

Salmon Expert Visits YES Charter Academy

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TOP: Stephen Swales and Amy Edwards third and fourth grade class at YES Charter Academy on Oct. 11. Stephen Swales, salmon expert from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, shows the life cycle of salmon to a group of students from YES Charter Academy. Students were preparing for a field trip to Yuba River to see the salmon on run.

Stephen Swales, salmon expert from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, visited Amy Edwards' third and fourth graders on Oct. 11. Dr. Swales is the Senior Environmental Scientist

Statewide Coho Salmon Recovery Coordinator. Ms. Edwards' students are preparing for their field trip to the Yuba River to see the salmon run first hand. Dr. Swales explained the salmon life cycle



BOTTOM:

must improve river conditions so that more survive.

YES students take an active role in improving river conditions by participating in the annual South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) river clean up every September. YES students attend the annual Wild and Scenic Film Festival sponsored by SYRCL. This year they submitted an environmental film for the competition. To find out more about YES Charter Academy programs go to www.yescharter-academy.org.

and told about his work helping Coho salmon recover from dwindling numbers. The assembly ended with students asking and Dr. Swales answering questions. Why did you become a fish scientist? Someone gave me a fishing pole when I was a child. From the first time I went fishing, I knew I wanted to be a fish scientist. How did you become a fish scientist? I studied fish ecology and earned a degree from Liverpool University, England.

What kinds of work have you done as a fish scientist?

I have monitored fish populations all over the world. I have worked for government agencies, businesses or NGOs in

the UK, New Zealand, Canada, Australia, Africa, Papua New Guinea, and now in California. How many eggs does a salmon lay? Depending on the species a salmon can lay between 2,000-4,000 eggs.

How many salmon survive to come back to the river?

Only 3-4 percent of baby salmon survive to become big fish. How big can salmon get? It varies by salmon species. The largest California species is 20-30 pounds. In Alaska, Chinook grow to 80 pounds. Will salmon go extinct? Species could be gone within your lifetime if we don't do something to bring them back. What can we do? It's a very difficult world out there. We