AN UPSTREAM BATTLE

For Winter-Run Chinook Salmon in California

Winter-run Chinook salmon, native to California's Sacramento River Valley, have faced an upstream battle for survival over the past century. Unlike other salmon, they spawn during the hot summer months, making them especially vulnerable to reduced flows, rising river temperatures, and poor water quality caused by diversions and dams constructed throughout the watershed between 1890s to 1960s.

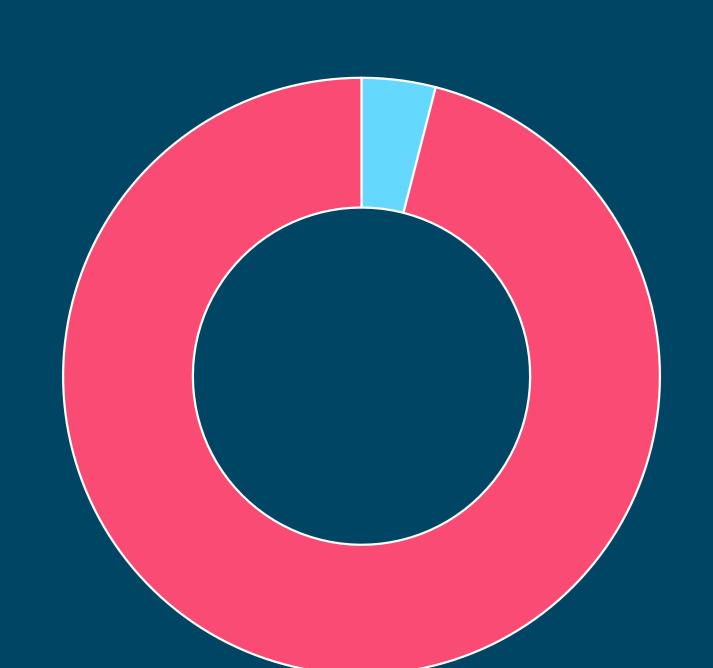
Keswick Dam

Keswick Dam is impassible, making it the northernmost accessible habitat for spawning

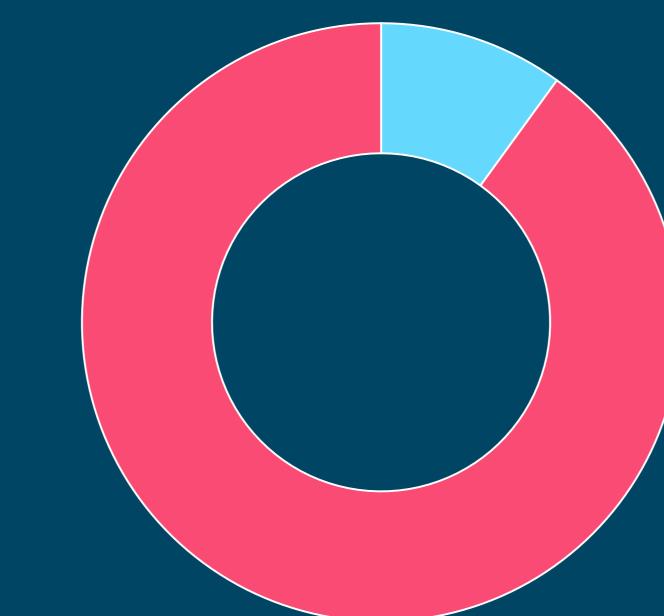
Sacramento River

Historic Habitat

Accessible Habitat

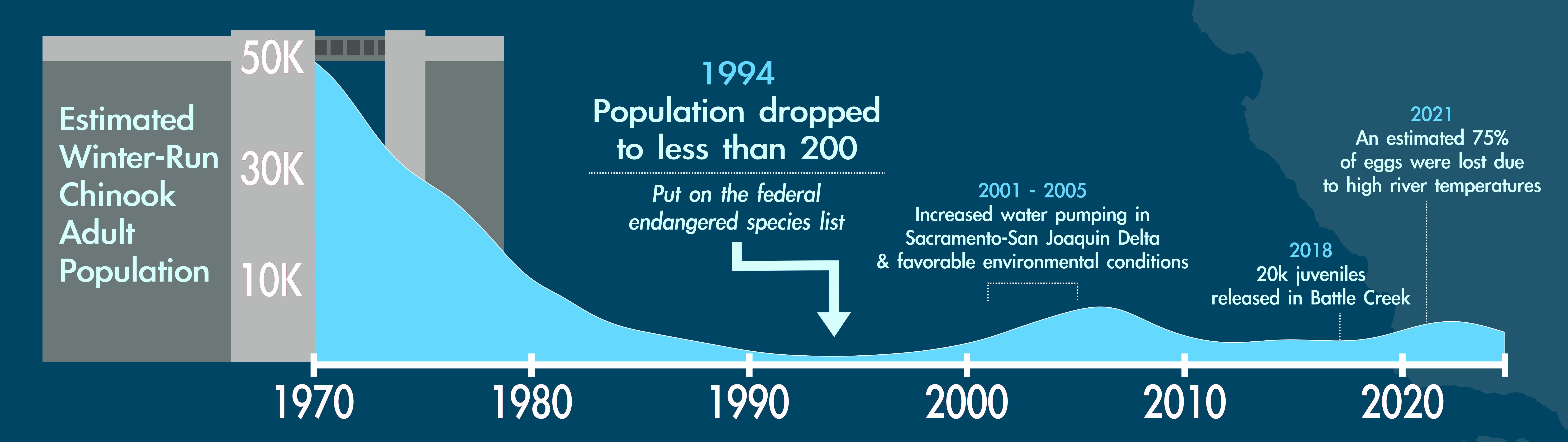


5% of California's winter-run Chinook salmon population remains compared to estimates from the 1970s.



of their historic spawning habitat is no longer accessible cut off by impassible dams.

In the 90s winter-run Chinook salmon narrowly avoided extinction



Warm fiver temperatures threaten spawning success

Chinook-Salmon require sustained cool river temperatures, below 53.5°F, for their eggs to properly develop.

