

REF 90530

YUOK TRIBAL FISHERIES PROGRAM

April 15, 1997

TO: Tom Weseloh, California Trout

FROM: Dan Gale^{RA}

SUBJECT: FY 1995-1996 Blue Creek Spawning Survey Results

In response to your request, enclosed are summaries for fall snorkel surveys conducted in Blue Creek during FY 1995-1996. I've also included a figure comparing the fall chinook peak counts (largest single week survey total) for reaches #1-4 from 1988-1996. These annual surveys were initiated by USFWS in 1988 but they only typically snorkeled downstream of the Crescent City Fork confluence (reaches #1-4) and hence I am forced to compare annual numbers only in these lower reaches. Preliminary results from 1995-1996 surveys indicate that the bulk of holding and/or spawning chinook are present in the lower four reaches, but only continued surveys in future years will determine the validity of comparing these "index" reaches.

YTFP expanded the USFWS survey effort beginning in 1995, including the following changes:

- YTFP initiates the surveys as early in September as possible in order to document date of first entry by species as well as assess early fall usage by species. USFWS typically did not initiate their surveys until mid-October.
- YTFP surveys reaches #1-4 on a weekly basis beginning in early October. USFWS surveyed every other week throughout their survey period.
- YTFP added the upper mainstem reach (reach #5 - between the C.C. Fork and the mainstem barrier) as well as two reaches within the Crescent City Fork itself (Reaches #6-7). These reaches are surveyed on alternating weeks beginning in early October (Reach #5 one week, reaches #6-7 on the next week etc.) USFWS only sporadically "spot-checked" the lowermost portions of these reaches due to access constraints.
- YTFP added reaches on West Fork Blue Creek (reach #8) and Nickowitz Creek (reach #9) in order to assess fall usage of these tributaries. These surveys are typically conducted on a bi-weekly basis. USFWS only sporadically snorkeled lower West Fork and never surveyed in Nickowitz Creek.
- YTFP also conducts a basin-wide summer inventory (typically in late July) as well as winter/spring surveys as stream conditions and staff availability permit.

In addition, I have included a 1997 outmigrant trapping summary for our three tributary traps. Note that these are only numbers of fish caught by week at each trap and do not

include any expansion for trapping efficiency. This expansion will occur at a later date when I have time.

If you have questions concerning any of these projects or if you have any interest in participating in any of our future Blue Creek surveys, feel free to contact me at (707)482-2841.

cc: Dave McLeod, CDFG

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YUROK TRIBAL FISHERIES PROGRAM
Salmonid Live Counts by Reach, Blue Creek, Fall 1996.

Date	Reach	Chinook		Coho		Steelhead		Adult	Unidentified	Chinook	
		Adult	Jack	Adult	Jack	1/2 Pounder	Adult	Cutthroat	Adult Salmonid	New Redds	Carcasses
9/9/96	1	0	0	0	0	52	2	21	0	0	0
9/10/96	2	1	0	0	0	6	2	7	0	0	0
9/12/96	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0
9/13/96	4	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
Total											
9/23/96	1	0	0	0	0	17	1	14	0	0	0
9/24/96	2	2	1	0	0	7	0	2	0	0	0
9/25/96	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0
9/26/96	4	2	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0
Total											
10/11/96	1	0	0	0	0	10	3	8	0	0	1(+1 coho)
10/11/96	2	4	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	1	0
10/11/96	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	0
10/10/96	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0
10/9/96	6	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total											
10/18/96	1	- Survey cancelled due to heavy rains/poor water visibility -									
10/18/96	2	- Survey cancelled due to heavy rains/poor water visibility -									
10/17/96	3	0	1	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
10/17/96	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0
10/17/96	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/16/96	8	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0
Total											
10/23/96	1	5	0	0	0	8	0	4	0	0	0
10/23/96	2	10	0	2	0	5	1	8	0	1	0
10/22/96	3	6	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	0
10/22/96	4	6	1	0	0	3	0	3	0	1	0
10/25/96	6	7	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
10/24/96	8	- Survey cancelled due to heavy rains/poor water visibility -									
Total											
10/30/96	1	30	3	1	0	8	1	4	1	0	0
10/30/96	2	445	24	18	0	16	0	0	0	2	0
10/29/96	3	78	0	0	0	6	3	3	0	2	0
10/29/96	4	64	12	4	0	1	0	3	1	0	0
11/1/96	5	63	9	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	0
11/1/96	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/1/96	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total											
11/8/96	1	17	1	0	0	3	0	4	0	1	0
11/8/96	2	512	42	12	1	2	1	8	1	11	1
11/7/96	3	95	10	6	0	8	1	8	0	1	1
11/7/96	4	74	6	10	0	2	0	6	0	3	1
11/6/96	6	17	4	5	2	0	0	0	0	10	0
11/6/96	7	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0
Total											
11/13/96	1	15	0	1	0	4	1	7	0	2	0
11/13/96	2	579	27	17	0	2	0	9	0	9	0
11/12/96	3	72	3	3	0	7	1	0	0	3	0
11/12/96	4	95	10	12	0	3	0	3	0	5	0
11/15/96	5	46	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0
11/14/96	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total											

