

Assemblymember Steve Bennett

38th Assembly District



AB 809: California Monitoring Program

SUMMARY

The California Monitoring Program (CMP), previously known as the Coastal Monitoring Program, is an existing program at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) which monitors populations of salmon and steelhead trout and their habitats. AB 809 would codify this program in statute by creating the California Monitoring Program Fund in the California Fish and Game Code.

BACKGROUND

California's wild salmon and steelhead are on the brink of extinction due to habitat degradation, climate change, drought, and migration barriers. Nearly all the state's populations of these species have declined to the point of being listed under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and/or the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). Salmon and steelhead are critical to ecosystem health and human communities depend on them for both protein and income. These species also figure centrally in the worldview and daily life of many indigenous peoples.

Established in 2011, the CMP was created to measure the recovery of endangered anadromous fish species, including Chinook salmon, coho salmon and steelhead, and to guide fishery management. The Program has expanded to include anadromous rivers of the Central Valley. The CMP assesses salmonid viability in selected watersheds along the California coast. Recovery plans for listed species under ESA and CESA require monitoring to measure the progress of the species towards recovery.

The CMP measures viability in four population characteristics: abundance, productivity, spatial structure, and diversity. DFW uses the population and habitat data collected through the CMP to assess the efficacy of investments in habitat protection to make

informed decisions regarding the future of a species' recovery plans.

THIS BILL

AB 809 will codify an existing establish a new ongoing fund, the California Monitoring Program Fund, in the Fish and Game Code to allow the state to appropriate funding directly to this program through the annual budget process. Establishment of the California Monitoring Program Fund will provide a dedicated source of funding to ensure robust, comprehensive, and long-term monitoring of salmonid species. The critical data collected by the CMP will allow the state to make strategic investments in watershed and fishery restoration to effectively support salmon and steelhead recovery.

SUPPORT

CalTrout (Co-Sponsor)
The Nature Conservancy (Co-Sponsor)
Trout Unlimited (Co-Sponsor)

OPPOSITION

None received.

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