. Finally, Pfeiffer suggests that you leave the end caps off entirely to allow the rods to "breathe" during the long months of storage.

**Reels:** The big enemy of reels is corrosion, so make sure they are fully dry. You can choose to store them in their bags, but leave a gap in the opening to allow any moisture to escape. Before you put a reel away for the winter, back the drag off completely. This will reduce wear and tear on the discs or other components.

**Waders:** The best way to store breathable waders is to hang them, but not by the suspenders or the boot feet. Instead, drape them over a hanger, allowing air to circulate all around them. This way, you don't stress the suspenders or where the wader and boot material come together.

**Fly lines:** Fly lines should be clearly labeled and hung in loose coils over a hook or a nail. This will keep them from developing too much memory over the winter.

Guide Joe Demalderis says that, if you don't want to take the lines off the reels, leave your line attached to the spool and lightly coil the line around a large coffee can. Then toss the reel or spool into the can and snap the plastic lid on over the backing. The tension from the lid doesn't hurt the backing. Now your lines are stored in a less-memory-setting situation and your reels or spools are protected from dust and grime.

It goes without saying that all your gear should be stored somewhere that's dry and is relatively climate-controlled—that is, a place that doesn't experience wide swings in temperature.



## Video Links

- [How to Clean a Fly Line - Part 1](#)
- [How to Clean a Fly Line - Part 2](#)
- [How to Clean a Fly Rod](#)
- [How to Wash Your Waders](#)
- [Fixing and Maintaining Breathable Waders](#)

## Top 10 CalTrout Videos to Pass Time During Social Distancing

March 20, 2020

<https://caltrout.org/news/top-10-caltrout-videos-to-watch-during-social-distancing>

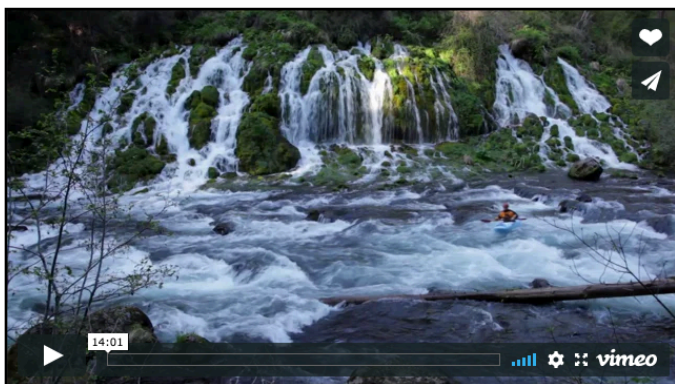
Stuck at home like us? We know how that feels. To help pass the time, we asked our field reporter and videographer Michael Wier for his top 10 video recommendations and put together this list. We hope you enjoy these films at home during these strange times. Stay healthy and safe. [Click on film title to reach link.](#)



### 1. [The River Brings Everything](#)

Between 1918 and 1965 five dams were built on the Klamath River, cutting off access to the upstream spawning habitat for Steelhead, lamprey and five species of Pacific Salmon. In 2021 crews will begin removing four of the five dams, reestablishing access to the upper Klamath for anadromous fish and restoring natural flows to one of the largest salmon and steelhead ecosystems on the West Coast of the U.S.

*Video by The FlyFish Journal and Liam Gallagher.*



### 2. [Enough is Enough](#)

Enough is Enough is a story about the fabled McCloud River in Northern California. This movie follows the stories of three anglers and the river they love. Follow CalTrout Conservation Director Curtis Knight, CalTrout Ambassador Craig Ballenger and McCloud River fishing guide Ron Heart on a soulful and heartfelt journey into one of America's premier rivers.

*Produced by Keith Braunies and California Trout.*



### **3. Swing North**

Hidden behind deep gray fog, California's North Coast is one of the most pristine habitats in the state. Once hosting runs of more than a million salmon and steelhead, the annual fish counts on the Eel River now often number less than 1,000. Yet, the salmonids persist. In recent years, signs of a recovery ripple through the waters. In Swing North, fishermen Mikey Wier and Jason Hartwick hook into the growing population of wild winter run steelhead on the Eel.

*Produced by Michael Wier and California Trout.*



### **4. Liquid Gold**

Liquid Gold is an Adventure into the High Sierra in search of California Golden Trout.

*Produced by Keith Braunies and California Trout.*



### **4. Return To Abundance**

A suite of films about the Eel River watershed and CalTrout's headwaters to sea approach to restoration.

*Produced by Michael Wier and California Trout*



### **6. Casa De Grandes**

A film about how fly-fishing for Peacock Bass is helping save the Amazon Rainforest.

