



## **NOAA FISHERIES**

West Coast Region

## Species in the Spotlight:

Sacramento River Winter-Run Chinook Salmon





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Species in the Spotlight: Sacramento River Winter-Run Chinook Salmon

The Sacramento River Winter-Run salmon is one of NOAA Fisheries' Species in the Spotlight.

## Background

Chinook salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha) are an iconic Part
California's natural heritage that must be preserved in order to ensure
the economic and recreational wellbeing of future generations.
Millions of wild salmon once returned to spawn in the foothills and
mountains of California's Central Valley. Streams fed by rainfall,
snowmelt, and cold water springs encircled the valley, fostering a
diversity and abundance of Chinook salmon. The endangered
Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon are particularly
important among California's salmon runs because they exhibit a lifehistory strategy found nowhere else on the West Coast. These
Chinook salmon are unique in that they spawn during the summer
months when air temperatures usually approach their warmest.

As a result, winter-run Chinook salmon require stream reaches with



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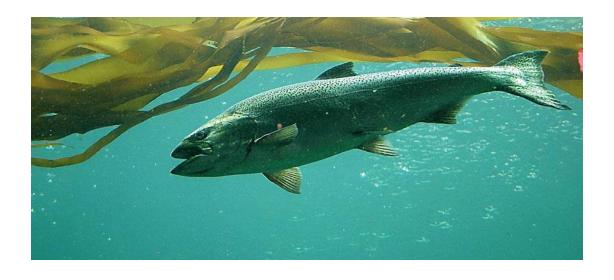
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http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/stories/2015/09/spotlight\_chinook\_salmon.html