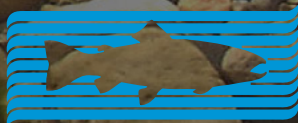


CALIFORNIA TROUT



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RINDGE DAM REMOVAL

Southern Steelhead

Mission Creek, Photo: Mark H. Capelli

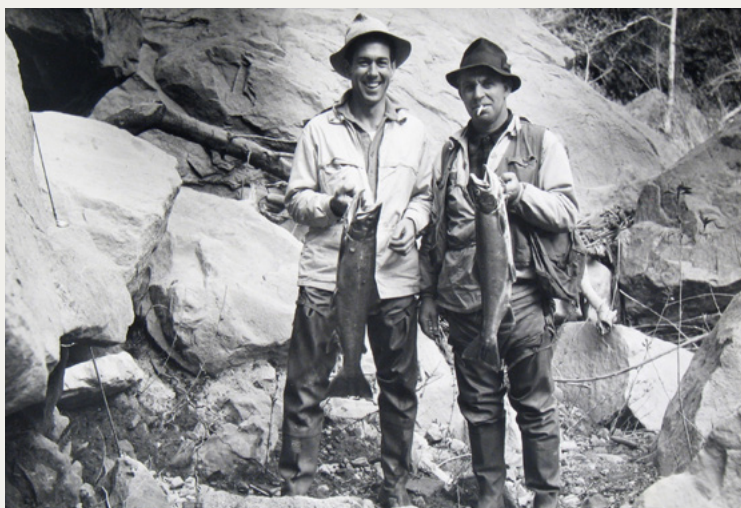
Southern Steelhead: Keystone Species of Malibu Creek with a 10,000-Year History

The Southern California steelhead, or Southern steelhead, is an oceangoing form of rainbow trout.

- They are the southernmost steelhead in the world. Their range is over 11,580 square miles, from the Santa Maria River in San Luis Obispo County to the Tijuana River on the U.S.-Mexico border.
- In the 19th century, the Santa Ynez River supported runs between 20,000-30,000 adults per year. Other watersheds likely supported smaller runs.
- In Malibu Creek, historic photographs and verbal accounts indicate that steelhead were present in the watershed.

The Southern steelhead faces multiple threats.

- Despite their historic abundance, human development, drought, and climate change impacted their habitat in the 20th and 21st centuries.
- Barriers such as Rindge Dam have blocked their access to creeks and streams, and their estuaries have been degraded.



Malibu Creek Steelhead, 1946.



Rindge Dam. Photo: Mike Wier.

The Southern steelhead's recovery requires access to critical habitat.

- In 1997, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) listed Southern steelhead as endangered.
- In 2012, NMFS designated Malibu Creek as a high priority recovery river in the Southern California Steelhead Recovery Plan.
- The Recovery Plan identified removal of Rindge Dam as critical to meet population and viability criteria of the Santa Monica Mountains population.
- Rindge Dam is a total barrier to steelhead migration within critical habitat.
- Additional upstream fish passage barriers, such as culverts and smaller dams, are also barriers to migration.

Removal of Rindge Dam and upstream barriers will have a positive impact on their recovery.

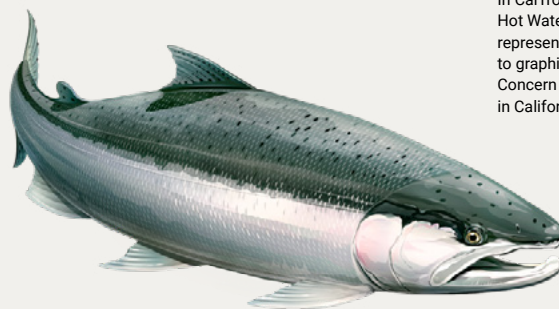
- Even though the Southern steelhead has been listed as endangered since 1997, they remain under threat of extinction within the next 25-50 years.
- Malibu Creek is one of the last remaining streams in Southern California where steelhead can be found.
- Removal of Rindge Dam and remediation or removal of eight upstream barriers will restore access for steelhead to 18 miles of historic spawning and rearing habitat.



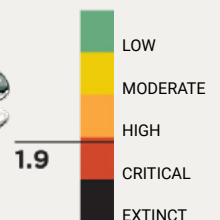
Southern Steelhead. Photo: Mike Wier.

SOUTHERN STEELHEAD *Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*

Level of Concern: **CRITICAL**



In CalTrout's report, SOS II: Fish in Hot Water a scoring bar is used to represent categorizes from 0.0 to 5.0 to graphically represent the Level of Concern for each salmonid in California.



Learn More

Final Integrated Feasibility Report:
spl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Projects-Studies/Malibu-Creek-Study/.

California Trout's Rindge Dam webpage:
caltrout.org/campaigns/rindge-dam/.

SOS II: Fish in Hot Water Report:
caltrout.org/sos.



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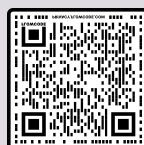


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