



April 2020

Dear Landowner,

You may be aware that a long-term effort has been underway to recover endangered native coho salmon as part of a collaborative project called the Russian River Coho Salmon Captive Broodstock Program. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is working with partners in support of this effort, including: California Sea Grant at the University of CA (UC), Sonoma Water, and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

We are reaching out to streamside landowners in the Russian River watershed, like you, to establish and renew temporary entry permits for our fish and habitat monitoring activities. We have enjoyed great relationships with many of you over the years, but for those of you who are not familiar with our program here is an overview:

With Russian River coho salmon on the brink of extinction, resource agencies developed the Broodstock Program in an attempt to re-establish the native population. In 2001, biologists collected a small number of wild coho salmon from local creeks, reared them to maturity at the hatchery at Warm Springs Dam, spawned them following a rigorous plan to maintain genetic diversity, and released their offspring into carefully-selected streams where they were once plentiful. This practice has continued since that time. UC's Russian River Salmon and Steelhead Monitoring Program evaluates the success of this effort by monitoring coho populations in the watershed. Over the past two decades, basinwide coho salmon adult returns have increased from an average observed count of just three fish per year (2000-2005) to an average estimate of more than 500 fish per year over the past five winters (2014-2019).

UC and Sonoma Water are also conducting watershed-wide monitoring of steelhead, coho and Chinook salmon for the California Coastal Monitoring Program (CMP). The CMP, led by CDFW, provides scientific information on the status of all of California's coastal salmon and steelhead populations.

Private landowners have been instrumental to the success of local salmon and steelhead recovery efforts. If you are among the hundreds of landowners who have granted us access in the past, we are truly grateful to you! This program would not be possible without your cooperation. **We request your initial or renewed permission to allow CDFW, UC, Sonoma Water and USACE field crews temporary access to your property in order to conduct fish stocking and monitoring, habitat monitoring, fish rescue and broodstock collection activities.** Property access covered by this request is *not associated with any regulatory activity*.

Field visits generally consist of a team of two people visiting occasionally each summer, and at set intervals during the winter. Crews conduct sampling entirely within the stream channel. At your request, we can notify you prior to their arrival. If we would like to park our vehicles on your property, or engage in any activities beyond standard surveys, we will consult with you for additional permissions beforehand.

If you are willing to allow our field crews temporary access to your property to conduct salmon and steelhead monitoring and recovery activities, please complete and return the enclosed Temporary Entry Permit. If you have any questions, please email coho@ucsd.edu or call (707) 687-0996.

If you have participated in the past, we thank you whole-heartedly for your support and hope it will continue! If you have not had the opportunity to participate, we look forward to working with you. We believe that, with your

help, we can achieve our collective goal of maintaining healthy populations of salmon and steelhead in their native Russian River streams.

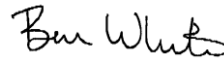
Thank you very much for your time and consideration,



Derek Acomb, CDFW
Environmental Scientist
Russian River Resource
Assessment & Restoration



Mariska Obedzinski
California Sea Grant
Salmon & Steelhead Monitoring
Program Coordinator



Ben White, USACE
Lead Fisheries Biologist
Hatchery Component,
Broodstock Program



Gregg Horton
Sonoma Water
Principal Environmental
Specialist

****Frequently Asked Questions****

Q: Do I have any say in the permit terms?

A: Yes. You can add a special written request to limit access in any way you like, specify acceptable dates or even limit access to certain partners. You can also request that we notify you before each survey. If you would like to discuss any concerns before filling out the permit, please feel free to contact us.

Q: What activities are included under this permit?

A: Activities may include fish stocking, snorkel surveys, habitat assessments, PIT-tag monitoring, temperature monitoring, discharge measurements, electrofishing surveys, downstream migrant smolt monitoring, adult spawner surveys, barrier assessment, and fish rescues and/or broodstock collection. Activities generally consist of a crew of two to three surveyors carrying hand-held instruments and covering a distance of a few hundred feet to a few miles of stream in a day, depending on the type of survey work. Some surveys may involve up to eight people.

Q: Does this permit include regulatory visits by the agencies?

A: Absolutely not. Field visits covered under this agreement are *not* associated with any regulatory activity.

Q: How will this impact my property?

A: Our activities will not have a significant impact to your property. All surveys are conducted in the stream channel and most landowners never even see us. Crews may pass through your property in as little as 10 minutes, unless you have a parcel with extensive stream frontage. If necessary, crews may need to walk across the property to the stream channel at the beginning or end of the survey section. If we need to park on your property, or engage in any activities beyond standard walking surveys, we will ask you ahead of time.

Q: Who will contact me?

A: Mariska Obedzinski (UC), or her staff, and Gregg Horton (Sonoma Water), or his staff, will contact you for fish and habitat monitoring activities. Ben White (USACE), or his staff, may contact you with fish stocking requests. Derek Acomb (CDFW), or his staff, may contact you for fish rescues, broodstock collection or habitat assessment.

Q: Will monitoring activities definitely occur on my property?

A: No. There are hundreds of streams in the watershed and we can only survey dozens each year. While we intend to visit all reaches over time, the specific location and extent of stream reaches surveyed changes annually and ultimately depends on the future direction and resources of our programs.

For more information visit:

<http://caseagrants.ucsd.edu/coho>

<http://www.calfish.org/ProgramsData/ConservationandManagement/CaliforniaCoastalMonitoring.aspx>

For fish videos, updates and more, visit us on social media!



TEMPORARY ENTRY PERMIT

Permission is hereby given to the Department of Fish and Wildlife’s (“CDFW”)’s employees, agents, representatives, contractors, and partners: California Sea Grant, Sonoma Water, and the US Army Corps of Engineers (“Partners”) to enter upon that real property owned by _____ (the “Owner”) located on the following stream(s): _____ (the “Property”) with all necessary equipment to conduct fish and habitat monitoring, to collect, stock or rescue fish, and for such other purposes incidental to those activities, subject to the following provisions:

1. CDFW shall take every reasonable measure to ensure that its employees, agents, representatives, contractors, and Partners avoid damage to persons or property while conducting any use covered by this Temporary Entry Permit (“permit”).
2. To the extent provided by law, including but not limited to Government Code section 14662.5, CDFW agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Owner for any injury to persons or property arising out of any use covered by this permit, unless the injury is due solely to the gross negligence or an intentional act of the Owner, and agrees to repair or pay for any physical damage to property proximately caused by CDFW’s employees, agents, representatives, contractors, or Partners by reason of any use covered by this permit.
3. The Owner shall not be liable for any take of salmon or steelhead by CDFW’s employees, agents, representatives, contractors, or Partners by reason of any use covered by this permit. “Take” shall have the same meaning as Fish and Wildlife Code section 86 defines that term.
4. This permit does not create an easement or right-of-way for CDFW or Partners over the Property.
5. The term of the permit shall start on the date below and expire on December 31, 2025.
6. This permit may be amended only by mutual agreement by CDFW and the Owner.
7. CDFW or the Owner may cancel this permit on 30 days written notice to the other party.

By: 
Derek Acomb, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

By: _____ Date: _____
Full name Owner/authorized rep. signature

_____ Preferred: email
Email Primary phone Secondary phone (circle) phone

Primary contact, if different from owner: _____
Full name

_____ Preferred: email
Email Primary phone Secondary phone (circle) phone

Special requests or property access instructions (continue on back):

I would like to receive an annual email update about program activities and progress.

**Please return this form in the enclosed envelope, or scan and email to coho@ucsd.edu, as soon as possible.
Thank you!**