

State of California

The Resources Agency



# Memorandum

September 18, 2002

To : Files

From : Patrick Garrison, Biologist  
CA Department Fish and Game  
Steelhead Research and Monitoring Program

REF 90585

Subject: 2002 South Fork Trinity River summer steelhead/spring chinook snorkel survey

Snorkel surveys were conducted on the South Fork Trinity River and Hayfork Creek on August 20 and 21, 2002. A total of 17 sections were surveyed. Sections E and F were divided to ease logistical complications. Thank you to all who participated; Volunteers were recruited from a variety of federal, state and tribal agencies including, but not limited to the US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Hoopa Valley Tribal Fisheries Program, Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program, US Bureau of Land Management, South Fork Land Conservancy, South Fork CRMP and Americorps.

Table 1. South Fork Trinity River summer steelhead and spring-chinook snorkel survey results by section.

Section	Adult Chinook	Chinook Grilse	Steelhead	½ lb Steelhead
A (East Fork South Fork Trinity River)	0	0	0	1
B (Raspberry Creek to East Fork confluence)	0	0	0	0
C (East Fork confluence to Red Mountain Creek)	5	0	0	0
D (Red Mountain Creek to Silver Creek)	0	1	0	2
E (Silver Creek to Scott's Flat)	26	0	1	10
F (Scott's Flat to Hidden Valley Ranch)	97	6	5	8
G (Hidden Valley Ranch to River Spirit)	37	3	6	6
H (River Spirit to Hitchcock Creek)	23	3	3	0
I (Hitchcock Creek to Lover's Leap)	5	0	1	0
J (Lover's Leap to Big Slide campground)	47	3	1	0
K (Big Slide campground to old Gates weir)	47	20	2	2
L (Old Gates weir to Surprise Creek)	4	0	1	2
M (Surprise Creek to Low Bridge)	0	1	1	2
N (Low Bridge to Sandy Bar)	0	0	0	0
Total South Fork Trinity	291	37	21	33

Table 2. Hayfork Creek summer steelhead and spring chinook snorkel survey results by section.

Section	Adult Chinook	Chinook Grilse	Steelhead	½ lb Steelhead
X (Little Creek to Miners Creek)	9	0	6	6
Y (Miner's Creek to Bar 717 Ranch)	39	0	7	1
Z (Bar 717 Ranch to Mouth)	8	0	1	2
<b>Total Hayfork Creek</b>	56	0	14	9

The majority of steelhead and salmon were observed holding in pools. The highest count of spring chinook in one pool was 45 fish, observed in the Klondike Mine pool (Section F). Steelhead were dispersed sporadically throughout the South Fork, with no more than three fish observed in any one pool. Two spring chinook carcasses were observed in the South Fork; one each in sections E and I, carcasses are included in adult chinook totals. Water visibility was good to excellent in all sections, ranging from 10 to 40 feet.

Adult steelhead numbers for the South Fork and Hayfork Creek were down substantially compared to last year, and below the ten-year average of 43 adult fish. Spring-run chinook numbers rose this year, approaching the ten-year average of 401 fish.

Table 3. Total numbers of adult summer steelhead and spring chinook counted in the South Fork of the Trinity River and Hayfork Creek during previous year's snorkel surveys.

Year	Total Adult Steelhead	Total Chinook (including grilse)
1992	21	166
1993	23	284
1994	22	243
1995	42	579
1996	11	1097
1997	95	655
1998	37	172
1999 <sub>1</sub>	38	175
2000	76	256
2001	76	166
2002	35	384

<sub>1</sub>1999 numbers are incomplete due to excessive turbidity caused by Hitchcock Creek slide. Five reaches were left unsurveyed.