

- 2) Minor and absorbable costs to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). CDFW notes it already publishes the information the bill requires DWR to make available on its platform.
- 3) Minor and absorbable costs to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board).

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** The author argues, “water and ecological data is crucial to improving management of the state’s water resources,” but that key data on fisheries is either not available, inconsistent, or difficult to find. The author contends this bill will provide the public and water managers with “additional ecological information necessary to improve the management of California’s natural resources by including data hatchery production, release and escapement in the State’s compiled water and wildlife information resources.”
- 2) **Background. *Open and Transparent Water Data Act.*** Enacted by AB 1755 (Dodd), Chapter 506, Statutes of 2016, the Open and Transparent Water Data Act requires DWR, in consultation with the California Water Quality Monitoring Council, the State Water Board, and CDFW to create, operate, and maintain a statewide integrated water data platform to support sustainable water planning, support business management, advance water equity, and protect vulnerable communities, species, and individuals. According to the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee, since the passage of AB 1755, state agencies have made a great deal of progress in developing publicly available, open access data platforms, though more work remains to be done. State agencies are making the data specified under the Open and Transparent Water Data Act available on two data portals, specifically the California Open Data Portal hosted by the Government Operations Agency and the California Natural Resources Agency Open Data Platform. State agencies have made over 1,000 datasets and numerous data visualizations available on these two portals.

Fish Release. This term refers to the number of fish raised at fish hatcheries that are then released into rivers or estuaries to bolster fish populations. In 2023, for example, CDFW reported it released 23 million fall-run Chinook salmon raised at CDFW-managed hatcheries into the wild. This bill requires data on fish releases be included on the statewide integrated water data platform

Fish Escapement. This term refers to the number of anadromous fish (like steelhead and salmon) that escape the ocean fishery and successfully return to spawn on inland rivers and streams. CDFW monitors fish escapement for certain salmon runs and this bill requires that this data be included on the statewide integrated water data platform.

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