

California Steelhead Fishing Report-Restoration Card

A Report To The Legislature



Department of Fish and Game

July 2007



(Photo of Rebecca Weseloh [13] on the Mad River)

*State of California
The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game*

California Steelhead Fishing Report-Restoration Card

A Report To The Legislature

by

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INTRODUCTION

The *Steelhead Trout Catch Report-Restoration Card* (Report Card) was enacted by state legislation in 1991 and, was subsequently adopted by the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission). Fish and Game Code Sections 7380 and 7381 require anglers fishing for steelhead in inland waters to purchase a Report Card and record their steelhead fishing information. The Department of Fish and Game (Department) uses this information to manage steelhead angling to benefit steelhead and to prevent angling programs from having a detrimental effect on the steelhead populations. Section 7381 requires that all revenue derived from the sale of the Report Cards be used to monitor, restore, or enhance steelhead resources and to administer the program.

The Report Card regulation requires steelhead anglers 16 years of age or older to purchase and possess the nontransferable Report Card when fishing for steelhead in any of the State's anadromous waters. All steelhead caught must be recorded on the Report Card, whether kept or released, in addition to the date and location fished. Information contained on the Report Cards is used to estimate catch and harvest. The Department uses this information to develop angling and management regulations that avoid over harvesting wild steelhead, and to monitor the take of steelhead in California.

Section 7381, prior to AB 2773, required the Department to report to the Legislature on or before July 1, 2007, regarding the implementation of the Report Card program, the projects undertaken using revenues derived pursuant to that program, the benefits derived, and its recommendation regarding whether the Report Card requirement should be continued. This document fulfills the reporting requirement.

The Report Card serves two major roles, 1) to gather steelhead angling data to monitor catch trends over time and, 2) to generate revenue dedicated specifically for funding projects that contribute to the restoration of California's steelhead habitat and recover steelhead populations. The program involves developing the statistical and survey methodologies to obtain and analyze harvest and angler-use information contained on the cards, updating the report card as necessary, and making management recommendations to restore and enhance steelhead trout resources statewide.

The Report Card goals are to restore watershed processes and functions, modify or remove barriers to migration, protect and restore steelhead instream habitat, increase long-term effectiveness of restoration efforts by monitoring and maintaining projects, encourage local government and community based partnerships through support for watershed organizations, identify watershed priorities and restoration projects through watershed evaluation and planning, and support public school watershed education and technical workshops and conferences.

The Report Card is the only statewide program designed to gather such data. Because the majority of California's steelhead populations are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), angling information is critical to ensure that angling does not significantly impact steelhead populations. This information is critical to understanding how angling affects steelhead populations and is essential information needed to adjust angling regulations so that angling can be continued, consistent with provisions of the ESA.

The revenue from the Report Card funds investigations that increase our understanding of steelhead so that we more effectively manage steelhead for 1) protection and restoration of depleted stocks, and 2) provide recreational opportunities to steelhead anglers.

In summary, the steelhead Report Card program helps the Department fulfill its dual responsibility for steelhead, that of protecting public trust resources and maintaining and improving opportunities for steelhead angling.

OVERVIEW OF STEELHEAD BIOLOGY AND STATUS

Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) is a sea-run (anadromous) form of rainbow trout and is a popular gamefish in the Pacific Northwest and California. In California, known spawning populations are found in coastal rivers and streams from San Mateo Creek in San Diego County to the Smith River near the Oregon border, and in the Sacramento and San Joaquin river systems. The present distribution of steelhead in California has been greatly reduced from historical levels.

The decline of California steelhead appears to be part of a more prevalent West Coast steelhead decline. This decline prompted the National Marine Fisheries Service to list nearly all of California's steelhead populations under the ESA. The major factors causing the steelhead decline in California, are freshwater habitat loss and degradation, which has resulted mainly from three factors: inadequate stream flows, blocked access to historic spawning and rearing areas due to dams, and human activities that discharge sediment and debris into watercourses. The Report Card has provided information on steelhead sport harvest rates which suggest that over-exploitation of wild stocks is not occurring on a widespread basis and thus is unlikely the cause of the general decline of wild populations. The Smith River is the only steelhead stream in California where wild steelhead may be kept (Figure 1).

Steelhead populations throughout the state have faced many habitat degradation and loss challenges resulting in significant statewide declines. Steelhead runs in north coast drainages (north of San Francisco Bay) are comprised mostly of wild fish (Figure 2). Adverse impacts to north coast stocks are mainly from land use activities, primarily timber harvest, agriculture, water diversion dams, gravel mining, and predation by introduced Sacramento pikeminnow (Figure 3).



Figure 1. Wild steelhead caught on the Smith River (Photo by Dr. Walt Duffy).

