



## **News for Immediate Release**

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### **DWR Testing New Technology to Guide Fish to Safety**

#### *Georgiana Slough Floating Barrier Project*

SACRAMENTO – The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is installing a floating, fish-guidance boom to prevent Chinook salmon migrating to the Pacific from taking a dangerous detour into Georgiana Slough near Walnut Grove.

Placid appearing Georgiana Slough leads young salmon through the predator-infested waters of the interior Delta to a dead end at huge state and federal water export pumps.

Studies indicate that 65 percent of the young salmon that enter Georgiana Slough don't survive. Many are eaten by striped bass or other predators, and some are lost to pumping operations of the State Water Project and Central Valley Project in the southern Delta.

Under provisions of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued a 2009 Biological and Conference Opinion (BO) for long-term operations of the State Water Project and Central Valley Project requiring DWR to consider engineering solutions to further reduce the number of young salmon entering into the interior and southern Delta.

DWR staff tested a non-physical Bio Acoustic Fish Fence (BAFF) technology during

studies performed in 2011 and 2012. Observations showed a significant reduction in outmigrating salmonids being routed into Georgiana Slough. The new study will include tagging over 5,500 juvenile Chinook salmon with sensor tags and tracking their positions and interactions with the new fish guidance barrier. The barrier is a floating fish guidance structure that uses a steel panel suspended from floats to change water currents so fish avoid the barrier, and remain in the Sacramento River. This study will evaluate juvenile Chinook salmon survival from the City of Sacramento through the Delta, and how the barrier may improve their chances of making it to the Pacific Ocean. Construction at the project site in Walnut Grove is currently underway, fish releases will start on March 1, and the evaluation will continue through May 2014.

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*The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.*

Contact the [DWR Public Affairs Office](#) for more information about DWR's water activities.