

Protecting Fish

More than two decades ago, implementation of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) began, bringing about a new era of fish passage improvement. Under the CVPIA, the Anadromous Fish Screen Program (AFSP) was created, which authorized federal funding for fish passage and fish screen projects. These contributions to the fish screen projects were matched with local and state funding.

Fish protected through this program include:



Chinook Salmon



Steelhead Trout

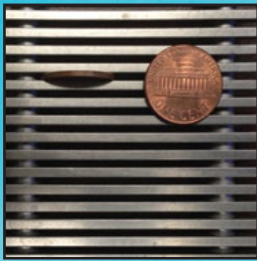


Green Sturgeon



White Sturgeon

A fish screen creates a barrier between the fish in the river and the pumps used to divert water.



Screens are constructed with gaps small enough (not much larger than the thickness of a penny) that not even the egg of an endangered or threatened species of fish could make it through.

In addition to fish screens, other projects have been constructed in the Sacramento Valley to improve safe fish migration. This includes siphons to convey water and sophisticated barriers (such as the Knights Landing Outfall Gates and Wallace Weir projects) to keep adult salmon in the river as they migrate upstream.

Size

The recently constructed Natomas Mutual Water Company screen is **158 feet long**. The Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District fish screen is **1,100 feet long, or almost a quarter mile in length**.

water pumps

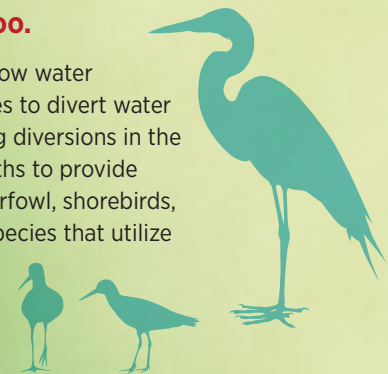
intake

The LARGER the pumps, the LARGER the fish screen.

This ensures that water moving through a screen does so no faster than **one foot every three seconds**, thereby creating no chance that even the smallest juvenile salmon would be impinged on a screen or even have its equilibrium disturbed if it is swimming by a diversion that is pumping at maximum capacity.

Birds Benefit, Too.

Fish screens also allow water management entities to divert water year-round, allowing diversions in the fall and winter months to provide habitat for the waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors and other species that utilize the Pacific Flyway.



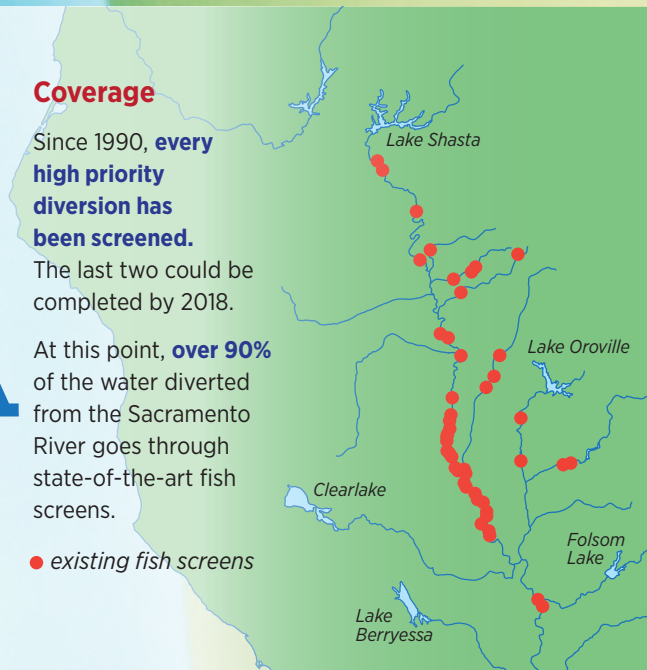
Coverage

Since 1990, **every high priority diversion has been screened**.

The last two could be completed by 2018.

At this point, **over 90%** of the water diverted from the Sacramento River goes through state-of-the-art fish screens.

● existing fish screens



NCWA
Northern California Water Association

www.norcalwater.org