

Bringing Salmon Home

Eel River Dam Removal



By Hilanea Wilkinson, Wiyot Tribal Member





Fren Bridge Mackay-En River
Flooded Feb. 2nd 1915

Lucky's Postcards



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Humboldt Art Co

Territorial, Humboldt Co.



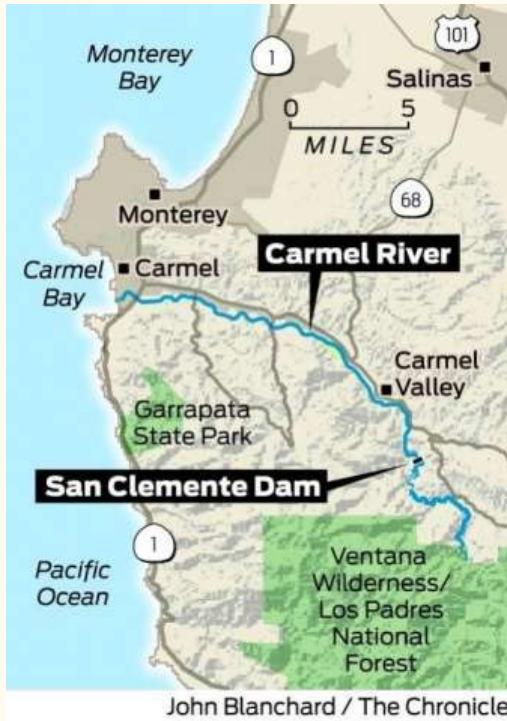
Eel River Dams

- ❖ Scott dam built in 1922 ➡
- ❖ Cape horn dam built in 1908



- ★ Historical records suggest the chinook salmon runs were about 100,000-800,000 fish per year.
- ★ In the first half of the 20th century the runs were only 50,000- 100,000 fish per year

San Clemente Dam



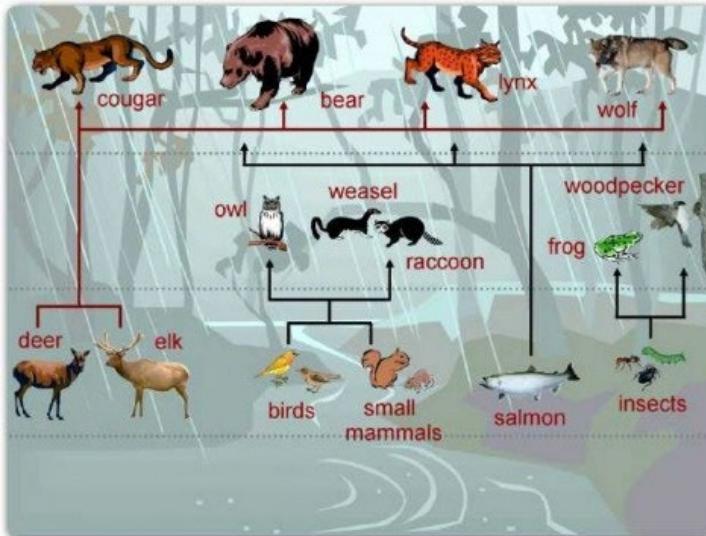
Carmel River, between the Big Sur hills and the beach front town of Carmel.



First dam removal project in CA history

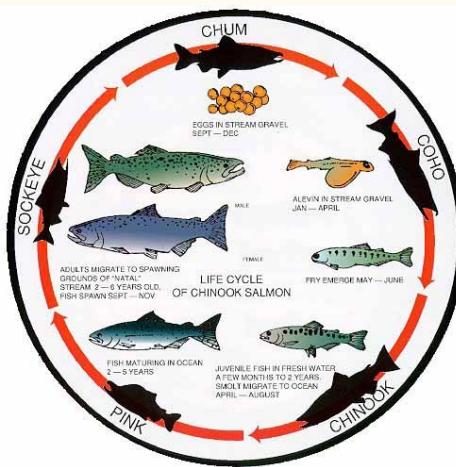
Built in 1921-Removed in 2016

Fish are returning already. So far this year 123 steelhead have traveled upriver.



