

Inventory & Monitoring (I&M) Program

The San Francisco Bay Area Inventory and Monitoring Network (SFAN) coordinates biological inventories and long-term monitoring of natural resources within National Parks in the region. Over 90 active research permits, producing over 20 publications on various research topics were completed in 2007. Projects highlighted below include work from Golden Gate National Recreation Area, John Muir National Historic Site, Muir Woods National Monument, and Point Reyes National Seashore.

Northern Elephant Seals

The population estimate of 2,285 elephant seals at Point Reyes National Seashore in 2007 marks an all time high since their arrival at the park in the mid 1970s. These seals were counted at least once a week from December through March at the three breeding sites in Point Reyes: Drakes Beach, Point Reyes Headlands, and South Beach. In addition, more than 200 weaned pups were tagged and surveys conducted to resight animals.



AmeriCorps member Kristen Truchinski counting elephant seals

Harbor Seals

Harbor seals were monitored from February through August in 2007. Over 34 volunteers were trained in February and over 269 surveys were conducted at 10 locations at Golden Gate and Point Reyes. Data have been entered and are undergoing quality control. Data will be analyzed and an annual report will be forthcoming in 2008.

Salmon Monitoring

Coho and steelhead monitoring is conducted during three crucial periods in the life cycle of the salmon: juvenile (summer snorkel and electro-fishing surveys), adult (winter spawner surveys) and smolt (spring migrant trapping). Spawner survey

results indicated low numbers during the 2006-2007 coho salmon run. The Olema Creek watershed total redd production for this year class declined by 9% from the 2003-2004 year class levels. The largest decline was observed in Redwood Creek where total redd production declined by 44% for this year class. In contrast, preliminary coho smolt production estimates indicated higher than normal overwintering survival rates which ranged from 58% in Redwood Creek to 82% in Pine Gulch.

During spring trapping, a total of 20 adult steelhead were observed migrating downstream. Biologists also observed higher than normal numbers of steelhead smolts and fry.



Fisheries biologists Michael Reichmuth and Casey del Real collect data