



Chinook salmon face a new threat – too many anchovies

Jocelyn Davis
TURNER ACADEMY

Who would have guessed ... the Chinook salmon population is endangered due to anchovies.

The Chinook salmon population decreased in 2022. This happened because they had a huge craving for anchovies.

The salmon's diet suddenly changed to only having anchovies rather than eating squid, herring, or shrimp.

There is an excess of anchovies along the California Coast. When the anchovies came to the coast, they introduced the salmon to a new food source. This new food source is dangerous for the salmon, because of the

thiaminase anchovies have in their bodies. It is dangerous for the salmon to eat them because this lowers the thiamine in their body, which can be fatal.

There are ways you can tell the off-spring's thiamine levels are too low. These ways are: the fish have swimming problems, they randomly start

spinning in a corkscrew like pattern until their death.

You can save the salmon if they are in tanks by adding a special thiamine to the water.

This is a new danger to our Chinook salmon. Scientists will continue to investigate and try to find ways to solve this problem.



AALIYAH COX/VINEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A bird's view: Interview with a Sandhill crane

Aaliyah Cox and Brenna Adam
VINEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Brenna: Hey there, Mrs. Sandhill Crane! Thanks for coming by. I have a feeling you were dancing back at home.

Sandhill Crane: Hey, Ms. Interviewer, of course! I love getting interviewed. Your feeling is correct, I was dancing!

Aaliyah: Now let's start off with the questions. What are some of your predators?

Sandhill Crane: Well, this is a tough topic for me, but coyotes, raccoons, and common ravens are my predators, and they are very scary.

Brenna: Augh, that does seem scary. Are you endangered, and if so why are you

endangered?

Sandhill Crane: Yes, I am endangered, due to habitat loss, wetland loss, urban development ... Humans hunt me, and since I nest in wetlands, I need people to try not to destroy them.

Aaliyah: Well, moving on from that tough topic ... What are your habitats?

Sandhill Crane: Yes, I would appreciate moving on. My habitats are prairies, marshes, fields and tundras.

Brenna: Wow, that's interesting! Well, I assume you get hungry, so what do you like to eat?

Sandhill Crane: I do get "hungry"! When I get hungry, I usually eat plants and grains, but sometimes I also eat invertebrates or even small mammals, am-

phibians and reptiles.

Aaliyah: Yum! Now the most important question: What can we people do to help you flourish through life?

Sandhill Crane: Some things to help me flourish would be to stop hunting as much, and don't mess with natural habitats.

Brenna: OK, we will try to! Thank you so much for teaching us and the world all of this important information, and thank you for your time. It's much appreciated, and now you can go back to dancing!

Sandhill Crane: No problem. I hope this helps us Sandhill cranes, and other special animals! I am definitely going back to dancing!

Farewell, Dr. Washer: An interview with Lodi Unified's outgoing superintendent

WOODBIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The fifth and sixth graders of Mrs. Willis's class at Woodbridge Elementary recently had the privilege to chat with Dr. Cathy Nichols Washer, Lodi Unified School District's outgoing superintendent, who will be retiring after this school year. This is what we discovered about Dr. Washer:

Can you please tell us what a day in the life of the Lodi Unified School District's superintendent looks like?

Dr. Washer does not have a "typical" day. Many days her plans get thrown out the window due to meetings, emergencies, complaints, or legal issues. She spends a lot of time talking with board members and parents about issues surrounding the district. Every day is a different day, but she enjoys visiting schools and classrooms.

