



NEWS FROM NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fish Passage Restoration Project Completed in Marin County

One of three projects completed in California during the first year of NOAA's Open Rivers Initiative

Representatives from federal, state and local agencies will join NOAA Fisheries Restoration Center at Kent Canyon Creek in Mt. Tomalpais State Park on Nov. 13 to celebrate a joint project designed to restore spawning habitat for salmon and steelhead. The project is one of the first to be completed under NOAA's new Open Rivers Initiative, which provides funding and technical expertise for community-driven, small dam and river barrier removals.

"Kent Canyon Creek is an excellent example of how building community-based partnerships can accomplish conservation projects to restore our river systems," said Patrick Rutten, of the NOAA Restoration Center. "This project was recognized by all the participating agencies as one of the most vital to the survival of coho salmon and steelhead in Marin County."

A large segment of Kent Canyon Creek, a tributary to Redwood Creek, was previously blocked to migratory fish by an undersized culvert installed when the roadway over the creek was initially constructed. The small culvert was replaced by an "open-bottom" arch culvert that creates a larger and more natural channel, opening almost a mile of additional spawning habitat.

This culvert replacement is just part of Marin County's larger anadromous fisheries restoration effort, which intends to restore migratory fish passage at 15 high-priority structures over the next seven to 10 years.

"The Kent Canyon project is a continuation of a decade long commitment on the part of Marin County to restore salmon habitat," said Kallie Kull of the Marin County Fish Passage Program. "It demonstrates a unique partnership between NOAA Fisheries Service, the County of Marin, California State Parks and the Muir Woods National Monument."

Other partners and sponsors for this project include the California Coastal Conservancy, California State Parks, Muir Woods National Monument and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

News media are invited to attend the ceremony beginning at 11:00 a.m. The restoration site is approximately 1.5 miles up Muir Woods Road from Intersection of Muir Beach with Highway One.

NOAA Fisheries Service is dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation's living marine resources and their habitat through scientific research, management and enforcement. NOAA Fisheries Service provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, is celebrating 200 years of science and service to the nation. From the establishment of the Survey of the Coast in 1807 by Thomas Jefferson to the formation of the Weather Bureau and the Commission of Fish and Fisheries in the 1870s, much of America's scientific heritage is rooted in NOAA.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and information service delivery for transportation, and by providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, more than 70 countries and the European Commission to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.

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On the Web:

NOAA Restoration Center: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration>

Before and After Photos:

Before photo: Juvenile coho were found by DFG biologists in the pool just below this barrier, unable to migrate upstream (Sept. 2006):
<http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/media/kcjump.jpg>

After photo: Construction of culvert completed (Oct 2007):
<http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/media/kccomplete.jpg>