Effects of a Restored Side Channel on the Aquatic Food Web in the Lower Yuba River

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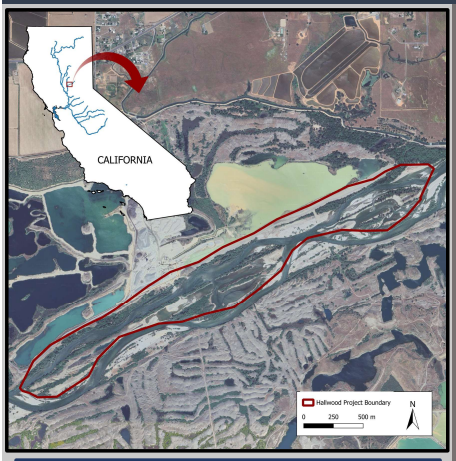

BACKGROUND

- Historic mining has decreased juvenile salmonid rearing habitat
- Hallwood Side Channel and Floodplain Restoration Project was implemented to improve rearing conditions for juvenile fall and spring-run Chinook salmon and California Central Valley Steelhead
- Converted deep backwater to side channel habitat
- Macroinvertebrates are the main prey items for juvenile salmonids, and are crucial to their growth

METHODS

- Identified and enumerated stomach contents of sacrificed juvenile Chinook salmon
- Took drift macroinvertebrate samples

Looking Ahead

- Do invertebrate density/taxonomic composition fluctuate seasonally?
- Investigate growth rates and rearing behavior in the project site
- Explore other sampling methods for determining available prey assemblages

Acknowledgements
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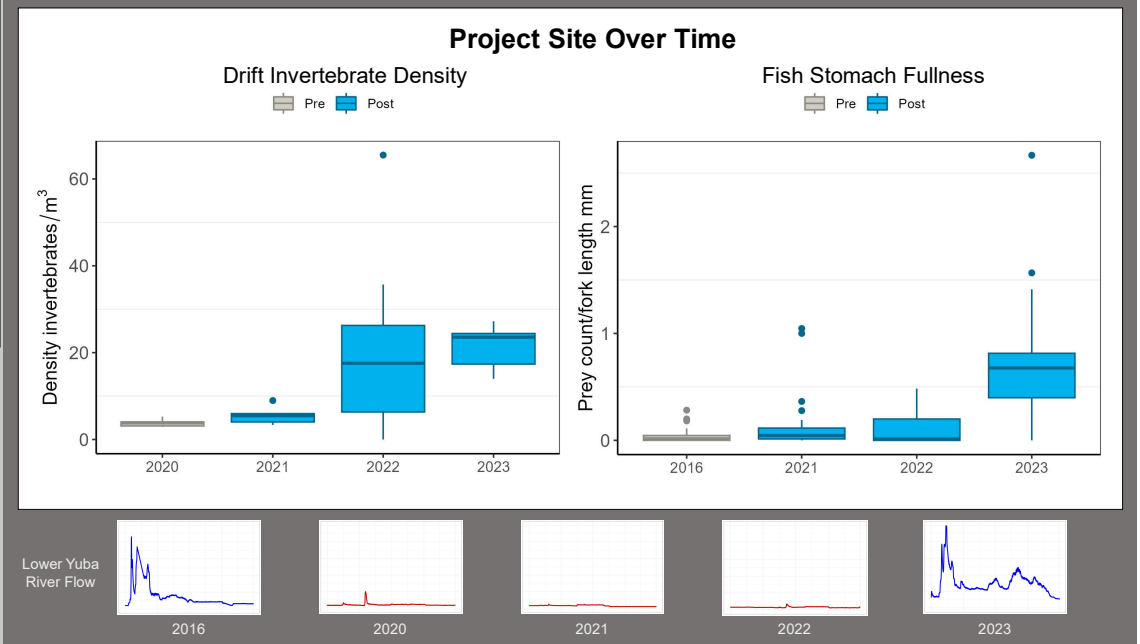
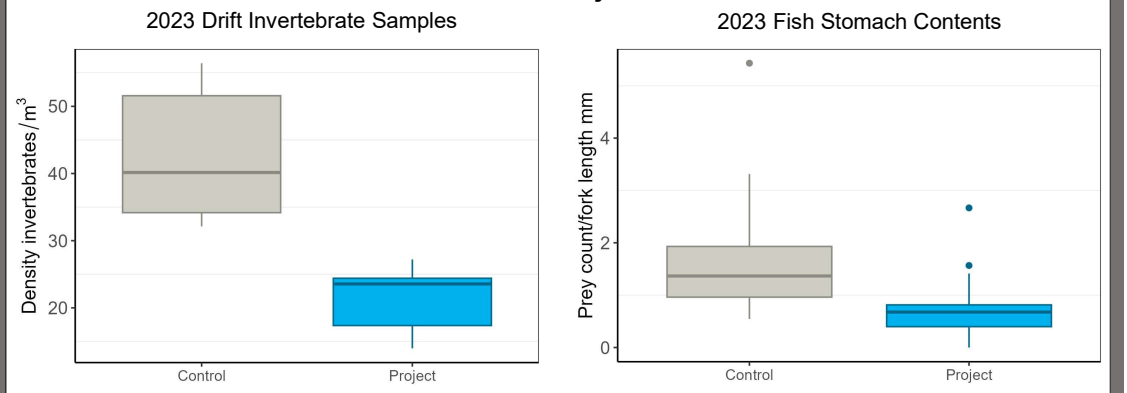
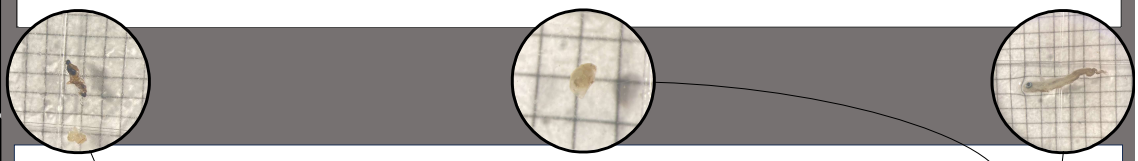
Available prey diversity and prey consumption by juvenile Chinook salmon increased over time in the restored side channel

Project Site Over Time



Control vs. Project in 2023





Prey Composition in 2023