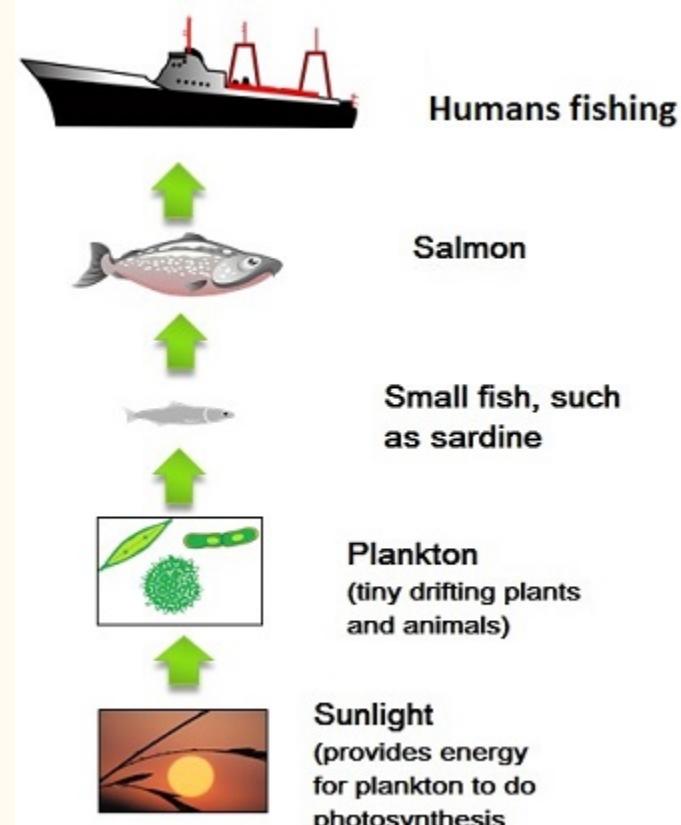
Humans are not the only animals that benefit from the salmon.

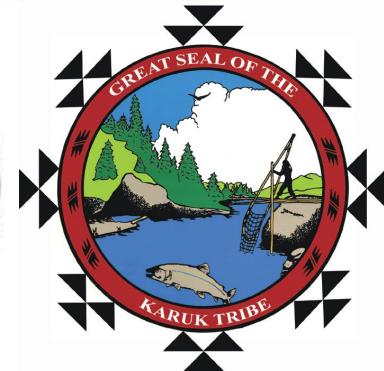
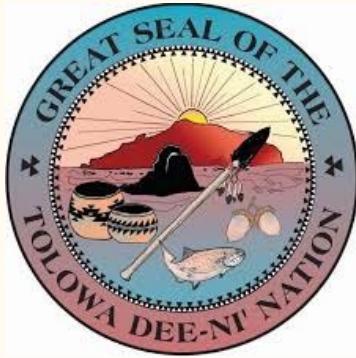
When a fish dies in the water the small fish and parasites eat the carcass



Other mammals require the fish to survive. (bear, raccoon, fox, seal)

Scavengers and waterfowl also benefit from the salmon





- Water is important in any tribe
- Salmon is a staple for everyone around here
- Water and animals are sacred
- There are Salmon Ceremonies

Native Tribes

We take what we need and do not waste anything



Giving Back



The salmon ceremony in spring. The tribes would place the salmon in a pit with leaves and cook it. When the fish is almost done someone runs it into the mountains to finish the cooking and leaves it there. This is a way to give thanks to the earth and bring the salmon back the next year.

The Return

Removing the dams after several generations means we can help the river heal and prosper. The return of the salmon would greatly benefit every person in California. Not just the tribes and commercial fishing. It would mean a healthier ecosystem and animals around the waterways.

The way the river is deteriorating is causing experts to hypothesise the extinction of some salmonid species within 50 years.



