# Update on Dutch Bill Creek fish populations





University of California Sea Grant Extension Program

## UC Cooperative Extension and CA Sea Grant





#### Program Goal:

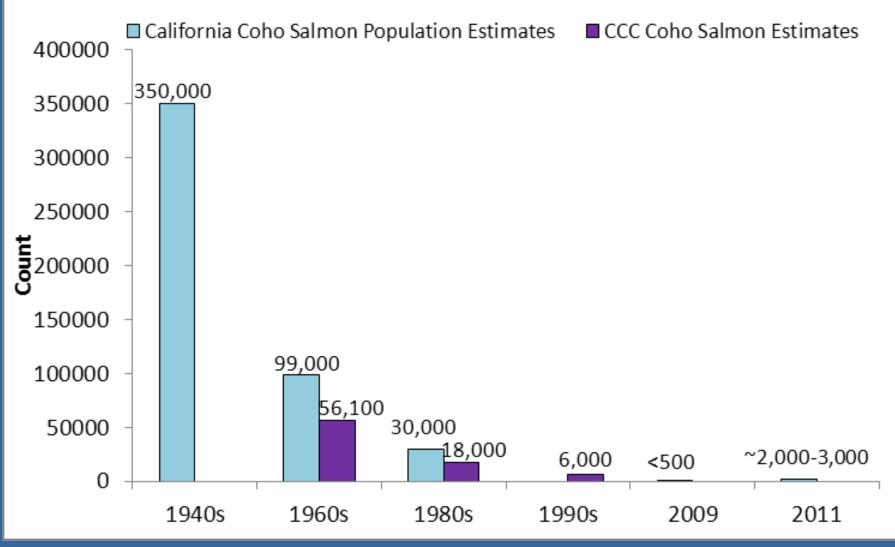
UC CE

Conduct monitoring and research to support salmon and steelhead recovery in the Russian River watershed

- Captive Broodstock
  Program
- CA Coastal Monitoring
  Program

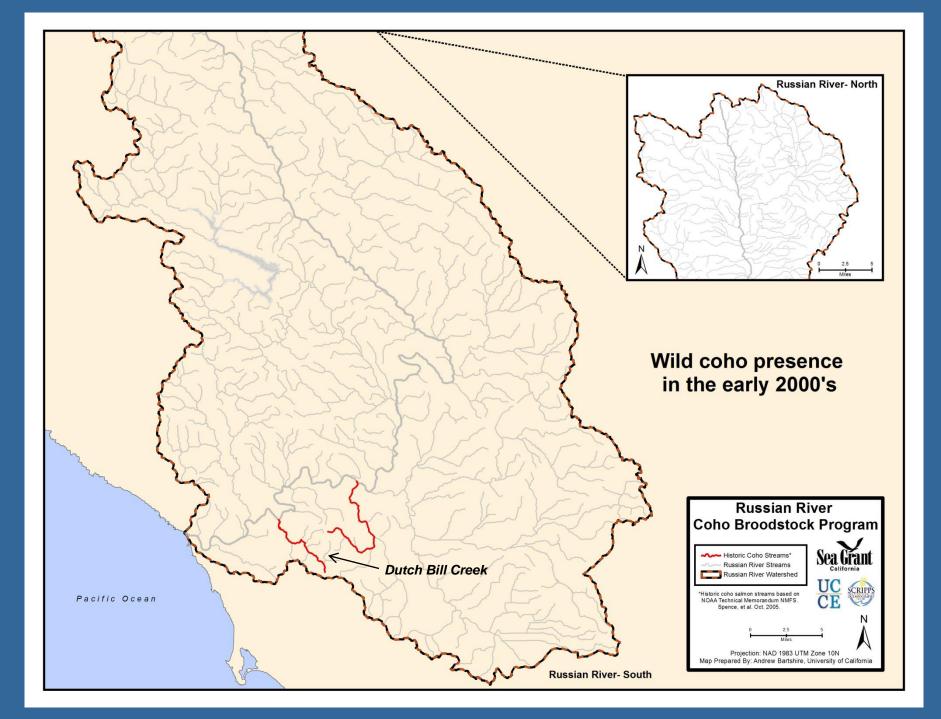
- Coho Partnership
- Fish use of habitat
  enhancement projects

