

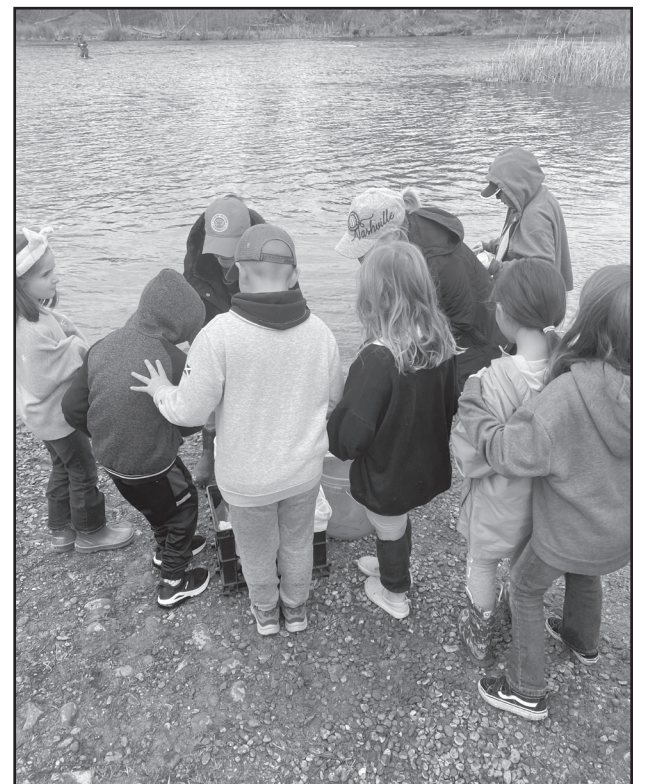
SALMON IN THE CLASSROOM

Releasing salmon into the Mokelumne River



PHOTOS BY CRUZ MARTINEZ/REESE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Left: A group of students releasing a school of fish. Above: Luca Martinez with two of his fishy friends.



Above left: Luca Martinez ready to release the salmon fry. Above center: Luca Martinez and Abel Garcia releasing Gary the fry and friends. Above right: A group of students from Reese Elementary School release a school of fish.

Salmon Release Day gives students and their fishy friends a chance to celebrate

Jissel Ferrer
BECKMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Have you ever gone to the Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery? Well, on Tuesday, Feb. 27, I went to the Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery to release salmon fry. Let me tell you all about what we did on the field trip.

To begin with, we went and played a game to represent the life cycle of a salmon and the stages of life for a salmon. For example, they go through the stages of egg, alevin, fry, parr,

smolt and adult as they get older. In addition, we learned from the game that although female salmon can lay about 1,500 to 10,000 eggs, only about 15% of the eggs will survive, which was very interesting to me, but all in all the game was very fun.

After that, we went to feed the fish they had there. Naturally, I thought this was very cool. Furthermore, we walked over to where they had the fish and we grabbed a tiny cup filled with tiny, dry pel-

lets, which is what they feed the salmon. Afterwards, all of the students grabbed a cup to feed the salmon. We walked over to where they had the salmon and fed them little by little. We could have sprinkled it all over the water, but I chose to feed them little bits at a time because they would go crazy for the food! They would jump towards the food. It was very fun to do!

Last but not least, we went to release the salmon that we had raised in the classroom

from egg to fry, which was very fun and exciting. Now, we even got to name the salmon that we released! I named mine Charlie because I didn't know the gender of my fish and I felt like the name Charlie could fit both genders. After that, we made a pledge near where we had released the salmon. For example, it felt like we said a prayer almost to help protect the fish. It made me want them to live and be happy. I also drew a picture of my fish swimming in the water beside

the rocks! We were given little booklets and I still have mine as I will save it to share with others.

As you can see, this was a wonderful experience! I would definitely recommend this to anyone who wants to learn more about salmon or just wants a fun experience. I hope you consider visiting the Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery, because if I had a lot of fun, I'm sure you can also have the same amount of fun as me if not more!

