



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

CA-NV Fish Health Center
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Memorandum

DATE: June 1, 2026

TO: Klamath Fish Health Monitoring Team 2026

FROM: Ron Stone, Project Leader – CA-NV Fish Health Center

The California-Nevada Fish Health Center (Center) works collaboratively with the Service's Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office (AFWO) and the Karuk and Yurok tribes to monitor the prevalence of *Ceratonova shasta* infections in juvenile salmon in the Klamath River. The Center coordinates this annual monitoring project, provides laboratory support, and generates an annual summary report for the study. AFWO and tribal biologists are responsible for collecting fish samples for the Center.

For the 2026 outmigration season, the Center will strive to provide Quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction (QPCR) testing of juvenile Chinook salmon collected in a time-sensitive manner. The goal is to provide stratified estimates of *C. shasta* prevalence of infection (POI) and DNA copy number to managers on a regular basis during the outmigration season.

Prevalence of infection is the measure used in medicine and epidemiology to define individuals affected by a disease at a particular point in time, within a given sample set. Also known as Point Prevalence, it describes the proportion (percentage) of a group that has the condition (infection) at a specific point in time. The quantity of parasite DNA (DNA copy number) is provided, when applicable, to evaluate the parasite load within the fish.

In 2026, a new rotary screw trap (RST) was installed at the old Iron Gate Dam location. The Fish Health Center will be reporting this site as K6 - Stateline to Iron Gate Dam (this spatial definition is subject to change as additional sampling sites are incorporated into the upper river in future years).

To date, QPCR testing has been performed on fish collected from March 17 through May 12 in the upper reaches from Stateline to the Scott River (K6 - K4 reaches). Fish have been collected between the Scott River and the Trinity River confluence (K3 and K2 reaches), however testing is still pending.

- The first *C. shasta* detection occurred in fish collected April 2 in the K4 reach.
- Overall, *Ceratonova shasta* has been detected in 46% (319/696) of fish tested.
- Infection over 3 logs (Cs2 rating associated with mortality) 18% (57/319)

All data is preliminary and subject to revision prior to the final review and annual report.

Table 1. Weekly-stratified prevalence of infection (POI) of *Ceratonova shasta* in juvenile Chinook salmon captured in the Stateline to Iron Gate reach (K6), Iron Gate Dam to Shasta River reach (K5) and the Shasta River to Scott River reach (K4).

<i>Reach</i>	<i>Date Collected</i>	<i>Number Sampled</i>	<i>Number Cs Positive</i>	<i>Cs POI</i>	<i>DNA copy number over 3 logs</i>
K6	3/25/206	30	0	0%	n/a
	4/2/2026	30	0	0%	n/a
	4/7/2026	30	0	0%	n/a
	4/15/2026	30	21	70%	7%
	4/21/206	30	30	100%	23%
	5/6/2026	30	25	83%	60%
K5	3/17/2026	30	0	0%	n/a
	3/25/206	30	0	0%	n/a
	3/31/2026	30	0	0%	n/a
	4/6/2026	30	1	3%	n/a
	4/15/2026	30	28	93%	7%
	4/21/2026	30	29	97%	47%
	4/28/2026	36	24	67%	47%
	5/7/2026	30	29	97%	60%
	5/12/2026	30	29	97%	27%
K4	3/20/2026	30	0	0%	n/a
	3/24/206	30	0	0%	n/a
	4/2/2026	30	1	3%	3%
	4/10/2026	30	3	10%	n/a
	4/17/2026	30	14	47%	20%
	4/24/2026	30	28	93%	50%
	4/28/2026	30	30	100%	47%
	5/7/2026	30	27	90%	20%
TOTAL		696	319		

Table 2. Comparison of 2025 vs 2026 *Ceratonova shasta* sampling data and qPCR results March to May in juvenile Chinook salmon.

YEAR	Total Sampled	Total Positive	% POI	Over 3 logs (Cs2)
2025 (3/19/2025 – 5/2/2025)	176	39	22%	0%
2026 (3/20/2026 – 5/12/206)	696	319	46%	18%