### Decline of coho salmon



Source: NOAA fisheries, 2012





Russian River Coho Salmon Captive Broodstock Program

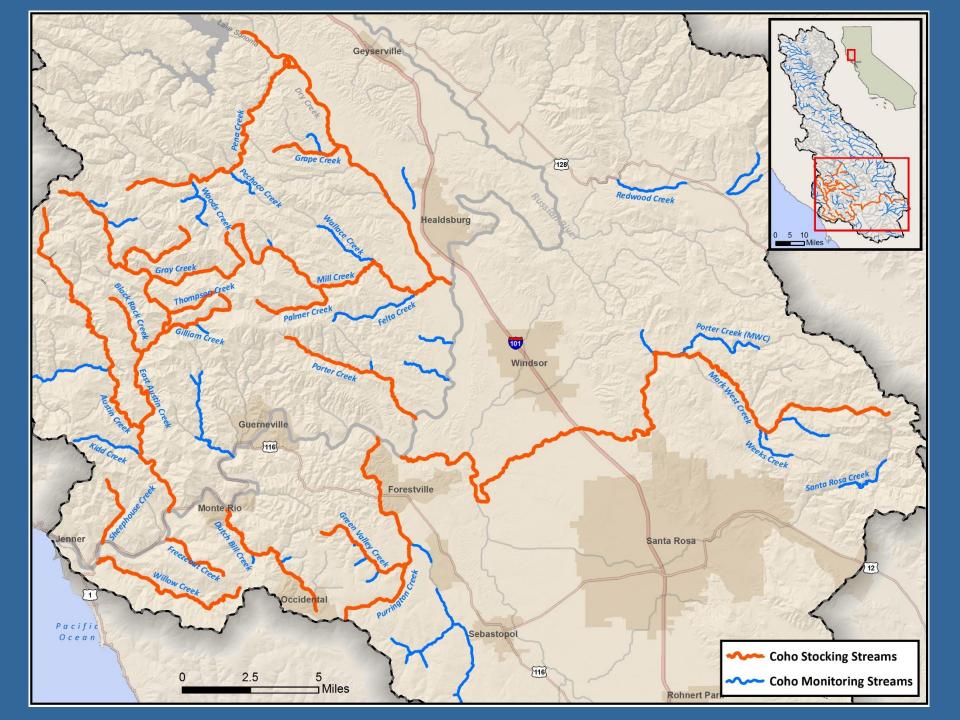
 Extinction of coho salmon in the Russian River basin imminent without immediate intervention

 In 2001, state and federal agencies collaborated with local organizations to create captive broodstock program

 Program Goal: Re-establish self-sustaining runs of native coho salmon in historic coho streams







