



Coleman National Fish Hatchery

Pacific Southwest Region



Quick Hatchery Facts

- Coleman National Fish Hatchery is located on 75 acres in California's Shasta County, along the north bank of Battle Creek, about three miles east of the Sacramento River.
- Each year Coleman produces 14 million juvenile fish known as smolts. This includes 12 million fall Chinook salmon smolts, one million late-fall Chinook smolts, 600,000 steelhead smolts.
- Coleman was established in 1942 to mitigate for habitat loss after the construction of Shasta and Keswick dams.
- Largest salmon hatchery in the U.S.
- Largest ozone water treatment plant for aquaculture in the world.
- 20 employees work at the hatchery facility.
- The hatchery is a major contributor of adult salmon and steelhead to California's multimillion dollar commercial and recreational fishery.
- Each year more than 50,000 visitors tour the hatchery. Volunteers provide tours for hundreds of school groups.

Did You Know?

Five kinds of salmon live in rivers along the Pacific coast: chinook, coho, sockeye, pink and chum. Steelhead are a kind of rainbow trout that migrate to the ocean, like salmon.

Salmon live part of their lives in freshwater and part of their lives in the ocean.

Salmon hatch in a stream (or hatchery), live there for several months, and then swim to the ocean where they mature. They then migrate back to where they were born to lay their eggs.

As salmon migrate from the ocean to their home streams, their color and shape change. Males get hooked jaws with sharp teeth. Both males and females change color during spawning.

When they're living in the ocean, salmon eat and store up fat for their return to their spawning grounds. Once salmon enter freshwater they no longer feed.

When a female is ready to lay her eggs, the male salmon moves alongside her and fertilizes them. This is known as spawning. All salmon and most steelhead die after they spawn.

Young salmon that can swim and catch their own food are known as fry. In spring they turn silvery and they begin their migration to the ocean. At this point they are known as smolts.

Chinook salmon are the largest of any salmon, with adults often exceeding 40 pounds. However, Chinook weighing more than 120 pounds have been reported! Chinook mature at about 36 inches and 30 pounds.

There are different seasonal "runs" (spring, summer, fall, or winter) in the migration of Chinook salmon from the ocean to freshwater, even within a single river system. These runs are identified based on when adult Chinook enter freshwater to begin their spawning migration. However, distinct runs also differ in the degree of maturation at the time

of river entry, the temperature and flow characteristics of their spawning site, and their actual time of spawning. Freshwater entry and spawning timing are believed to be related to local temperature and water flow.

Adult female Chinook will prepare a redd (or nest) in a stream area with suitable gravel, water depth and velocity. The adult female Chinook may deposit eggs in four to five "nesting pockets" within a single redd. Spawning sites have larger gravel and more water flow up through the gravel than the sites used by other Pacific salmon. After laying eggs in a redd, adult Chinook will guard the redd from just a few days to nearly a month before dying.

Salmon Qs & As

Q: If salmon are endangered, why can I still buy salmon at the grocery store?

A: Much of the salmon at the grocery store is Atlantic salmon raised on farms in the U.S., Canada, and Chile. Most wild salmon for sale comes from Alaska, where runs are relatively healthy and habitat is functioning fairly well.

Q. What do salmon eat?

A. What a salmon eats depends on age, species, and location. When salmon are young and still in freshwater they eat tiny zooplankton and adult invertebrates. However, this

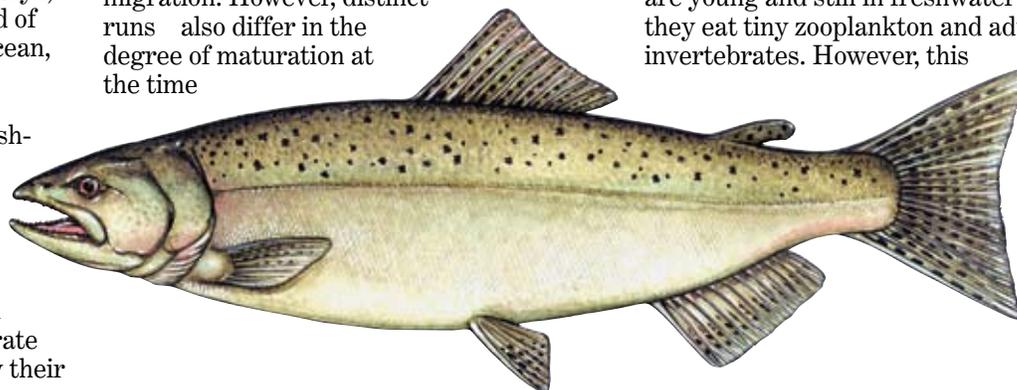


Illustration by Ted Walke Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission; used by permission

varies among species. For instance, young coho salmon typically feed during the day and prefer aquatic insects at the surface of a stream, such as, mayflies, caddis flies, and stoneflies. The young chinook salmon prefers plankton off the river floor, as well as, terrestrial insects and small crustaceans. Another food source for a young salmon is found on overhanging riparian plants. Larvae and insects feeding on this vegetation often fall into the stream adding to a salmon's diet.