*Produced by Michael Wier and Burl Productions.*



### 7. **DIYAK**

A film about a DIY float trip down a 100 mile wilderness river deep in the heart of Alaska.  
*Produced by Michael Wier and Burl Productions.*



### 8. **Gold Fever**

Gold Fever is when you get the taste of gold and you will stop at nothing to get more! Jobs, relationships, obligations are disregarded. The only thing you can think about is another nugget. In this case those nuggets are huge wild brown trout from the heart of the Mother Lode in the Sierra Foothills of California. Gold Fever was an official selection of the 2016 International Fly Fishing Film Festival(IF4).  
*Produced by Michael Wier and Burl Productions.*



### 9. **The River Time Forgot**

A film about Fly-Fishing for giant Taimen in Mongolia. After visiting Mongolia in 2006 I vowed to return and some day float a remote river we got to fish and explore. This is the story of that trip. In 2008, A small group of American Anglers with the help of a group of skilled Mongolian's became the first to float fish this remote river in the Northern Steps of Mongolia. We covered 140 miles and had some great fishing.



### 10. **Against All Odds: Southern California Steelhead**

A documentary about one of California's most magnificent and endangered native fish species. Once numbering in the tens of thousands, these resilient fish are now on the brink of extinction. Dams, development, water extraction, pollution, and climate change have all taken their toll. However, these fish are not doomed to extinction and a small number of people can make a big difference in helping recover this iconic species.  
*Produced by Michael Wier and California Trout.*

# Conservation

## Conserving Freshwater Biodiversity in the Anthropocene

March 23, 2020

We are living in the Anthropocene. Scientists have classified the current geologic epoch based on overwhelming evidence that human influence is a dominating force affecting Earth's key processes. The extent of the human reach is recognizable globally; however, in freshwater ecosystems, human impacts are particularly apparent. Extreme and visible alterations relating to soil erosion, chemical and nutrient pollution, the fragmentation of habitats through dams and diversion, land-use conversion, and assisting the expansion of harmful invasive species have led to significant declines in freshwater biodiversity. A [special issue of the journal Aquatic Conservation](#) published in 2019 details the greatest threats and key solutions involved in the conservation of freshwater systems and freshwater biodiversity, with an overview by [Flitcroft et al. \(2019\)](#).

Freshwater ecosystems occupy less than 1 percent of the Earth's surface but amazingly contain as much as 12 percent of all identified species, including a third of all vertebrate species. Despite being historically vibrant and diverse locations, freshwater biodiversity is now being lost. The Freshwater Living Plant Index reports an 83% decline in monitored species between 1970 and 2014, which is greater than declines reported for terrestrial or marine species, indicating the particular vulnerability of freshwater spaces. These changes are a consequence of multiple pressures, including extensive water withdrawals from natural systems. Additionally, climate change, the fueling force of the Anthropocene, continues to place stress on numerous species because of changing temperature patterns. These shifting climate norms alter seasonal patterns of naturally available water, making it hard for species to adjust.

One challenge for freshwater ecosystem conservation is that fresh waters are embedded within a matrix of terrestrial habitats. Subsequently, actions on dry land ultimately have numerous impacts on aquatic systems. However, human actions are often spatially segregated from their consequences, making these relationships difficult to infer. The authors state that, currently, dams are one of the greatest threats to river flows, freshwater biodiversity and ecosystem processes and function. With international rates of dam construction currently exceeding those of dam removal, finding ways of constructing and operating dams in a less ecologically destructive way will be crucial for future freshwater processes.

Although many of the problems associated with this new geological age are immense and complex, there are solutions. Researchers emphasize the importance of optimizing green infrastructure and protecting water at its source to secure both water quantity and quality. Ensuring an environmental flow of adequate water in our rivers is crucial both for freshwater management and for the biological functioning of freshwater species. Improving the quality of water at its source rather than treating it later will also inevitably bring benefits for many ecosystems that depend on freshwater. Protecting freshwater habitats to conserve fish has also shown to be an effective strategy, such as in Eastern Ontario, where researchers are seeing increases in fish abundance, biomass, and diversity thanks to freshwater protected areas ([Zolderdo et al. 2019](#)). Although there are more areas that need to be protected than can be managed, conservation actions in one area may make conservation elsewhere more effective. Therefore, identifying specific locations and species that are particularly vulnerable or endangered will be beneficial for expanding the effectiveness of conservation. In particular, wetlands are extremely biodiverse

ecosystems in need of protection that provide a multitude of services, including maintaining surface water flow during drought and improving water quality.