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 Barner 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)
- Reach #8: West Fork Blue Creek from Potato Patch Creek confluence to Mouth (0.85 miles)
- Reach #9: Nickowitz Creek above Mouth (1.0 miles)

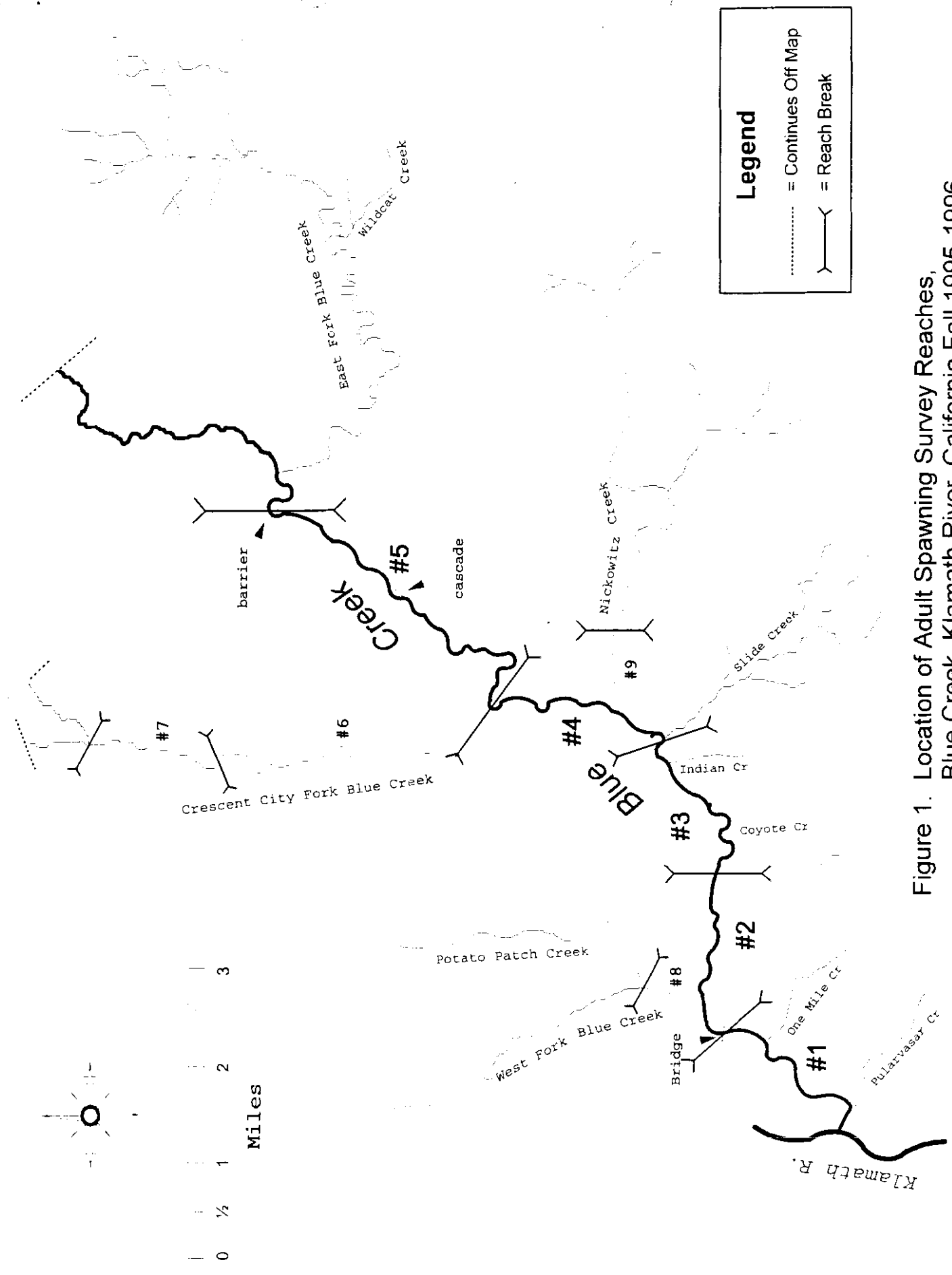


Figure 1. Location of Adult Spawning Survey Reaches, Blue Creek, Klamath River, California Fall 1995-1996.

