

Drying and Dying

California's Freshwater
Ecosystems in Drought



Sandi Matsumoto
California Water
Program Director







50%

of California's
freshwater plants and
animals are at risk of
extinction



OPINION

   Editorial: The California salmon wipeout is even worse than you think



“Perhaps we can give up the Western monarch butterfly, ... like the winter-run chinook, down to its last few thousand or so individuals... Perhaps we can lose everything that makes California’s natural environment special... It’s all Californians’ watch too, and after the iconic salmon, butterflies and trees, it may be all of us in danger of being wiped out.”

BY THE TIMES EDITORIAL BOARD
JULY 26, 2021 UPDATED 6:14 PM PT



Sections 

sandimats 

National

CALIFORNIA'S DISAPPEARING SALMON

The drought, along with man-made impediments, has placed the state's wild Chinook population at grave risk.

95%

of the historic
wetlands and river
habitat destroyed



What Can We Do?



VOICE OUR VALUES

Ensure *all* people and nature have a voice



PLAN AHEAD

Make hard criteria for hard decisions ahead of drought to enable mitigation measures



WORK TOGETHER

Incentivize collaborative approaches to water management that provide multiple benefits