

Pillar Point Salmon Acclimation





Improving Recreational Fishing Opportunities

Salmon are the iconic sport fish of the San Mateo coast





California's Salmon are Under Attack

- Habitat loss – dams built without fish passage
- Water diversion and exports
 - Alters natural hydrologic cycle
 - Reduces spawning success in remaining habitat
 - Makes juvenile salmon far more susceptible to predators
- Drought
- Politics



Coastside Fishing Club Response to Challenges

- Some hatchery production already trucked
- Seek to improve survival and harvest through coastal acclimation
- Planning started in 2007
- Approved by CDFW in 2011
- Coastside Fishing Club spent over \$100,000 in infrastructure and 1000's of volunteer hours



Acclimation Begins in 2012

- Salmon raised by CDFW at Feather River Hatchery near Oroville
- Coastside Fishing Club volunteers travel to the hatchery to vaccinate fish against disease
- All fish receive a coded wire tag to allow identification upon recovery
- CDFW trucks fish to Pillar Point Harbor
- Coastside Fishing Club volunteers tend to fish until their release



Working at the Hatchery

- CDFW pathologists require fish to be vaccinated against vibriosis.





Preparing the Net Pen

- Floating net pen measures 30 ft by 54 ft





Feeding/Releasing the Fish





Phase 1 Results (So Far)

- 2012 Releases
 - 180,000 fish released
 - 2.97% harvested as two- or three-year-olds
 - CDFW net pens in San Pablo Bay harvest = 0.75%
 - Coleman National Fish Hatchery = 0.2%
- 2013 Releases
 - 420,000 fish
 - 0.5% harvested as two-year-olds
 - CDFW net pens in San Pablo Bay harvest = 0.10%
 - Coleman National Fish Hatchery = 0.004%
 - Nimbus Fish Hatchery = 0.01%



Benefits to San Mateo Recreation

- In 2013, a few fish caught outside harbor
- In 2014, very active fishery inside and outside harbor
 - Close-in ocean fishery a benefit to kayaks and smaller boats
 - Harbor fishery makes salmon accessible to shore anglers
- Not good years for local salmon fishing aside from the Coastside fish



Phase 2 Status

- 360,000 fish acclimated in 2014
- 360,000 fish planned for 2015
- Coastside has paid 100% of CWT costs, about \$60,000
- Expenses not sustainable
- Coastside looking for help from Fish and Game Propagation Fund held by SM County



Phase 3 (2016 and 2017) Plans

- Coastside may modestly increase production provided fish can be safely handled in three deliveries
 - 480,000 in 2016
 - 480,000 in 2017
- CWT costs are \$40,000 per year
- Coastside continues to provide more than 800 volunteer hours annually to support project