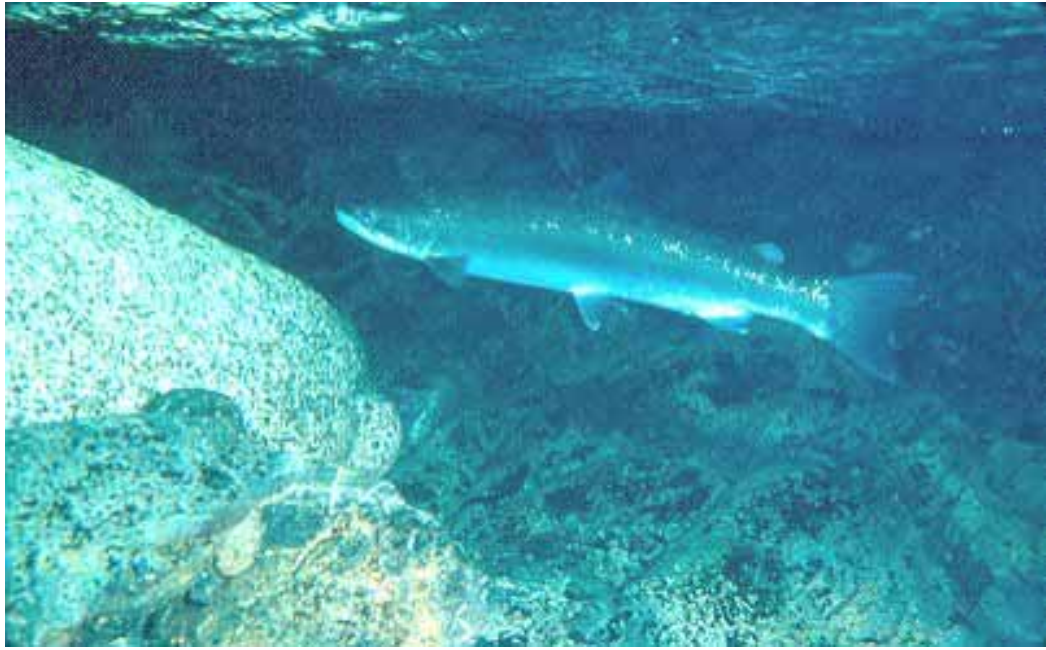


Figure 2. Wild steelhead in natural habitat (photo from Humboldt State University).



Figure 3. Land slide (A), log jam (B), water diversion (C), riparian grazing (D), Sacramento pikeminnow (E).

Steelhead ranged throughout the tributaries of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers prior to dam construction, water development, and watershed perturbations of the 19th, 20th and early 21st centuries. Populations have been most severely affected by dams blocking access to spawning and rearing habitat in the headwaters of all the major tributaries (Figure 4). Consequently, most runs are mitigated through artificial production in fish hatcheries.

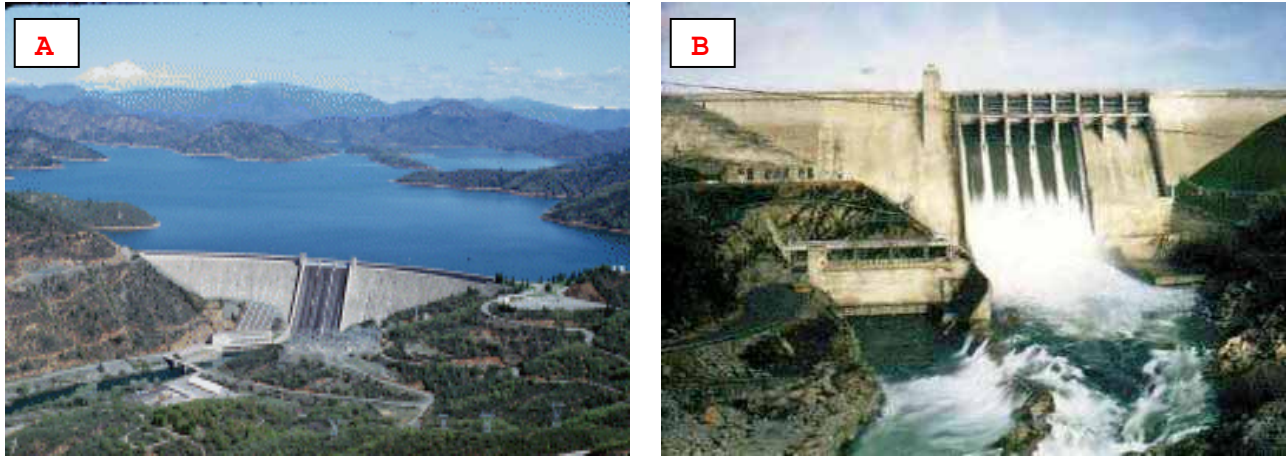


Figure 4. Examples of high Central Valley dams without anadromous passage: Shasta (A) and Folsom dams (B).

