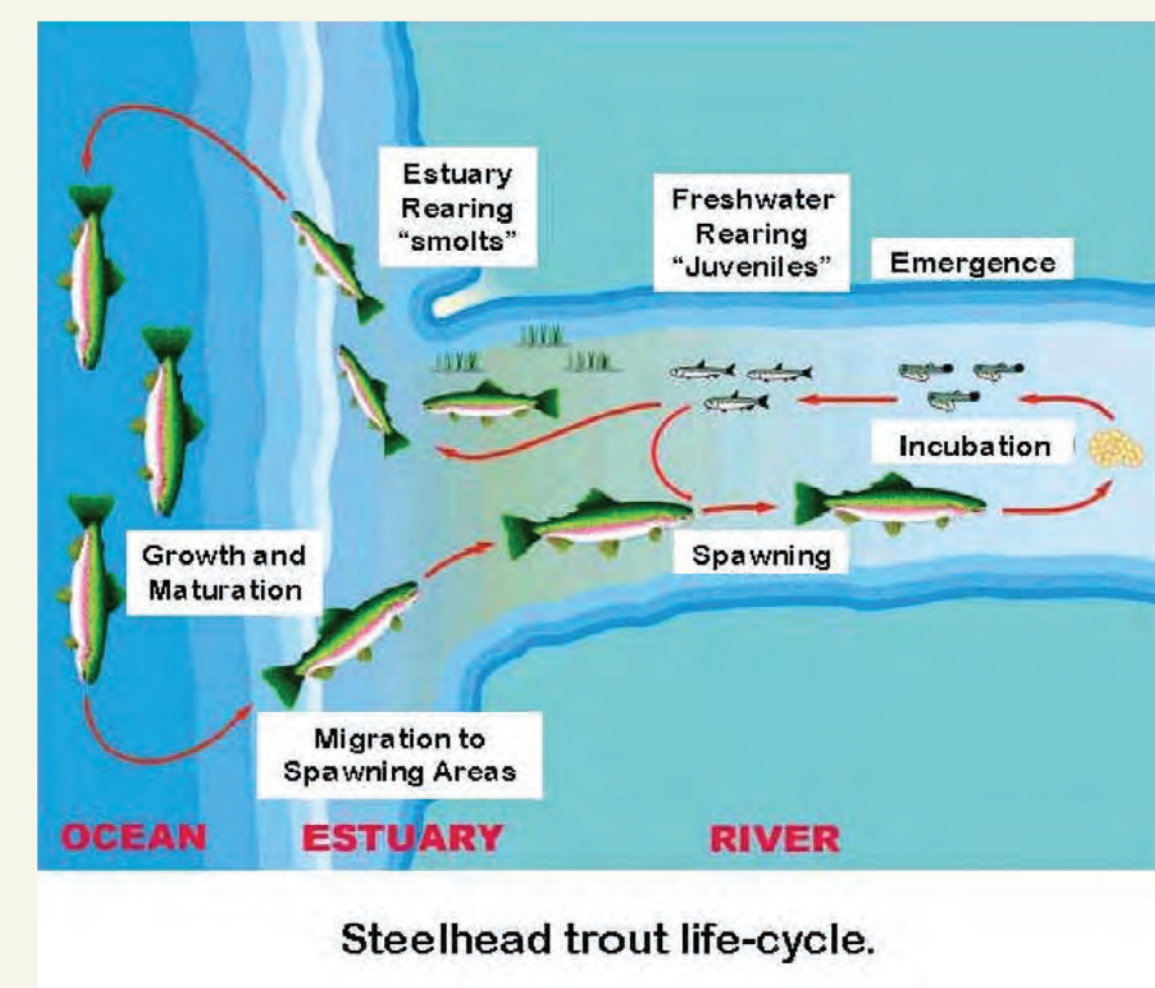


Rescuing Steelhead in Alameda Creek

A multi-agency collaborative effort to restore steelhead in the Alameda Watershed

Steelhead 101

Steelhead are anadromous rainbow trout (*O. mykiss*), meaning they hatch in freshwater, migrate out to sea to grow, and return to freshwater to spawn. This process may repeat itself for years, since unlike most salmon, steelhead can survive spawning.

