
Inland Fisheries Assessment and Monitoring

Project Updates

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&

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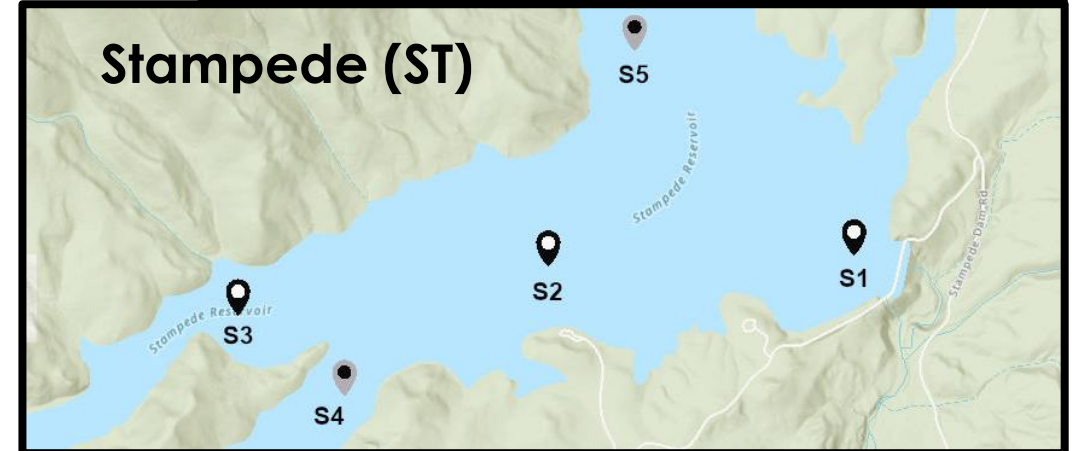
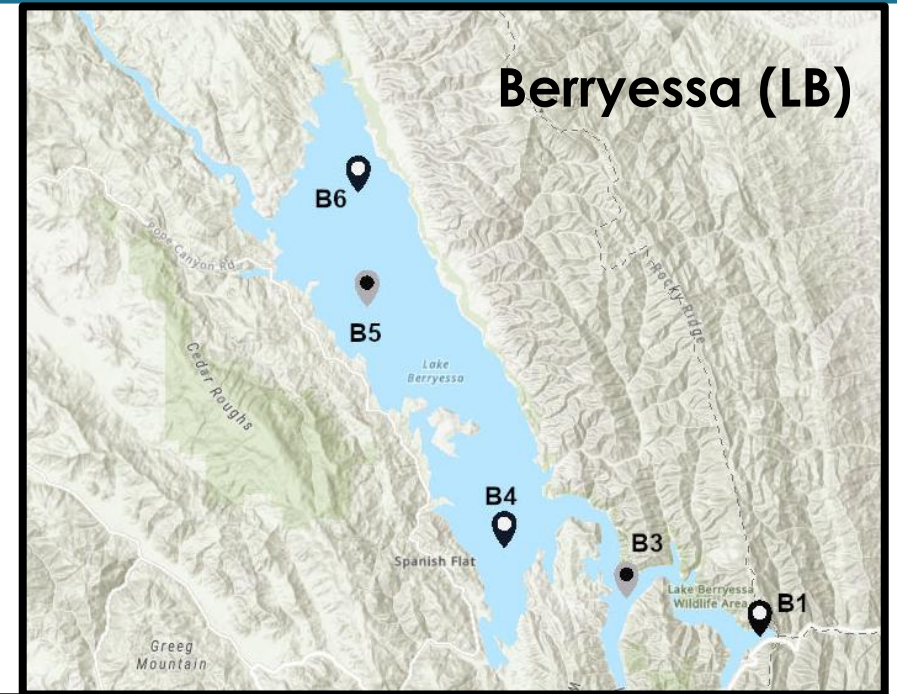
- Water Quality & Zooplankton
 - Berryessa & Stampede
- Mark-Recapture at Stampede
 - Recaptures So Far
- In-River Release Assessment – LTR



Overall Study Goals

We want to...

- Learn more about kokanee waters, and how environmental conditions impact kokanee populations and angler satisfaction
- Develop passive methods to monitor elusive, deep-water fishes so we can understand and possibly predict kokanee wellbeing in more waters throughout California
- Utilize preexisting projects (stocking)



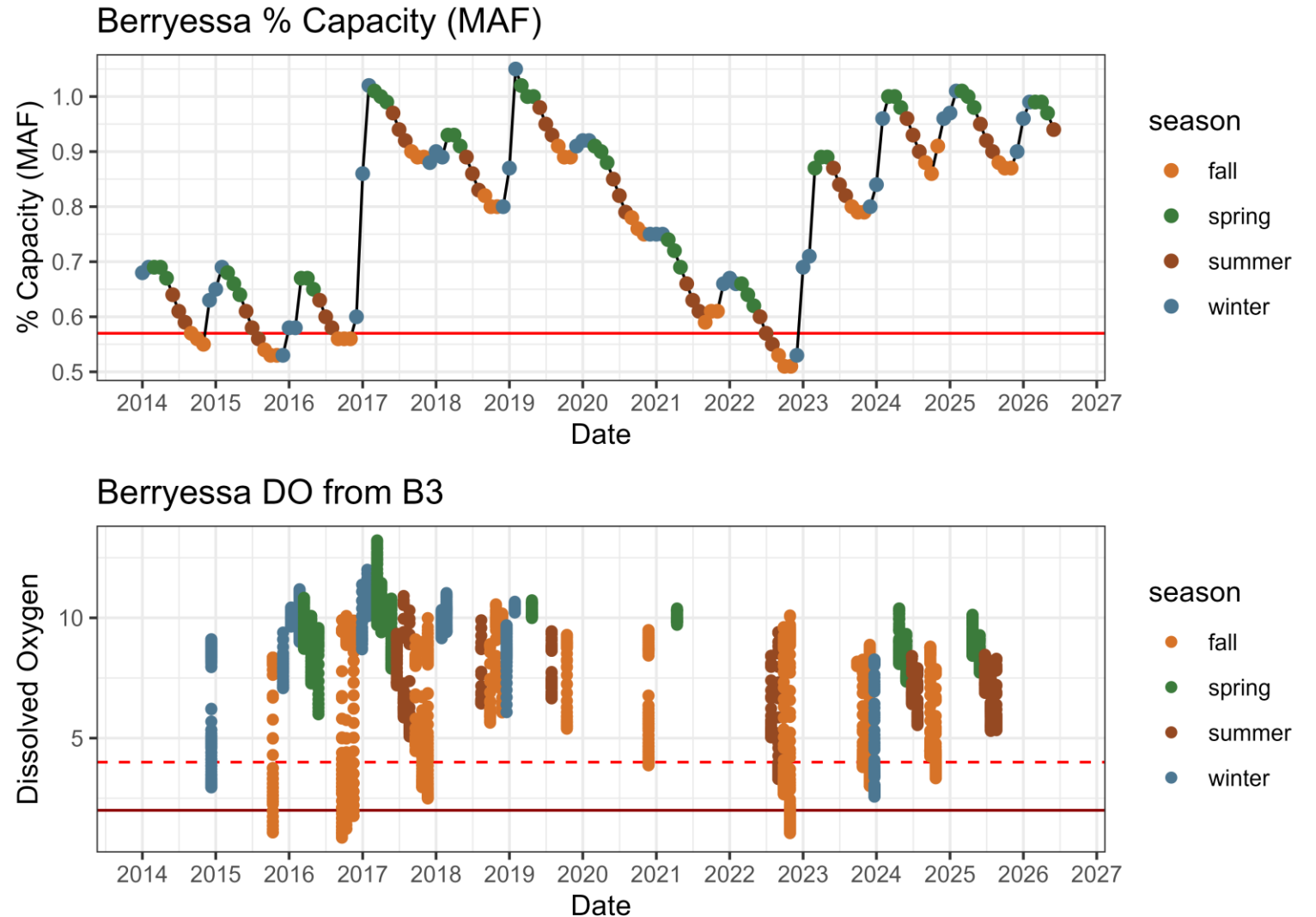
WQ: Berryessa Highlight

10 years at LB

Die-off events: Fall
2015, 2016, 2022

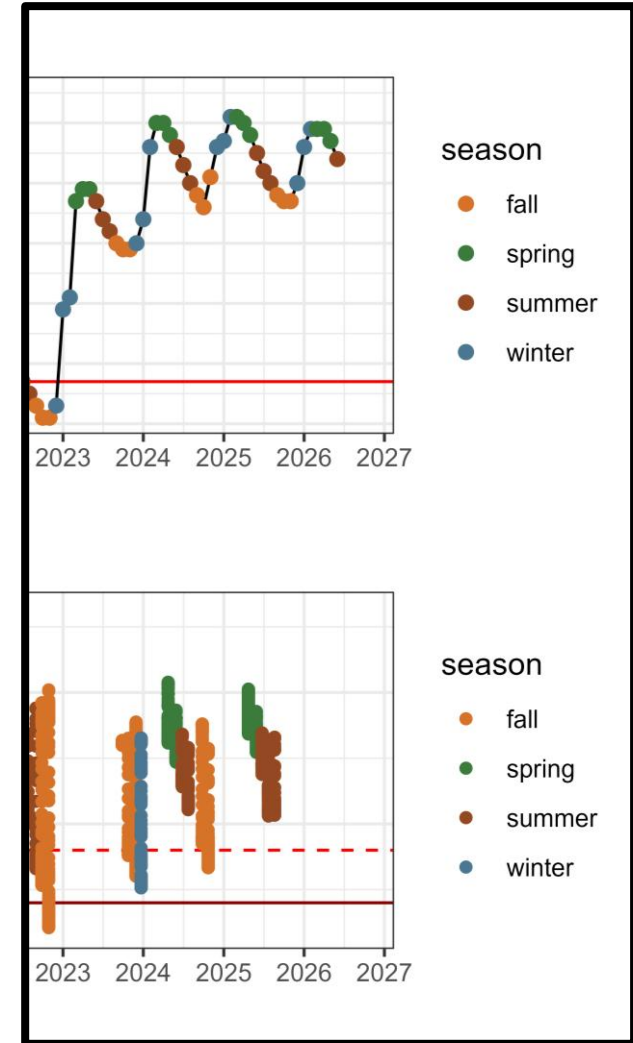
Extremely Low DO
(< 2 mg/L)

- Sept-Nov **AND**
Lake Capacity
below 57%



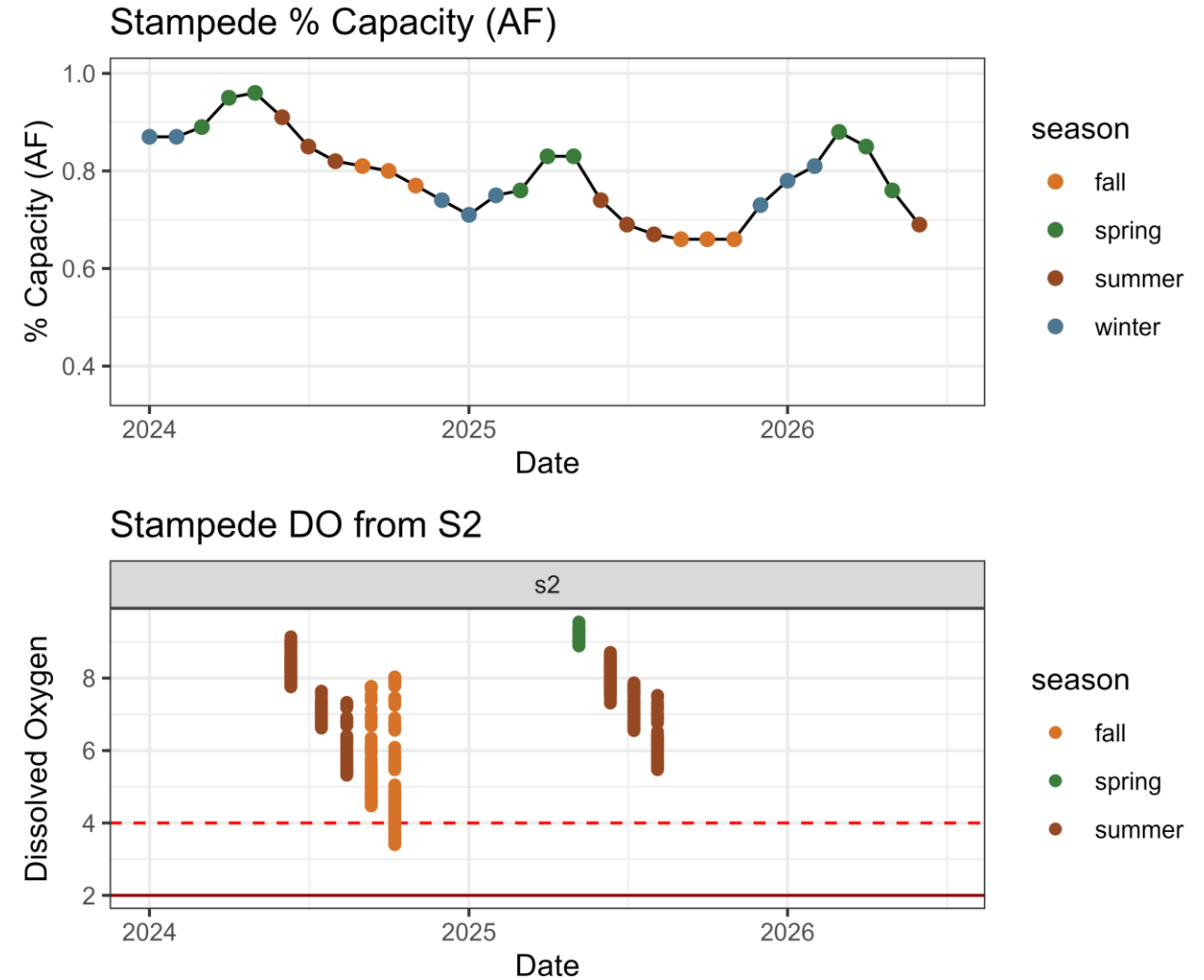
WQ: 2026 Berryessa Protocol Update

- CDEC monthly monitoring of lake capacity
- Activate on-the-water monitoring when lake capacity drops towards 60%



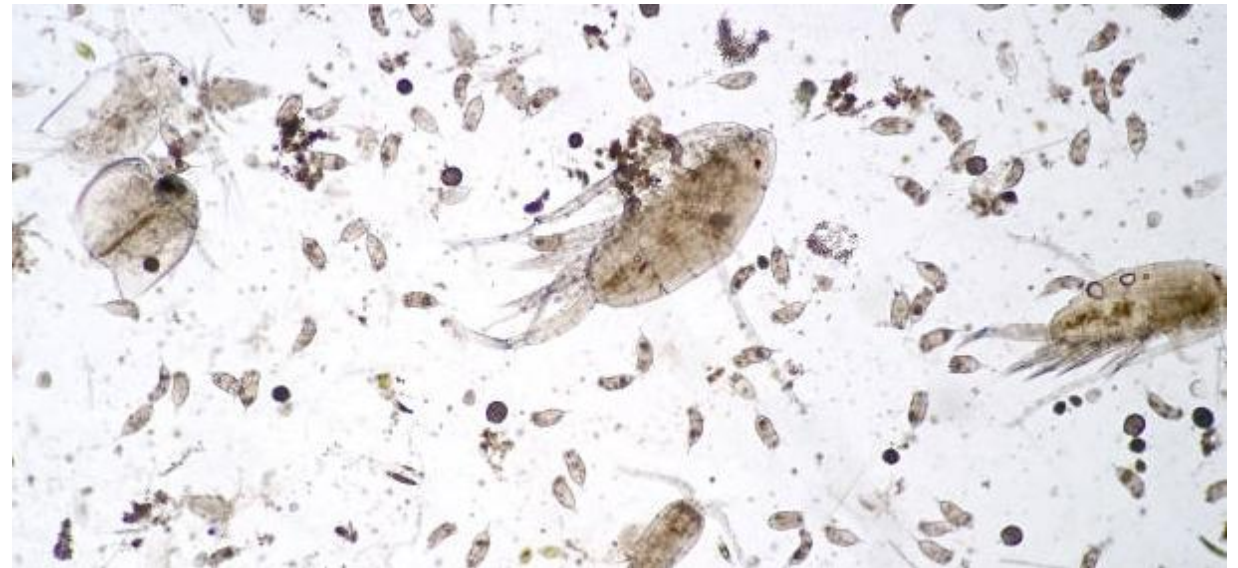
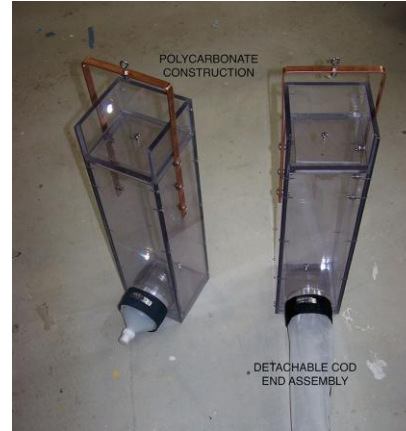
WQ: Stampede - No News is Good News

- Continuing monitoring of Stampede water quality during Zooplankton Pilot & Mark-Recapture
- DO never dipping into that very low DO zone (<2mg/L)
- Lake capacity can change quickly



Pilot Study: Zooplankton Collections

1. How much food is on the landscape?
2. How does prevalence change seasonally?
3. Can this method inform kokanee management decisions?

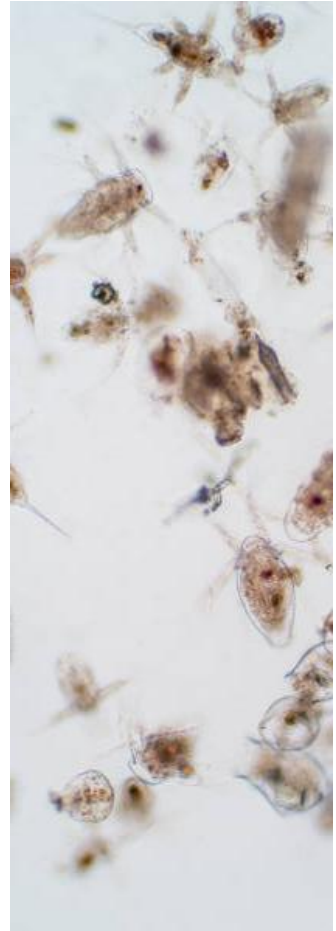
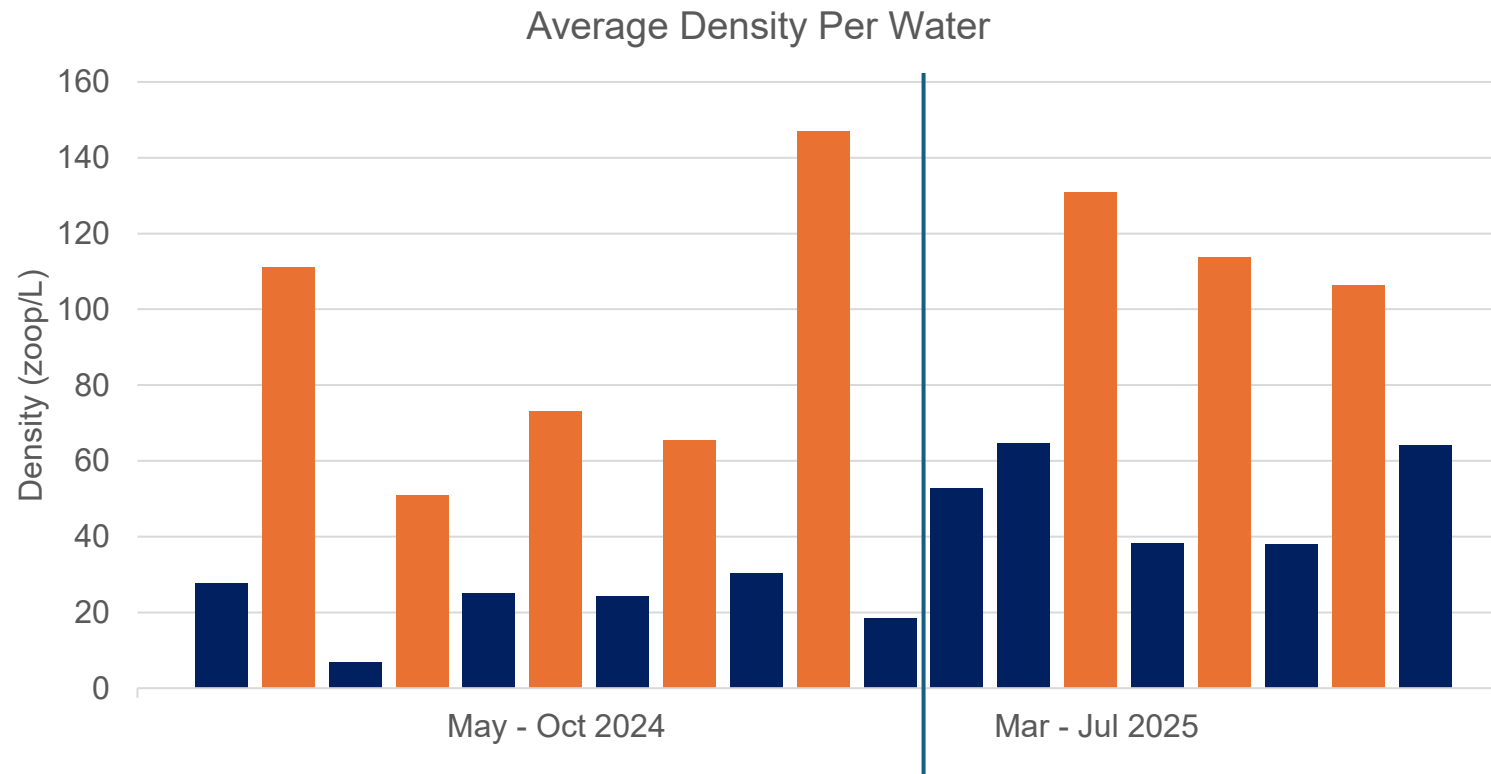


Zoop Density Highlight

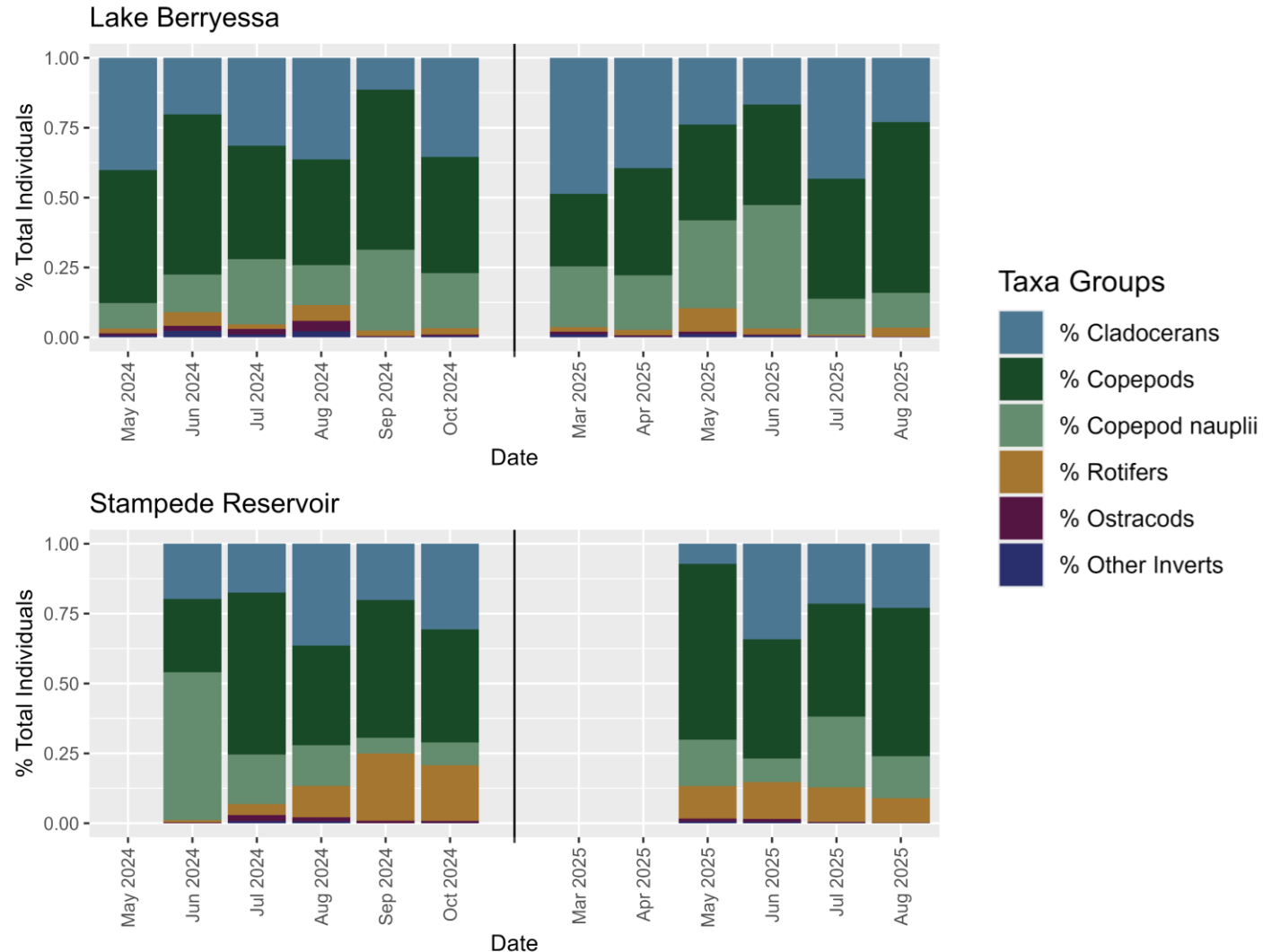
- Stampede always had **much** higher monthly zooplankton densities (zooplankton/Liter) every month sampled

Stampede
Reservoir

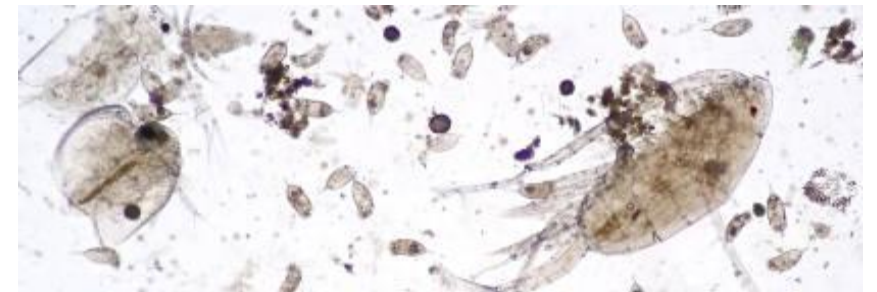
Lake
Berryessa



Relative Abundance of Zoopl Group



- We counted zooplankton and identified them by very broad taxa groups
 - “Copepod nauplii” are juvenile copepods
- Klein, 2020: Kokanee juveniles eat more copepods, adults eat more cladocerans



WQ + Zoop Summary

- Provided new insight, through passive methods, into the quality of a lake for supporting “put-and-grow” kokanee, providing much needed data to inform and shape kokanee management decisions
- Guidance document and internal report on the 2024-2025 WQ + Zoop Pilot is in review
 - Packaged for application in other Regions and waters

Mark-Recapture at Stampede

- Want to understand the impact of stocking efforts before changes to management decisions
 - Balancing stability for egg production and improved angler satisfaction

1. Angler-caught recaptures

2. Spawning recaptures



Recapture Data Avenues

1. Kokanee Power MyCatch derby

2. CIRAS online surveys

3. Creel in-person surveys

4. Direct to me



5. Spawn surveys (egg-take)

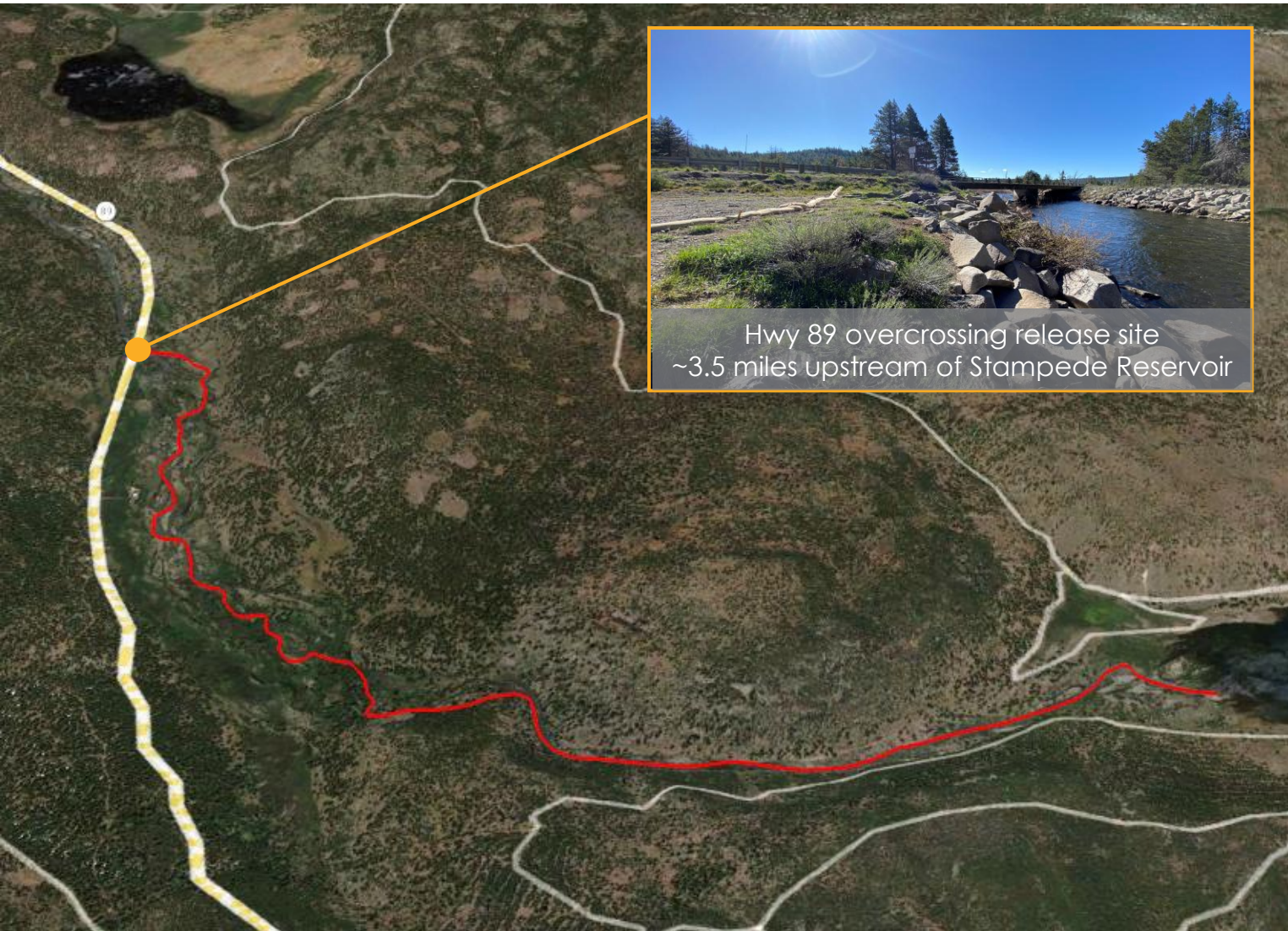


Recapture Results So Far

- May – early July 2026
 1. MyCatch: Handful of entries (**0/16 tagged**)
 2. CIRAS: 5 surveys, all unknown status
 3. Creel: 137 interviews, (**0/236**)
 4. Direct: 1 angler, (**0/20**)
- October 2025
 5. Spawn: **4/2749** tagged (0.15%)



Little Truckee River Kokanee Release



- 13,628 CWT hatchery Kokanee released into LTR on May 26, 2026
- Improve imprinting and boost adult returns for spawning operations in LTR
- Monitoring through creel surveys and during spawning operations
- 2025 adipose-clipped release serves as the control for comparison

Thank you! Let's fish Stampede!