Southern steelhead (those occurring south of San Francisco Bay) were formerly found in coastal drainages as far south as the Santo Domingo River in northern Baja California and were present in many streams and rivers of southern California (Figure 5). Major adverse impacts to southern steelhead are from urbanization (Figure 6), water impoundment and diversion (Figure 7), and invasive plant species (Figure 8). Headwaters of a majority of these streams, now inaccessible to steelhead, remain healthy and could support steelhead spawning and rearing, if they were accessible (Figure 9).



Figure 5. A day's catch of steelhead, Ventura River 1946.



Figure 6. Southern California stream urbanization: Concrete channelization (A) and Ford crossing migration barriers (B).

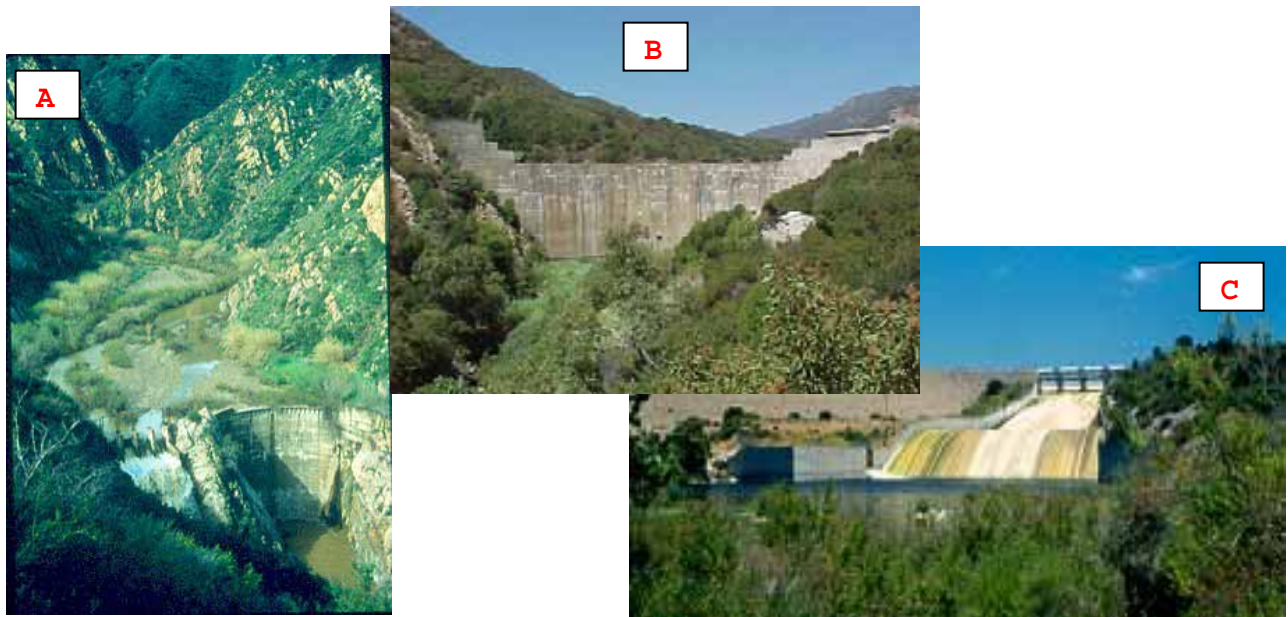


Figure 7. Southern California dams without upstream fish passage: Rindge Dam, Malibu Creek (A), Matilija Dam, Ventura River (B), Bradbury Dam, Santa Ynez River (C).



Figure 8. Invasive plants clogging streams and restricting fish passage.



Figure 9. Examples of Southern California stream headwaters above impassible barriers.

Steelhead are similar to some Pacific salmon in their ecological requirements and life history (Figure 10). They are born in freshwater, then emigrate to the ocean where most of their growth occurs, and then return to freshwater to spawn. Unlike Pacific salmon, steelhead do not necessarily die after spawning. Post-spawning survival rates are generally low, however, and vary considerably between populations. In California, most steelhead spawn from December through April in small streams and tributaries where cool, well-oxygenated water is available year-round. Juvenile steelhead typically spend two years in their natal streams before migrating to the ocean where they remain for one to three years before returning to freshwater to spawn.

