

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON THE USFWS REPORT ON COLEMAN NFH FALL CHINOOK
RELEASES, TRUCKING, AND DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) has reviewed the USFWS Report to the Habitat Committee on Coleman NFH Fall Chinook Releases, Trucking, and Drought Conditions in the Central Valley. The SAS strongly urges the Council to request that the USFWS use every means necessary to expedite the survival of Fall Chinook smolts produced by the Coleman National Fish Hatchery in this critically dry year. We support the trucking of smolts to an appropriate site below the principal diversion points from the Sacramento River into the Delta.

In addition, we urge the USFWS to develop consistent policy that will determine Coleman National Fish Hatchery release strategies based on drought forecasts, flow criteria and water temperatures. Those strategies should be designed to maximize survival to adulthood and genetic integrity while minimizing , straying issues. The SAS believes, however, that reducing hatchery smolt survival during extreme drought conditions merely for the sake of genetic integrity is not wise policy.