

1949 - 50

SHAGAN RIVER FISH COUNT

SICKLYIN COUNTY

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California Division of Fish and Game

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Note: Poor quality original

The racks were installed at the Shagan River counting station on Sept. 15, 1949 and were maintained until Jan. 19, 1950 when high water caused a rotten stringer to give way and several rack sections to wash out. The station was then closed because it was feared that many steelhead probably escaped through uncounted.

The counts of king and silver salmon and the first part of the steelhead count was made by Mr. Peter Popov, Hatchery Assistant, of the Stream Improvement crew.

KING SALMON COUNT:

The first upstream migrants to be counted through the racks were two king salmon on September 28. During October there were 191 kings counted through, the last being on October 11. The total count of this species was 193 for the entire season.

No attempt was made to differentiate the males and the grilse. Conditions for observations were not good and the observer was unskilled in this work.

The condition of the fish seemed reasonably good. Few had a serious growth of fungus. Mr. Harold Wolf, malacologist, examined eight or ten adult kings but found none with drylandia.

SILVER SALMON COUNT:

The first silver salmon were counted through the racks on October 24, and the last on about December 20. The total count for the season was 312 silvers. No attempt was made to differentiate the sexes and the grilse. These fish appeared to be in good health.

This was the second season in which the silvers were counted. Prior to that time the racks were removed as soon as the king salmon run was completed. In both these last two years the silver salmon count has surpassed that of the kings.

STEELHEAD COUNT:

The first steelhead was counted through the racks on October 3. They continued to run irregularly throughout the period the racks were in place and it may be assumed, quite logically, that the major portion of the run occurred after the racks were washed out on January 19. The actual count of steelhead was 491.

No attempt was made to differentiate the sexes and the grilse. The individuals seen appeared to be in good health.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

If a new counting station can be established at the proposed site near the mouth of the river before Sept., 1950 the present station should be abandoned. However, if this cannot be done then the present station should be operated during the king salmon run only which is about September 15 to October 15. Under these conditions it might not be necessary for the attendant to live in the cabin. He could make counts in both morning and afternoon since the run of fish will likely be small.

TABLE I

SHASTA RIVER COUNT FOR 1949 - 50

	<u>KS</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>SH</u>
September, 1949	2	0	0
October, 1949	191	55	75
November, 1949	0	240	156
December, 1949	0	17	191
January, 1950	0	0	69
	<u>193</u>	<u>312</u>	<u>491*</u>

* This cannot be considered the total steelhead run for the season since the racks were washed out on 1/19/50 which was probably before the major run occurred.

TABLE II

SHASTA RIVER FISH COUNTS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ADULT KING SALMON</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>KS</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>SH</u>
1930	19,338	1945	18,191		
1931	81,814	1946	7,590		
1932	34,639	1947	341		
1933	11,570	1948-49	37	372	3,957
1934	48,668	1949-50	193	312	4,914*
1935	74,537				
1936	46,115				
1937	33,255				
1938	9,090*				
1939	28,269				
1940	55,155				
1941	13,252				
1942	11,425				
1943	10,022				
1944	11,498				

* Prior to this year the counts were made near the mouth of the river and were considered to be one-third greater than at upper rack.

** Partial count of SH as racks washed out on 1/19/50.