#### Adult spawner surveys



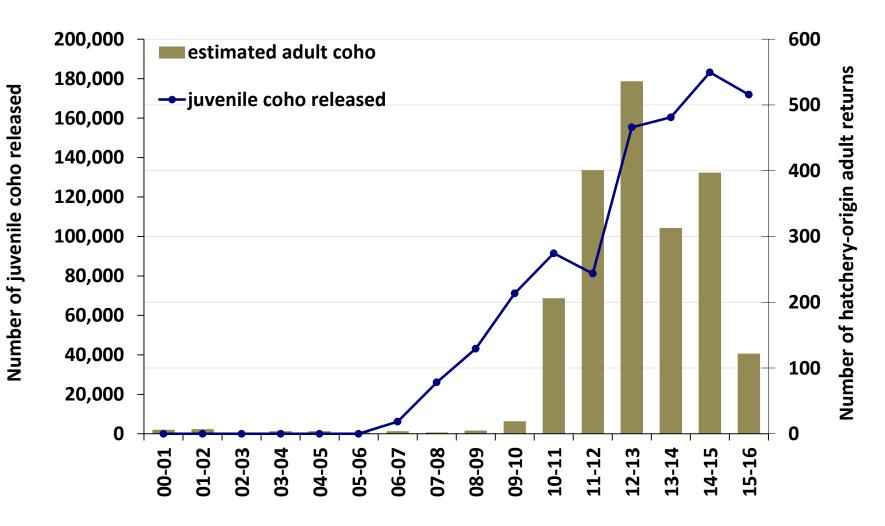


Juvenile snorkel surveys

Downstream migrant smolt trapping

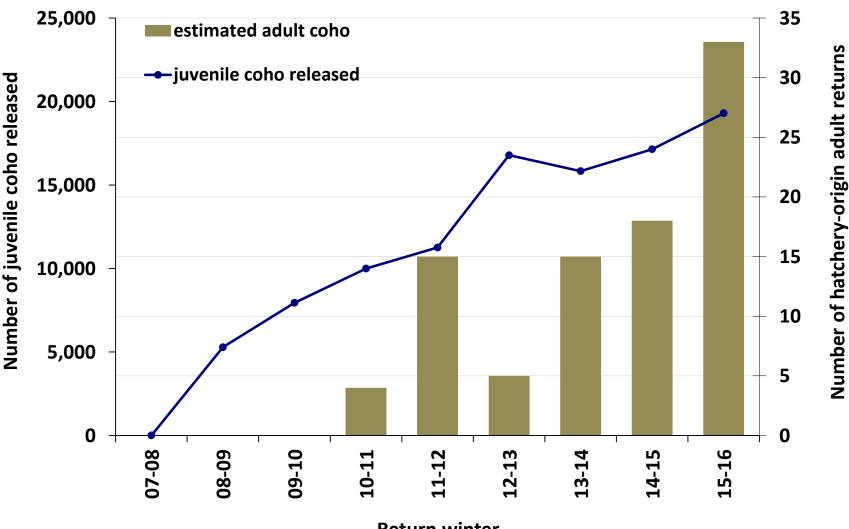


## Juvenile releases and corresponding adult coho returns to the Russian River basin



**Return winter** 

#### Juvenile releases and corresponding adult coho returns to Dutch Bill Creek



**Return winter** 

### Dutch Bill Creek juvenile presence



#### <u>Summer 2015</u>:

estimated 1,300 wild coho (13% of basinwide total)