A dangerous journey in the Mokelumne River

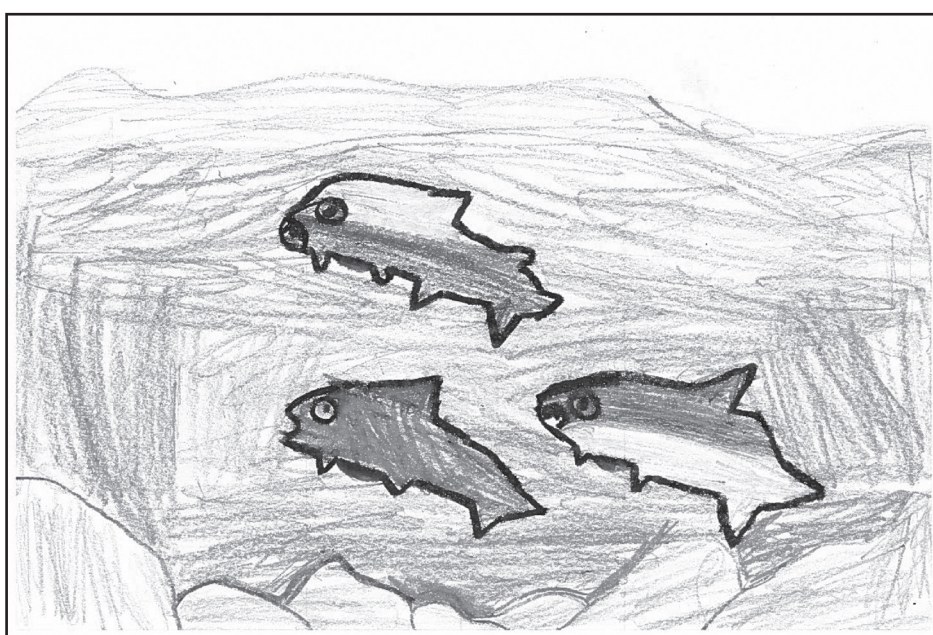
Dina Manriquez
BECKMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Hello, I'm Dina. Have you ever had a fish? Well I have, and here's how her story is going to go.

First, my fish's name is Sarah and she is a salmon fry. She just got to the Mokelumne River and she is confused! After all, she just got to the Mokelumne River riding on a school bus in a bucket of water. Then she was put into a clear cup all by herself.

I took her down to the river and gently put her in the water. She looks for her brothers and sisters but she can't find them. So she goes swimming down river.

Along the way she meets Daisy, another fish from our classroom tank. Then, they make a turn to go up river and after some minutes up river they meet Dizzy,



DINA MANRIQUEZ/BECKMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

another fish friend from the tank! Dizzy is looking for her way too so they team up and plan to go all together.

They keep going upstream then the sun

starts to set, so they plan to finish in the morning.

In the morning Sarah, Daisy, and Dizzy all wake up and there's a bear next to the river! They try to swim away but the

bear catches Dizzy and Daisy, but Sarah gets away.

After many weeks she found the ocean and lived the life cycle of a salmon.

Some facts about salmon

Rivers Lichty
BORCHARDT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Hi, my name is Rivers, like the place where salmon swim. I learned so much about these majestic fish. I learned that salmon can live in freshwater and saltwater. They start out in the river. They settle into clean gravel where the cold water can flow over them. This is how they get their oxygen as the water enters their gills. The females lay eggs. The eggs hatch into tiny fish and emerge from the gravel. They tiny fish are called fry and they eat small animals called plankton. The little fish stay in the river for a year or two. Scientists call these smolts. As spring comes, these smolts start to travel to the sea.

Male and female salmon

Japji Sidhu
BORCHARDT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Salmon have fins. How do we know if it is a male? Males have a bump on their backs. If they do not have a bump on their backs, they are female. Salmon live in fresh water for three years.

More salmon facts

Ian Leavitt
BORCHARDT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Salmon can lay over 3,600 eggs. They smell their way back to their home by smelling the minerals and nutrients in the water. Salmon live in the water and they get used to it. They feed many predators like birds. They swim through rivers and waterfalls on their journey.

The life cycle of salmon

Hartej Minhas
BORCHARDT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Salmon start as eggs. Then they turn into alevin. Then they turn into fry. Then they turn into smolts. Then they are adults. Then they are spawners. Then there are eggs again.



KENNA BROWN/REESE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

How much do you know about river otters? Here are some facts

Kenna Brown
REESE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

One animal from our watershed is a North American river otter.

The river otters can survive on land and water. River otters spend two-thirds of the time on land.

They only live in North America. They live in waterways and on the coast.

River otters can dive as deep as 60 feet in water, and can swim a quarter mile before coming up for air.

The river otter may swim as fast as 6 to 7 miles per hour.