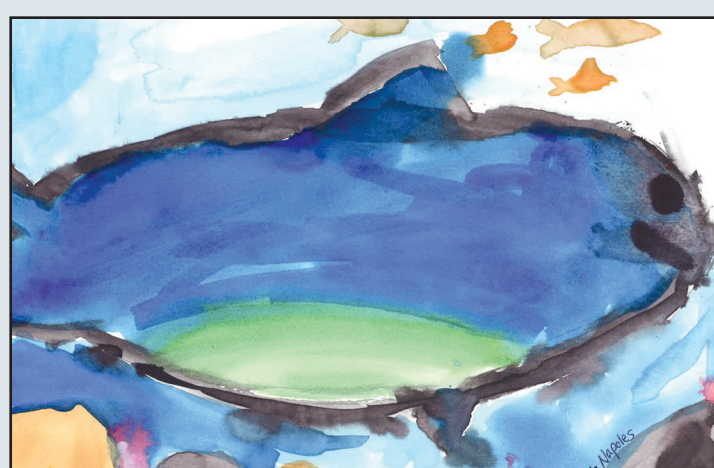
How long have you served as Lodi Unified's superintendent? What did you do before your time here in Lodi Unified?

Dr. Washer has been with Lodi Unified for 15 years. Before that, she served as the superintendent in Manteca

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I have greatly appreciated the watershed education programs over the past 15 years including Storm Drain Detectives, mural projects, and the Mokelumne Current. Through these efforts, students at different stages in their educational career work together for a common goal. Elementary, middle and high school students have the opportunity to be involved in high interest, engaging activities that have a lasting impact. Thank you, City of Lodi, and thank you, LUSD teachers, for supporting the watershed education programs that have taught students California's Environmental Principles and Concepts. Many of the activities require after-school hours work, and teachers have put in a great deal of time and energy to make them successful. I appreciate the guidance given by Kathy Grant, City of Lodi, to ensure that the programs are high quality. I hope this continues well into the future as it is critical that students learn about issues that will impact them now and in the future. It is encouraging to know that the youth in our communities are concerned about the environment and want to make a difference for the future.

**Dr. Cathy Nichols Washer
former superintendent, Lodi
Unified School District**



JULIETTE NAPOLES/VINEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



GENESIS NAPOLES/VINEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Inside the ecosystem: Interview with a Delta smelt

Juliette and Genesis
Napoles
VINEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Interviewers: Who is your main predator, and how do you keep safe?

Delta Smelt: The striped bass and the largemouth bass are my predators, and I keep safe by the plant filter, the water column, and suspended particles help hide

me.

Interviewers: What do you normally eat, and where do you get your food?

Delta Smelt: I normally eat planktonic copepods, cladocerans and amphipods, and I get my prey in the San Francisco Estuary where I live.

Interviewers: What is the lifespan for a healthy Delta

smelt?

Delta Smelt: It's a one-year lifespan.

Interviewers: What is the importance of the Delta smelt?

Delta Smelt: We have often been a reliable ecological indicator that shows how healthy the Delta is, because we are a big part of the food chain, and if we are healthy, our environment is

healthy, too.

Interviewers: Are you endangered?

Delta Smelt: Yes, we are listed as endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Some of the problems we face are too much salt, not enough water flow, toxic substances, changes in water temperature and disease.

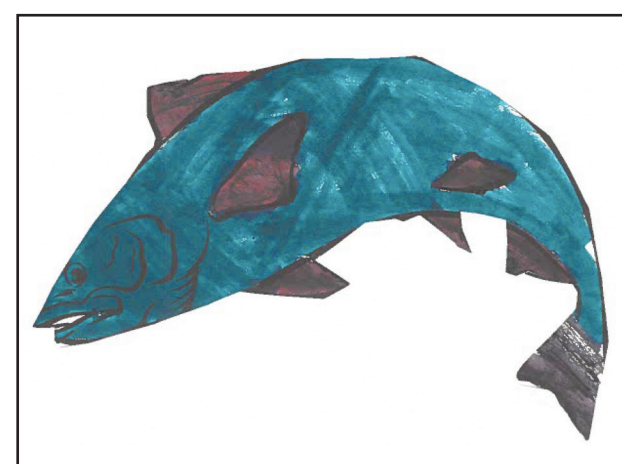
Wild art: Students portray the animals of the Mokelumne River watershed



ELLA DELGADO/BORCHARDT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



SAMREEN KAUR/SUTHERLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



ELIAS RAMOS/HOUSTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL