

Frost Protection Regulation

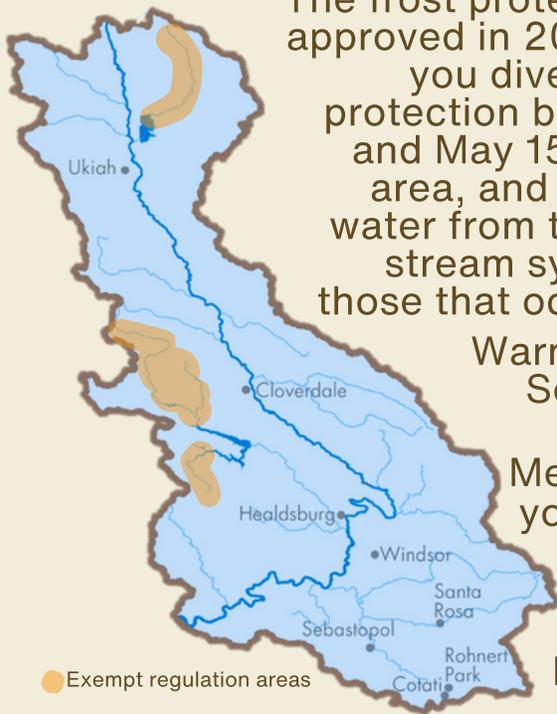


By **Laura Garza**
Area Water Quality, Quantity
and Climate Change Advisor

for: The Russian River Watershed

The aim of the Frost Protection Regulation is to find a balance between protecting crops from frost and preserving the health of the Russian River watershed ecosystem.

Frost protection is crucial for growers to prevent their crops from being damaged by freezing temperatures. However, when many growers simultaneously divert water from the river for this purpose, it can lead to lower stream levels that can harm fish populations, particularly salmon.



The frost protection regulation, approved in 2015, states that if you divert water for frost protection between March 15 and May 15 in the regulated area, and you are diverting water from the Russian River stream system, except for those that occur upstream of Warm Springs Dam in Sonoma County or Coyote Dam in Mendocino County, you are required to be part of a Water Demand Management Program (WDMP)

Do I need to participate in a Water Demand Management Program (WDMP) for frost protection?

If you answer “yes” to all of 3, then you have to be part of a WDMP

1. Do you divert water for the purpose of frost protection?
2. Is your diversion point downstream of Warm Springs Dam or Coyote Dam?
3. Do you divert surface or groundwater from the Russian River stream system anytime between March 15 to May 15?

Non-compliance with the regulation is a violation to the Water Code section 100. Diverting water for frost protection between March 15 and May 15 without participating in a WDMP is strongly discouraged. Join a local WDMP and avoid potential enforcement



Join your local WDMP

WDMPs are locally-run by individual(s), neighboring growers, consulting firm or a governmental entity. Contact the governing body for the WDMP in your area for information on how to participate

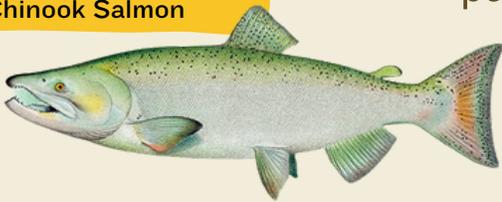
Approved WDMP's	Manage the regulation in:
Russian River Watershed Conservation Council	Sonoma County
California Land Stewardship Institute	Tributaries of the Russian River, not including the mainstem in Mendocino County
Mendocino County Farm Bureau	The mainstem of the Russian River in Mendocino County
North Coast Resource Management. (Individual WDMP for Dutra Vineyards)	The West Fork of the Russian River in Mendocino County
Paul Bialla (Individual WDMP for Bialla Vineyards)	Mark West Creek watershed in Sonoma County

Co-existing with local fish species

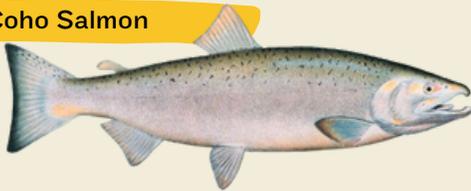
The fish species, including Chinook salmon, Coho salmon, and Steelhead Trout, are incredibly important to both California and the Russian River ecosystem.

They spawn and grow in the watershed, however, they are vulnerable to extinction in the area due to a particular threat called stranding mortality, where they become trapped and unable to escape when water levels rapidly decrease particularly during dry years.

Chinook Salmon



Coho Salmon



Steelhead Trout



These fish are not only vital to the natural biodiversity and ecological integrity of the region, but they also hold cultural and historical significance to Native American tribes and local communities. In addition, these provide economic benefits and contribute to the overall beauty of the watershed.

The Frost Protection Regulation measure aims to ensure their conservation as a public trust resource of the Russian River Watershed