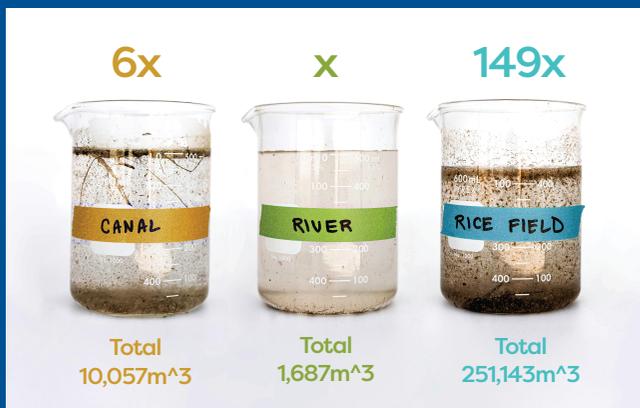


Why Size Matters

Helping juvenile salmon reach a healthy size for outward migration

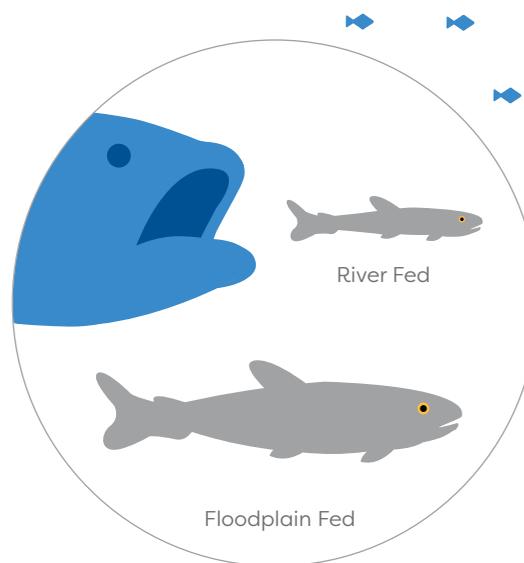
Juvenile salmon historically fed on the floodplains throughout the Sacramento River Basin during their outward migration to the Pacific Ocean. Due to the abundant food source provided by these wetlands, salmon grew bigger and stronger - two critical factors in their overall health and survival. Since the levees disconnected the floodplains from the rivers, the rivers no longer have the food required for a healthy salmon population. Reconnecting the floodplains, both on the dry- and wet-side of the levees, offer an opportunity for the salmon to grow and return to sizes that will help them survive and complete their journey to the sea.



Comparing fish food availability

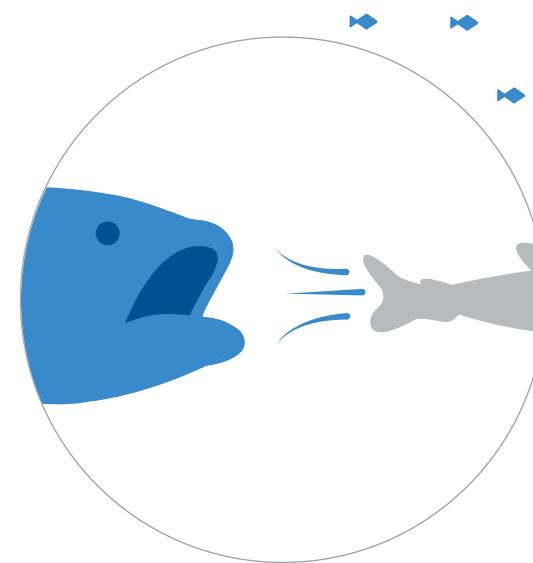
Floodplain vs. River

The Sacramento River system and Delta is filled with a number of predator species (native and introduced) seeking to consume juvenile salmon. The floodplains offer a better way for salmon to grow to a size that will increase their chances of survival.



Avoiding Predators

Unlike many mammals and underwater species, predator fish can only rely on the size of their mouth to capture juvenile salmon. The larger a juvenile salmon becomes; fewer predators can swallow them whole.



Faster Swimmers

Larger, healthier salmon are faster swimmers and have an increased stamina which gives them a better chance of avoiding predators versus their smaller counterparts.