As a salmon matures and eventually leaves the freshwater for the ocean, their diet may change. While chum and sockeye salmon prefer to continue eating zooplankton and occasionally other small adult fish, other species begin to eat larger fish and aquatic insects. This includes shrimp, surf smelt, sand lance, crab, herring, amphipods, and krill.

When a salmon returns to freshwater to spawn, feeding efforts virtually stop to conserve energy for the journey upstream, producing eggs, and digging a nest (redd).

Q: Where can I see salmon ?

A: There are many locations to see salmon, both at the hatcheries and in their natural surroundings. The Coleman National Fish Hatchery in Anderson hosts thousands of visitors each year.

On the third Saturday in October, more than 10,000 people come to the hatchery to attend the Return of the Salmon Festival. Festival goers can see chinook salmon returning to Battle Creek and the hatchery.

For festival information call (530) 365-8622 or visit us online at: www.fws.gov/coleman.

Q: How many fish return to the Coleman National Fish Hatchery each year?

A: About one percent of the released hatchery fish return to Battle Creek.

Most of these come back to the hatchery. However, some may spawn in the creek and others die before completing their journey.

Learn more: www.fws.gov/coleman

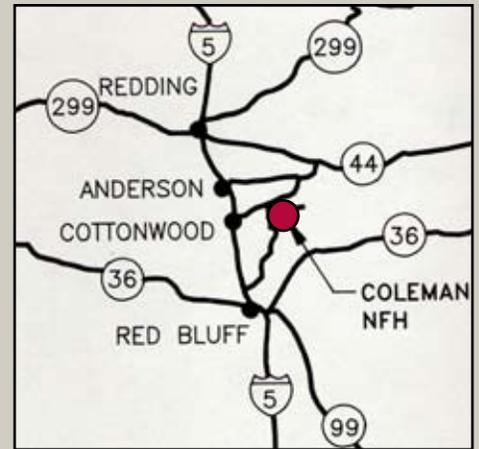
Hatchery Driving Directions

From Redding Municipal Airport

- On the airport exit road turn left onto Airport Road and go 2.9 mi. (you will be going toward Anderson). Turn left on Stingy Lane (just past the 7-eleven store).
- Proceed down Stingy Lane 2.4 mi. Stingy Lane turns into Balls Ferry, stay on Balls Ferry until the intersection with Deschutes Road, turn left on Deschutes.
- Stay on Deschutes for 400 ft. and turn right, again onto Balls Ferry Road. From this point on brown "Coleman" signs are located prior to intersections leading to the hatchery.
- Stay on Balls Ferry Road for 3 miles and turn left on Ash Creek Road.
- Stay on Ash Creek for 1.2 miles and turn right onto Gover Road.
- Stay on Gover Road for 1.5 miles and turn left onto Coleman Fish Hatchery Road (there is a left bend in the road prior to this intersection).
- Stay on Coleman Fish road for about 2 miles, the hatchery is on the right.

Traveling North on I-5

- Take the Jellys Ferry Road exit north of Red Bluff and at the end of the exit ramp turn right.
- Proceed 14.1 miles and turn right onto Coleman Fish Hatchery Road (brown sign at intersection).
- Proceed approximately 2 miles the hatchery is on the right side of the road with a big brown sign in front.



Traveling South on I-5

- Take the Deschutes exit (Factory Outlet Drive) and turn left at the end of the exit ramp. You will go under I-5 and after stopping at the stop sign, you will continue on Deschutes approximately 2 miles and turn right onto Balls Ferry Road (you will see a brown sign).
- Stay on Balls Ferry Road for 3 miles and turn left on Ash Creek Road.
- Stay on Ash Creek for 1.2 miles and turn right onto Gover Road.
- Stay on Gover Road for 1.5 miles and turn left onto Coleman Fish Hatchery Road (there is a left bend in the road prior to this intersection).
- Stay on Coleman Fish road for approx. 2 miles the hatchery is on the right side of the road with a big brown sign in front.

Still need help finding Coleman National Fish Hatchery?

- Call the hatchery staff at: (530) 365-8622.
- The hatchery is open for self guided tours daily from 7:30 a.m. to dusk.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

www.fws.gov