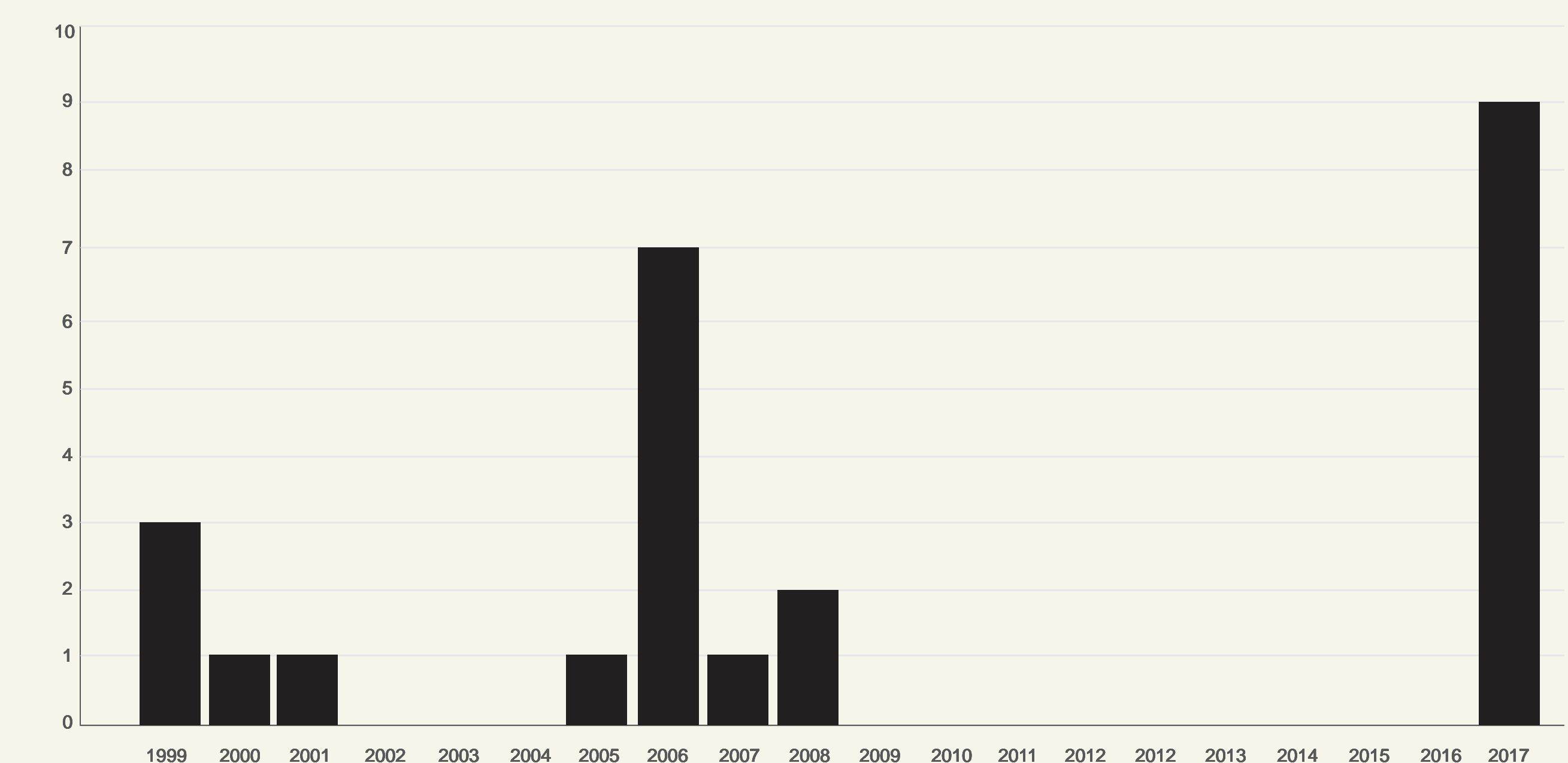


The Challenge: Bart Weir

A major barrier for returning adults in the Alameda Watershed is the concrete BART weir. Without assistance, the steelhead would be stuck here, unable to continue their migration upstream to reach suitable spawning habitat.



Does it work?



A total of 9 steelhead were rescued in 2017, the most since the project began in 1997! Five of the steelhead were fixed with transmitters to monitor their migration.

Current Status

Steelhead are found along the entire Pacific coast from Alaska to Southern California. There are 11 distinct population segments (DPS). Ten DPS' are listed as threatened and 1 is endangered (Southern California DPS). Steelhead were once abundant in Alameda Creek; however, multiple barriers now prevent adults from migrating upstream.



The Solution: A Collaborative Approach

Through coordination with multiple agencies, EBRPD biologists and volunteers can rescue the fish and move them upstream to reach suitable spawning habitat. The rescued fish are fixed with a radio transmitter so biologists can monitor their spawning migration.



Once released upstream of the BART weir, the rescued fish were able to disperse throughout the watershed. The results of the radio transmitters show the importance of Stonybrook Creek as spawning habitat for steelhead, and one fish (ID #042) migrated over 20 miles upstream! Fish ladders are currently being installed at two barriers so steelhead trout may once again thrive in Alameda Creek.

The Team

