



COASTAL ALLIANCE

FOR SPECIES ENHANCEMENT

www.CASEforOurEnvironment.org / PO Box 174, Pescadero CA 94060

Board of Directors: Steve Simms / Ralph Neumann / Peter Congdon / Jack Dempsey / Mathieu Simms

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the organization's mission?

The Coastal Alliance for Species Enhancement (CASE) is a community-based, non-profit organization working to conserve, restore, and enhance wetlands habitat to protect the long-term viability of native animal species in coastal areas.

Its mission includes initiatives to:

- Foster locally-managed projects to restore and enhance healthy, sustainable, and accessible habitats for native coastal and marine species
- Raise public awareness about native species loss, the importance of biodiversity, and sound practices for ongoing management and continued recreational use of coastal areas
- Establish a knowledge base and repository for collected data, scientific studies, photographic and videographic documentation pertinent to the coastal area ecosystem and native species
- Ensure continued public access to and enjoyment of these areas

Who are its founders?

The original founders of CASE are a group of lifelong residents of the Northern California coast, recreational anglers, and community leaders who have seen first-hand the rapid deterioration of its streams and species in the past two decades. As individual citizens, they have spent many years and countless hours discussing, advising, and collaborating with local, state, and federal agencies on possible solutions to improve stream and species health. The group chose to incorporate as a non-profit to provide the necessary financial support and legal assistance to ensure its goals are achieved.

CASE's first president, Steve Simms has spent his entire lifetime exploring the Pescadero watershed, and for the past several years has been actively working with scientists to track the declining populations of various species in the marsh. He founded the Coastal Alliance for Species Enhancement to address community concerns about species disappearance, and effect both immediate and long-term improvements in the watershed.

For the past 42 years Steve has owned and operated Simms Plumbing and Water Equipment, Inc. Prior to starting his own business, Steve served in the United States Navy Sea Bee's in Alaska, Vietnam, and Japan. He is a member and past president of the Native Sons of the Golden West, Pebble Beach Parlor #230, and is an active sponsor of community Little League, Pescadero High School scholarships, and many other community organizations.

The founding Board of Directors also includes Ralph Neumann (secretary), Peter Congdon, Jack Dempsey, and Mathieu Simms.

CASE is also advised by Ronda Azevedo Lucas, an environmental policy and legislative attorney with particular expertise in the areas of water rights, the federal Endangered Species Act, land use, the

California Environmental Quality Act, wetlands, the federal Clean Water Act, global climate change, and environmental justice. Among other work, Ms. Lucas served on the Senate Bill 271 Advisory Committee for Salmonid Restoration; the California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee Ecosystem Restoration Program Subcommittee; the California Bay-Delta Authority's Working Landscapes Subcommittee; the Pacific Gas and Electric Stewardship Council Committee; and the Santa Barbara County Regional Conservation Strategy Stakeholder committee.

Ms. Lucas is a member of the California State Bar admitted to practice before the Eastern, Central, and Northern United States District Courts in California and the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. She graduated with honors from both California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, and the McGeorge School of Law at the University of the Pacific.

What projects is CASE actively involved in?

The organization's first goal is the restoration of the Pescadero-Butano marsh system which will aid in the recovery of several endangered and threatened species including the California red-legged frog, the San Francisco garter snake, Steelhead trout, Coho salmon, and freshwater Goby.

Beyond that, CASE will extend its support to other coastal communities to help restore lost or threatened habitat while encouraging sound management practices that allow recreational enjoyment of the lands as well as species enhancement.

Why is Pescadero Marsh an area of particular and immediate concern?

Besides being a refuge and nesting ground for wintering waterfowl, the marsh is a critical spawning area and nursery for many species. Due to many causes, both natural and man-made, the health of its main waterways, the Pescadero and Butano Creeks, is deteriorating rapidly. For the past 12 years, concerned citizens and other wildlife agencies have repeatedly attempted to work with the marsh's managers, the California Department of State Parks, to correct the detrimental situation, but no action has yet been taken.

Meanwhile, each year hundreds of juvenile fish, crabs, and other animals die due to anoxic water conditions, returning steelhead are unable to migrate to their spawning areas, and other habitat and ecosystems are lost. A study in 2008 by Dr. Jerry J. Smith, associate professor of Biological Sciences at San Jose State University, estimated a mere 750 juvenile steelhead rearing in the Pescadero Marsh lagoon, down from a peak population of 25,000 in 1986*.

The Pescadero lagoon is a "no take/catch-and-release" fishery, restricted to barbless hooks and only open for recreational steelhead fishing on select days between December and February. The area is enjoyed by birding groups observing several dozens species of migratory waterfowl, raptors, and other avian species enjoying the rich feeding and nesting environment, as well as hikers, kayakers, botanists, and artists.

*source: Smith, J. (1990). [The effects of sandbar formation and inflows on aquatic habitat and fish utilization in Pescadero, San Gregorio, Waddell and Pomponio Creek Estuary Lagoon Systems, 1985-1989](#) and additional data provided by author.

For further information and resources, visit www.CASEforourenvironment.org