

FishNet 4C Goals for County Policies, Projects and Planning To Protect and Restore Anadromous Salmon

From the report: *Effects of County Land Use Policies and Management Practices on Anadromous Salmonids and Their Habitat*. Harris, R. R. , S. Kocher, and K. Kull. UC Berkeley Department; Environmental Science, Policy and Management. Jan. 2001.

- 1) **Critical Fish Streams-** Identify and map anadromous fish streams and tributaries throughout each county and make this information available to County staff. Develop a county strategy for prioritizing fishery protection and restoration actions within individual watersheds and throughout the county.
- 2) **Coastal Zone Protections-** Extend coastal zone resource protection policies to non-coastal areas of the counties where applicable and feasible. These policies should include wetland and riparian protection, sensitive habitat protection and grading and erosion control.
- 3) **Riparian Buffers-** Establish riparian protection areas to protect stream function, wherein new development is prohibited. Where feasible, define these areas on the basis of geomorphic floodplain rather than vegetation, recent flooding or arbitrary distances from streams. Enforce protection provisions with implementation ordinances. Develop policies and promote alternative designs that minimize the number of variances issued for riparian set-backs. Seek funds to purchase property or easements in cases where riparian protections make parcels unbuildable.
- 4) **Bank Stabilization-** Promote alternatives to conventional bank stabilization for public and private projects and require evaluation of alternatives through the County permit process. Consider a review procedure in the form of a post implementation audit to see how projects were done. Address cumulative effects of channel hardening in this review.
- 5) **Grading and Erosion Control-** Develop grading and erosion control standards supported by ordinances to minimize sediment impacts to anadromous streams. Provide adequate staff to enforce grading and erosion control ordinances.
- 6) **Wintertime Grading-** Minimize winter grading. Improve enforcement to eliminate impacts of wintertime grading. Emphasize erosion control measures over sediment control.
- 7) **Watershed Groups-** Counties should support and be active members of multi-stakeholder groups working on watershed issues. Identify County staff to participate in these collaborative processes.
- 8) **Instream Flows-** Support efforts and develop county programs to protect and increase instream flows for anadromous fish. County efforts could include base flow

monitoring, protesting water rights, and working with water districts on conservation issues. Where appropriate, Counties should participate in regional water management planning. Counties should also have policies to minimize impervious surfaces and promote surface water retention. Counties could require CEQA review for large wells. Counties should condition development which would divert or store surface water, on the applicants having received appropriate rights from the State Water Resources Control Board.

- 9) **Roads-** County Public Works, Parks and Open Space Districts, should inventory, evaluate and fix problem roads which systematically contribute sediment into critical coho streams. Counties should develop a program or policies for identifying especially unsuitable existing development, infrastructure and road segments affecting anadromous fish streams. Consider options and opportunities for restoring or gradually eliminating them.
- 10) **Lagoon Breaching-** Evaluate lagoon breaching policies where it is conducted within each county. If warranted by study findings, adopt policies and implementation procedures that mitigate impacts to anadromous fish.
- 11) **Road Maintenance Standards-** Develop and adopt written standards for county road management practices, under both routine and emergency conditions. These standards should include guidelines for road maintenance and construction that minimize sedimentation and runoff impacts, and address storage and disposal of spoils, stream crossings, culvert diversion potential, fish passage, and landslide and slope repair. County staff should participate in trainings for the implementation of roads, culverts and maintenance practice standards, developed to minimize impacts to the fishery.
- 12) **Emergency Projects-** Review how storm-damage related road, culvert, and bank stabilization projects were installed under emergency conditions, compared to non-emergency installations.
- 13) **Spoils Storage-** Establish adequate spoils storage sites throughout the counties so that material from landslides and road maintenance can be stored safely away from anadromous streams. Coordinate these efforts with CalTrans.
- 14) **Channel and Riparian Corridor Clearing-** Reduce native riparian vegetation clearing and sediment removal adjacent to and in anadromous fish streams. Retain large woody debris within streams to the extent possible. When woody material is removed it should be stored and made available for stream enhancement projects.
- 15) **Fish Migration Barriers-** Develop a program to identify, evaluate and prioritize County facilities that are barriers to salmonid migration. Develop a systematic program to seek funding for replacement of these identified fish passage barriers. Commit to sending county staff to trainings on fish passage guidelines and culvert design according to new NMFS and CDFG standards.