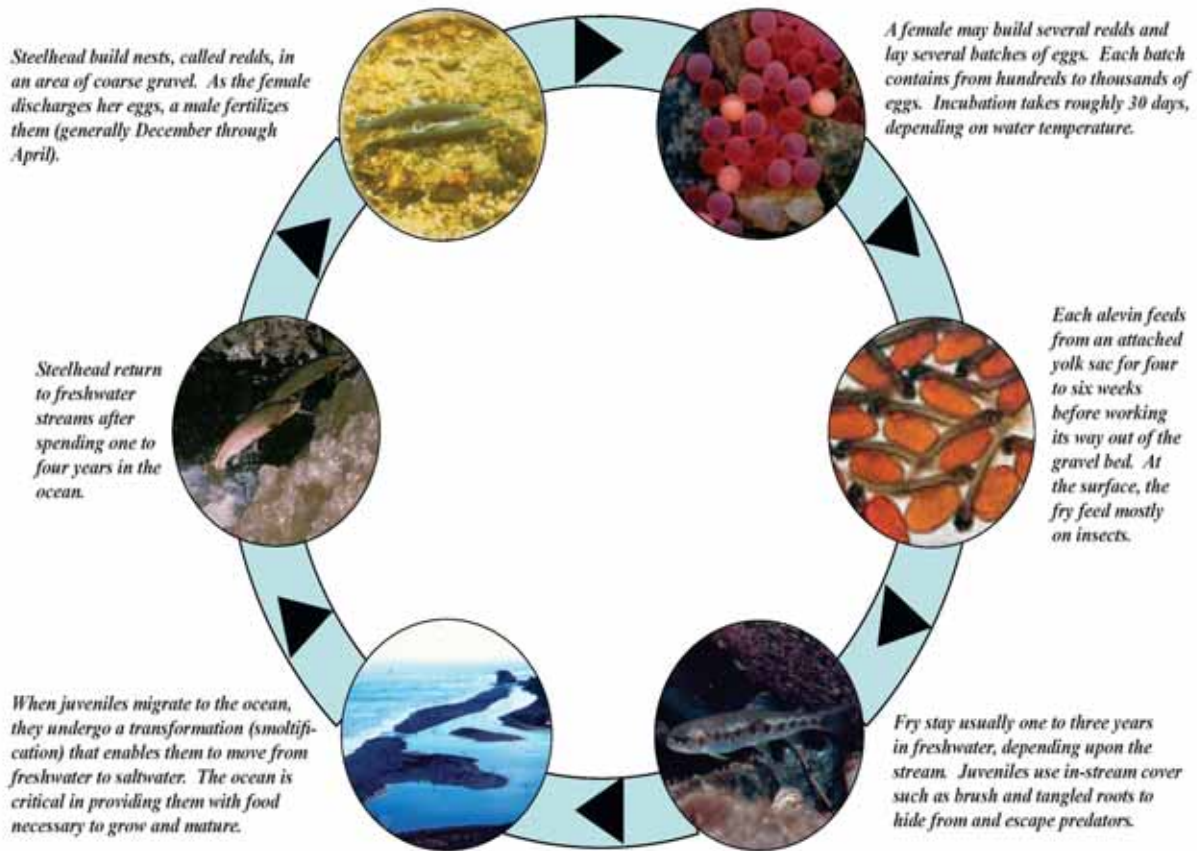


Figure 10. Lifecycle of a Steelhead (Department file photos).

Because of the declines, the Federal Government, with the Department's concurrence, listed all coastal steelhead populations south of the Russian River under the ESA in 1997. Central Valley steelhead were listed in 1998, and populations from the Russian River north to Redwood Creek were listed in 2000. All of these are listed as threatened species except for Southern California steelhead, which are listed as an endangered species. Only those populations north of and including the Klamath-Trinity system remain unlisted (Figure 11).



Figure 11. Steelhead ESA Listing Status in California, by Distinct Population Segments (DPS).

"Population" or "distinct population segment" are terms with specific meaning under ESA when used for listing, delisting, and reclassification purposes to describe a discrete vertebrate stock that may be added or deleted from the list of threatened and endangered species.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

The Report Card was enacted by state legislation in 1991 (Assembly Bill 2187, Chapter 1037) and, was subsequently adopted by the Commission. AB 2187 established Fish and Game Code Sections 7380 and 7381 that requires anglers fishing for steelhead in inland waters to purchase a Report Card and record their steelhead fishing information.

AB 2187 became inoperative on July 1, 1997 and was scheduled to sunset on January 1, 1998. The Department sponsored Senate Bill 183 (Stats 1997 ch 240) to reestablish the Report Card requirement and program until January 1, 2003. SB 183 changed the requirement that the angler record the date and location of their fishing trip before commencing fishing to after completing fishing for the day, and required the Department to report to the Legislature on or before July 1, 2002. In December 2000, the Department submitted a report to the Legislature to fulfill that requirement.

AB 2783 (Stats 2002 ch 594; Stats 2003 ch 741), reestablished and amended Fish and Game Code Sections 7380 and 7381, and added Section 7382 to contain the language repealing the Report Card requirement and program. Besides moving the repealing language from Section 7381 to Section 7382, