

REF 90529

YUROK TRIBAL FISHERIES PROGRAM

August 13, 1997

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Dan Gale, Sr. Fisheries Biologist

SUBJECT: 1997 Blue Creek Summer Snorkel Surveys

RECEIVED

AUG 13 1997

FISH AND GAME
YUROK, CA

Enclosed is a summary of the summer snorkel surveys conducted in Blue Creek last week. These surveys represent the second year that all anadromous reaches of the Blue Creek drainage has been surveyed during the summer months in order to determine the presence of adult salmonids. Due to its abundant supply of cold water and frequent deep pool habitat in most reaches, Blue Creek has long been suspected as being a potential spawning area for summer steelhead and possibly spring chinook.

Adult steelhead were observed in small numbers throughout the lower three reaches as well as larger numbers of "half-pounders" (Table 1). For comparison purposes, a summary of 1996 survey results is included in Table 2. In addition, larger numbers of adult coastal cutthroat trout (>14") were observed, with the majority of these fish being observed in the lower portion of reach #1 (Table 1). While the total cutthroat numbers for 1997 are similar to those of 1996, the fish observed in 1996 were much more evenly distributed throughout the basin (Table 2). Fall snorkel surveys, scheduled to be initiated in early September, will allow an assessment of whether this distribution changes as the summer progresses.

A total of four adult chinook were observed during the 1997 surveys. Three of the fish were observed in the lower portion of reach #1 and their appearance (bright silver) was indicative of having recently entered the drainage. A fourth fish was observed in reach #4 on 7/24/97 which had a more riverine appearance indicative of having been in the creek for a longer period of time. In addition to these chinook sightings, a pair of sockeye salmon were observed in the lower portion of reach #3. These fish, one male and one female, exhibited the typical coloration and appearance of spawning sockeye (bright red body, green head and tail, and no spotting on body or fins). This sighting is concurrent with reports of adult sockeye being harvested in the lower Klamath and estuary during this same time period.

The Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program (YTFP) will continue to monitor the Blue Creek drainage in upcoming years to determine the extent of adult salmonid populations during the summer months. If you have any questions related to these surveys or about Blue Creek in general, please feel free to contact me at (707)482-2841.

KL-17

TABLE 1.
YUROK TRIBAL FISHERIES PROGRAM
 Salmonid Live Counts by Reach, Blue Creek, Summer 1997

Date	Reach	Adult Steelhead (>18")	Steelhead "Half-pounder" (14-18")	Adult Chinook	Adult Cutthroat (>14")	Unidentified Adult Salmonid	Other
8/8/97	1	4	7	3	29	0	0
8/8/97	2	5	21	0	2	0	0
8/8/97	3	2	1	0	1	0	2 Adult Sockeye
8/8/97	4	0	1	0	0	0	0
7/24/97	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
8/6-7/97	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
8/6-7/97	7	0	0	0	1	0	0
Total:		11	30	3	33	0	2 Adult Sockeye
Note: Reach #4 was also surveyed on 7/24/97 following the reach #5 survey and the following was observed:							
7/24/97	4	1	10	1	0	0	0

Reach Descriptions:

- Reach #1: Simpson Bridge Crossing to Blue Creek Mouth (2.1 miles)
- Reach #2: B10X Road Access to Simpson Bridge Crossing (3.5 miles)
- Reach #3: Slide Creek Confluence to B10X Road Access (2.5 miles)
- Reach #4: Crescent City Fork Confluence to Slide Creek Confluence (2.2 miles)
- Reach #5: Mainstem Blue Creek from Barrier to Crescent City Fork Confluence (4.25 miles)
- Reach #6: Crescent City Fork from Road #13N34A Trail Access to Mouth (3.5 miles)
- Reach #7: Crescent City Fork from Road #13N26D Trail Access to Road #13N34A Trail Access (1.85 miles)

TABLE 2.
YUROK TRIBAL FISHERIES PROGRAM
Salmonid Live Counts by Reach, Blue Creek, Summer 1996

Date	Reach	Adult Steelhead (>18")	Steelhead "Half-pounder" (14-18")	Adult Chinook	Adult Cutthroat (>14")	Unidentified Adult Salmonid	Other
7/23/96	1	9	0	0	4	1	0
7/23/96	2	1	2	0	12	0	1 Adult Chum
7/23/96	3	2	3	1	7	0	0
7/23/96	4	1	3	0	3	0	0
7/25-26/96	5	0	2	0	9	0	0
7/22/96	6	0	0	1	2	0	0
Total		13	10	2	37	1	1 Adult Chum

Reach Descriptions:

- Reach #1: Simpson Bridge Crossing to Blue Creek Mouth (2.1 miles)
- Reach #2: B10X Road Access to Simpson Bridge Crossing (3.5 miles)
- Reach #3: Slide Creek Confluence to B10X Road Access (2.5 miles)
- Reach #4: Crescent City Fork Confluence to Slide Creek Confluence (2.2 miles)
- Reach #5: Mainstem Blue Creek from Barrier to Crescent City Fork Confluence (4.25 miles)
- Reach #6: Crescent City Fork from Road #13N34A Access to Mouth (3.5 miles)

YUOK TRIBAL FISHERIES PROGRAM
Spring 1997 Outmigrant Trapping Summary

BLUE CREEK SCREW TRAP

Week Ending	# Days Sampled	Chinook	Steelhead		Coho		Cutthroat
			YOY	Parr/Smolt	YOY	Yearling	
2/22/96	3	2	0	14	0	0	0
3/1/97	7	9	0	13	0	0	0
3/8/97	5	21	0	23	0	1	0
3/15/97	7	20	0	11	0	1	0
3/22/97	7	76	0	31	0	1	0
3/29/97	7	338	0	22	0	0	0
4/5/97	7	270	0	27	0	0	0

MCGARVEY CREEK PIPE TRAP

Week Ending	# Days Sampled	Chinook	Steelhead		Coho		Cutthroat
			YOY	Parr/Smolt	YOY	Yearling	
3/15/97	5	0	0	25	0	1	79
3/22/97	7	0	0	44	0	0	135
3/29/97	7	0	0	29	0	3	115
4/5/97	7	0	0	69	0	1	144

HUNTER CREEK PIPE TRAP

Week Ending	# Days Sampled	Chinook	Steelhead		Coho		Cutthroat
			YOY	Parr/Smolt	YOY	Yearling	
3/29/97	4	2	0	114	0	2	27
4/5/97	7	0	0	253	0	25	44