### Low summer streamflow: bottleneck to survival



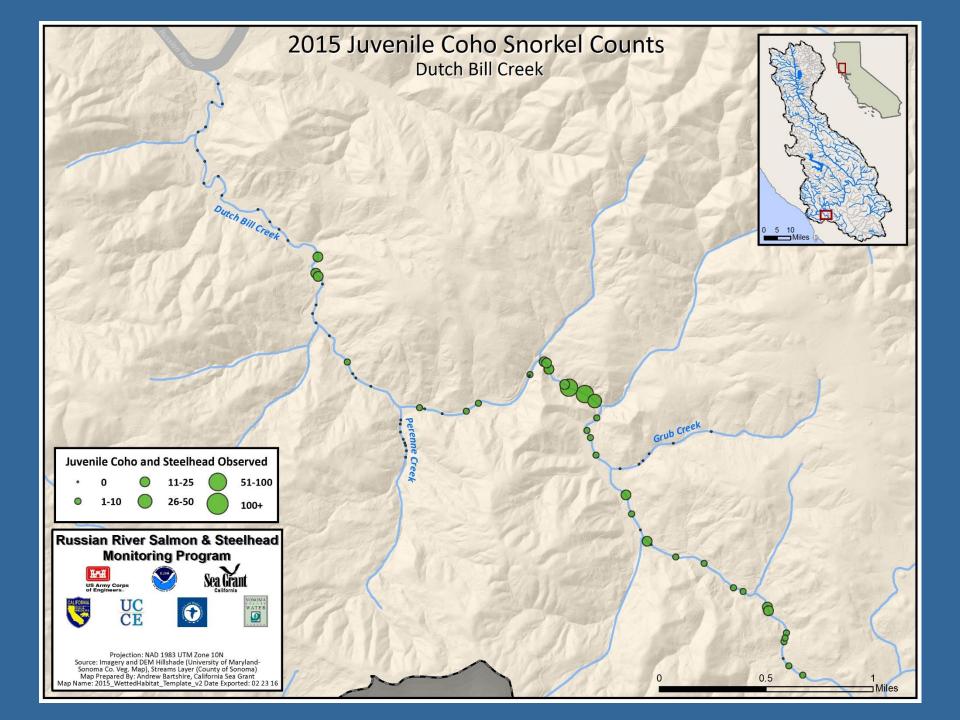


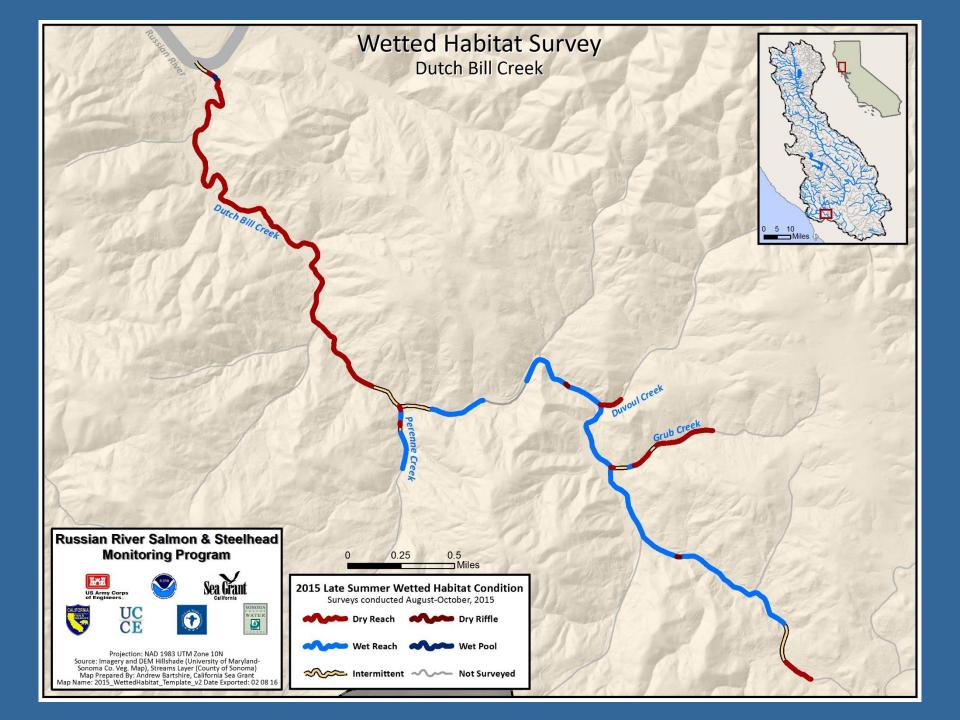


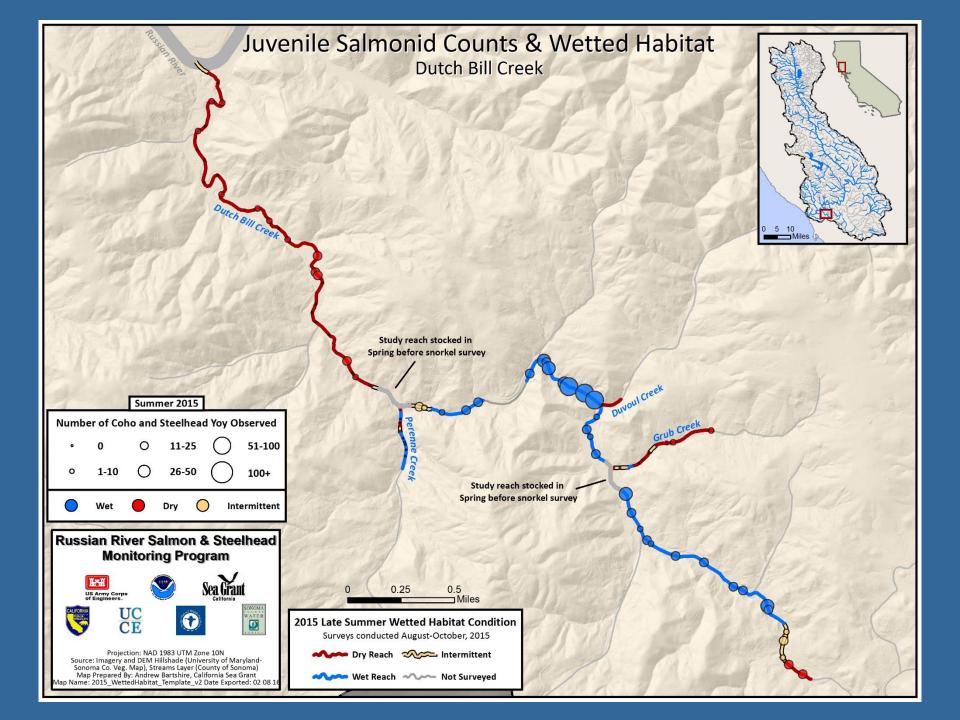
Lower study reach in June



Lower study reach in September

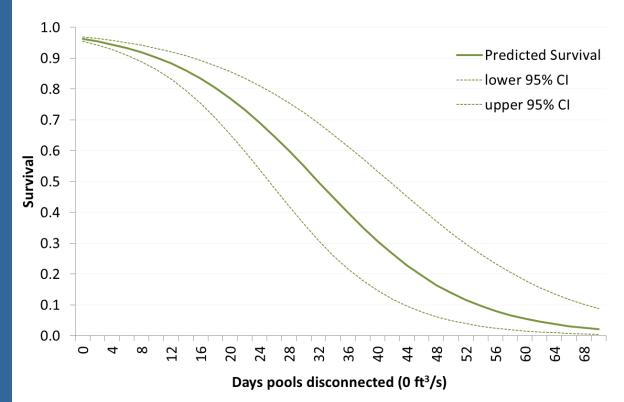


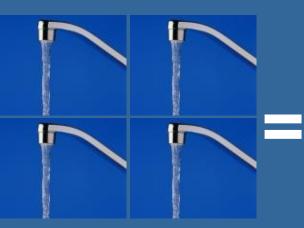




### Keeping pools connected is KEY

only a very small amount of water is needed







#### Survival and Flow: Green Valley reference reach 2010-2013



## ca-sgep/ucsd.edu/RussianRiverCoho