

Fish Out of Water Questions

1. What are the causes of the decline of Chinook salmon and steelhead?
2. How many Chinook salmon runs once thrived in the Central Valley? How many Chinook traveled through the Delta annually?
3. How many of these salmon are listed under the Endangered Species Act? How many of the other runs are listed as species of concern? What is the estimated economic loss caused by the failure of this year's salmon run?
4. What is an anadromous species? How many years do Chinook salmon spend feeding in the ocean before returning to spawn?
5. What percentage of access to historic salmon and steelhead spawning grounds have been cut off due to dams? Friant Dam eliminated how many Chinook salmon in the San Joaquin River?
6. Besides creating barriers, how else do dams impact downstream salmon and steelhead habitat? How does pumping in the southern Delta endanger fish?
7. According to a federal judge (2008), what percentage of fish are killed as a result of the CVP and SWP? How did the operators of the CVP and SWP respond?
8. How has the Central Valley Improvement Act of 1992 impacted water diversions? Couldn't it be argued that the problem is in the oceans and has little to do with the Delta diversions?
9. Name some fish-friendly sources for our future water needs. What are the benefits of pursuing this type of policy?
10. What are two major requirements of the Federal Endangered Species Act that would seem to favor the listed species? What is the result of the state and federal NRDC litigation on this issue?
11. What is the Bay Delta Conservation Plan? What project is the BCDC considering? Why? How might the BDCP impact salmon on the Sacramento River.
12. What are the three main provisions of the CVPIA? What is happening with the CVPIA water? What about the goal of doubling salmon in the Delta? What about lawsuits?
13. What are the Public Trust and the Reasonable Use Doctrines? How might they be used to protect the salmon?

14. The DWR has provided an initial analysis of the potential impacts of a peripheral canal. What to all of the scenarios have in common? What protections for salmon were included in their analysis?
15. Since the water that passes through the Delta is already over-allocated, even in wet years, it would make sense for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to reject requests for increased deliveries. They are rejecting those requests, right?
16. What is so-called “b(2)” water (under the CVPIA) and has the Bureau of Reclamation been diligently implementing their mandate under the CVPIA?
17. What is the Bureau of Reclamation doing with respect to spawning habitat below their dams?