



Home	Bill Information	California Law	Publications	Other Resources	My Subscriptions	My Favorites
------	------------------	----------------	--------------	-----------------	------------------	--------------

AB-809 Salmonid populations: California Monitoring Program. (2023-2024)

SHARE THIS:  

Date Published: 10/10/2023 09:00 PM

Assembly Bill No. 809

CHAPTER 455

An act to add Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 6950) to Part 1 of Division 6 of the Fish and Game Code, relating to salmon.

[Approved by Governor October 08, 2023. Filed with Secretary of State October 08, 2023.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 809, Bennett. Salmonid populations: California Monitoring Program.

Existing law requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife to contract with the University of California to conduct a study on the effects that reduced waterflows at the mouths and upstream estuaries of certain rivers would have on salmon and steelhead populations and restoration or reintroduction programs, subject to the availability of funds. Additionally, the Salmon, Steelhead Trout, and Anadromous Fisheries Program Act, among other things, requires the department, with the advice of specified committees, to prepare and maintain a detailed and comprehensive program for the protection and increase of salmon, steelhead trout, and anadromous fisheries.

This bill would require the department to establish the California Monitoring Program to collect comprehensive data on anadromous salmonid populations, in coordination with relevant agencies, as defined, to inform salmon and steelhead recovery, conservation, and management activities. The bill would authorize the department to consult with local agencies, tribes, conservation organizations, and academic institutions to carry out monitoring efforts under the program.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) Due to water damming and diversions, habitat degradation, climate change, and aridification, California salmon and steelhead populations have declined dramatically and have completely disappeared from many streams. Most of California's anadromous salmonid species are listed under the California Endangered Species Act (Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 2050) of Division 3) and the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. Sec. 1531 et seq.).

(b) Salmon and steelhead trout have high cultural, ecologic, economic, nutritional, and recreational value. They are critical to ecosystem health, and human communities depend on salmon and steelhead trout for both protein and income. Salmon also figure centrally in the worldview and daily life of indigenous people.

(c) The Coastal Monitoring Program was created in 2011 by the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the federal National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service to provide comprehensive data on endangered anadromous

fish populations to inform agency species status reviews, state and federal recovery plan implementation, and management activities. The program is currently expanding to include the anadromous rivers of the Central Valley and is now referred to as the California Monitoring Program.

(d) The California Monitoring Program provides critical data to ensure that the hundreds of millions of dollars invested by the state annually in the recovery of these iconic fish species through watershed and fishery restoration grant programs are invested strategically and effectively.

SEC. 2. Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 6950) is added to Part 1 of Division 6 of the Fish and Game Code, to read:

CHAPTER 9. California Monitoring Program

6950. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Local agencies" means local agencies that have a role in the conservation, restoration, and management of salmonid species.

(b) "Program" means the California Monitoring Program established pursuant to this chapter.

(c) "Relevant agencies" means state and federal agencies that have a role in the conservation, restoration, and management of salmonid species.

(d) "Tribe" has the same meaning as defined in Section 1452.

6951. The department shall establish the California Monitoring Program to collect comprehensive data on anadromous salmonid populations, in coordination with relevant agencies, to inform salmon and steelhead recovery, conservation, and management activities. The department may consult with local agencies, tribes, conservation organizations, and academic institutions to carry out monitoring efforts under the program.