The threats facing freshwater species are anticipated to become more severe as we strive to balance rising human consumption with conservation of diverse and increasingly delicate habitats. Globally, human consumption of freshwater is anticipated to exceed the current supply by 40 percent by 2030. Finding optimal ways to meet the growing human need for freshwater while ensuring that freshwater ecosystems remain functional will be crucial as we progress further into the Anthropocene. Solutions such as protecting water sources for human needs have the potential to also benefit freshwater ecosystems. Despite the broad context of freshwater management, several high priorities include conservation, water planning, tool development, and the protection of species and habitats. It will be important for whole countries to address these priorities in order to work towards achieving international goals and targets for freshwater conservation.

This story was written by Jade Godbehere for an internship with FISHBIO through the UC Santa Cruz Environmental Studies Department.

## **CDFW's Salmon Evacuation Decision Pays Exceptional Dividends**

March 20, 2020

by kmacinty

<https://cdfgnews.wordpress.com/2020/03/20/cdfws-salmon-evacuation-decision-pays-exceptional-dividends/>

In February 2017, damage to the Oroville Dam's spillways prompted the evacuation of more than 180,000 people living downstream along the Feather River. The raging muddy waters also triggered an emergency decision to relocate millions of young salmon from the Feather River Hatchery to the Thermalito Annex Hatchery to be raised and held until river water conditions improved. Most, if not all, of the young salmon would have otherwise died when mud from the raging river overwhelmed the hatchery waters.

About 2 million spring run Chinook and 5 million fall run Chinook were evacuated during the two-day flood event. Those fish survived and were later released to the wild – helping fuel a record class salmon harvest in the ocean two years later.

Last year, most of the rescued salmon had matured in the ocean and were ready for their migration home to the Feather River. Their survival helped power strong ocean fisheries with one of the largest commercial catches in decades. According to data collected by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), approximately 272,000 salmon were harvested in the commercial fishery along with a catch of nearly 88,500 in the recreational ocean fishery, while returns to the Feather River basin exceeded 70,000 in 2019.

Ocean fishing activities were an economic stimulus for local communities and industries along the coast and inland. Commercial trollers landed 2.6 million pounds of salmon valued at more than \$17.2 million, which was the highest level of harvest since 2013. The Feather River Hatchery was estimated to have contributed one quarter of all commercially harvested salmon and one third of the recreational ocean harvest.

“The return of the salmon released from Feather River Hatchery after the flood event was exceptional,” said Kevin Shaffer, CDFW Acting Chief of the Wildlife Branch. “At several points in the crisis, the majority (if not all) of the young salmon could have been lost. If not for the hard work, ingenuity and dedication of the hatchery employees and staff we could have ended up with nothing.”

The effort to save the young salmon began on Feb. 9 and 10, 2017. More than 60 people from CDFW, the California Department of Water Resources, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries and other agencies worked night and day to successfully transfer more than 5 million Chinook salmon to the Thermalito Annex hatchery facility nine miles away. Fisheries and engineering staff also constructed an emergency filtration system for the remaining salmon and steelhead at the Oroville facility, saving an estimated 1.5 million fall Chinook salmon fry that were too small to move and 1.6 million steelhead eggs which lead to a returning year class of 1,874 steelhead in 2018-19.

On March 20, 2017, the first salmon to be released after the evacuation were 1 million state and federally listed threatened spring-run Chinook salmon. They were released successfully into the Feather River. In all, a total of 2 million spring-run Chinook and 5 million fall-run Chinook were released.

Their work did not go unnoticed. Team members received a letter of appreciation from then-Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom, and were later presented with the CDFW Director’s “Team Award” for their ingenuity and dedicated work to save the salmon and steelhead eggs.

## News & Notes

### **CDFW Closing High Public Use Areas**

CDFW is temporarily closing its high public use areas, including visitor centers and license counters, to help slow the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus). Before heading to a CDFW facility, contact the regional headquarters office to determine if that facility is open. Information on purchasing licenses, permits, tags and other entitlements, can be found on CDFW’s Online License Site.

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### **California State Parks Campgrounds Closed**

March 17, 2020: California State Parks has temporarily closed all campgrounds in the state park system to support state and local efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus). As of today, non-campground outdoor areas of parks, including trails and beaches, remain open. Visitors are reminded to practice social distancing and maintain at least six feet between other visitors and anyone who is coughing or sneezing. [Read the news release.](#)

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### **Yosemite National Park Closed**

Yosemite National Park has modified operations at the request of the local health department. Yosemite National Park is closed to all park visitors until further notice.

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### **Lake and Reservoir Closures**

Don Pedro, McClure/McSwain, New Melones, Tulloch, Camanche, New Hogan, and San Luis are all closed at this time.