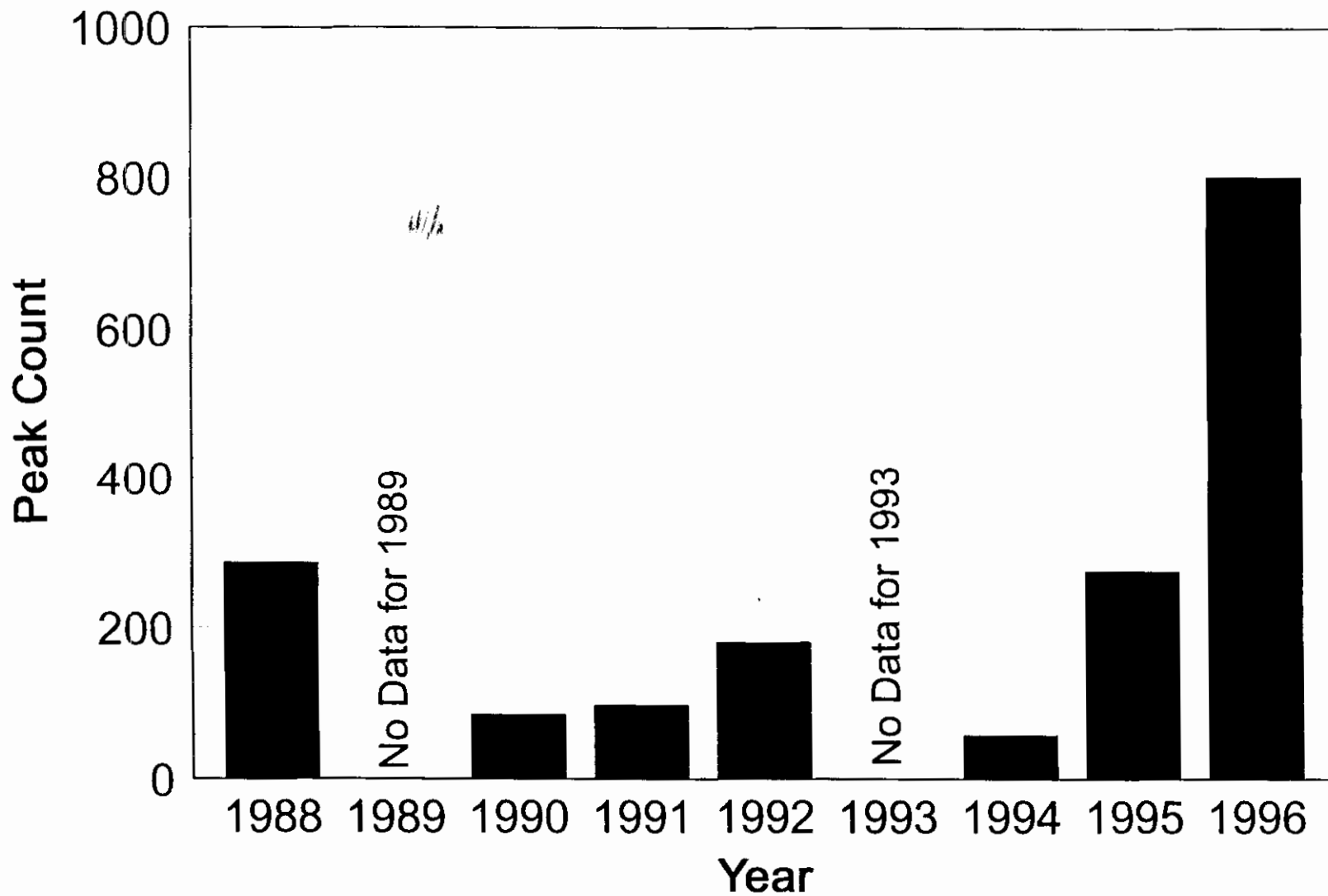


Figure X. Annual peak counts of late-fall run chinook in Reaches #1-4, Blue Creek, Lower Klamath River, California. 1988-1996.