

REF 90572

YUROK TRIBAL FISHERIES PROGRAM

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Dan Gale, Senior Fisheries Biologist
SUBJECT: 1998 Blue Creek Summer Snorkel Surveys

August 31, 1998

RECEIVED

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FISH AND GAME
EUREKA, CA

Enclosed is a summary of the summer snorkel surveys conducted in Blue Creek during late July and early August. These surveys represent the third year that all major anadromous reaches of the Blue Creek drainage have 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 five mainstem reaches as well as larger numbers of "half-pounders" (Table 1). For comparison purposes, a summary of 1996 and 1997 survey results are included in Table 1. Adult coastal cutthroat trout numbers were lower than those observed during 1996-1997 surveys, with their distribution limited to the lower three mainstem reaches. A similar summer distribution was observed in 1997, while in 1996 cutthroat were much more evenly distributed throughout the basin. Weekly fall snorkel surveys, scheduled to be initiated in mid-September, will allow an assessment of whether this distribution changes as the summer and fall months progress. No adult chinook salmon or adults of other salmonid species were observed in Blue Creek during 1998.

The Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program (YTFFP) 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.

TABLE 1.
YUROK TRIBAL FISHERIES PROGRAM
 Salmonid Live Counts by Reach, Blue Creek, Summer 1996-1998

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
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
7/24/97	4	1	10	1	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:		12	39	4	33	0	2 Adult Sockeye
8/6/98	1	1	9	0	4	0	0
8/6/98	2	2	27	0	7	0	0
8/6/98	3	1	4	0	4	0	0
8/6/98	4	2	4	0	0	0	0
7/30-31/98	5	1	2	0	0	0	0
8/4/98	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
8/5/98	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total:		7	46	0	15	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 #14N01C Trail Access to Road #13N34A Trail Access (3.5 miles)

**YUOK TRIBAL FISHERIES PROGRAM
BLUE CREEK SCREW TRAP CAPTURE SUMMARY**

Week Ending	# Days Sampled	Chinook	Steelhead			Coho		Cutthroat
			YOY	Parr	Smolt	YOY	Yearling	
2/28/98	3	19	0	8	0	0	0	0
3/7/98	7	24	0	8	1	0	0	0
3/14/98	7	9	0	18	8	0	0	0
3/21/98	7	8	0	11	10	0	1	0
3/28/98	1	29	0	0	0	0	0	0
4/4/98	7	235	1	5	0	1	0	0
4/11/98	7	356	0	9	3	0	2	0
4/18/98	7	307	0	5	2	0	2	0
4/25/98	7	770	6	12	7	0	2	0
5/2/98	7	815	1	9	6	1	6	0
5/9/98	7	307	19	12	6	0	0	0
5/16/98	7	121	29	1	1	0	2	1
5/23/98	7	319	159	15	0	0	3	0
5/30/98	7	326	162	19	8	2	7	0
6/6/98	7	266	420	19	2	0	4	0
6/13/98	7	182	231	3	0	0	1	0
6/20/98	7	1,228	2,365	17	1	0	6	0
Total:	109	5,321	3,393	171	55	4	36	1

08/97

BLUE CREEK

REACHES	ADULTS	1/2 LBS	CREW
7/22/96			
Reach 6 Crescent City fork from Rd.#13N34A access to mouth (3.5 miles)	0	0	H.Voight/ D.Gale/F.Ericson/
7/23/96			
Reach 1 Simpson Bridge crossing to Blue Creek mouth (2.1 Miles)	9	0	D.Sanderson Jr./ R.Myers
Reach 2 B10X Road access to Simpson Bridge crossing (3.5 Miles)	1	2	R.Taylor/H.Brooks/ Brian ?
Reach 3 Slide Creek confluence to B10X Road access (2.5 Miles)	2	3	D.Gale/T.Hayden/ E.Kelly
Reach 4 Crescent City Fork confluence to Slide Creek confluence (2.2 Miles)	1	3	L.Cyr/T.Wallace/ T.Heinz/H.Voight
7/25-26/96			
Reach 5 Mainstem Blue Creek to Crescent City Fork confluence (4.25 Miles)	0	2	H.Voight/D.Gale
Total	13	10	

Incidentals

Reach 6	1 spring chinook
Reach 1	1 unidentified adult salmonid
Reach 2	1 adult chum
Reach 3	1 adult chinook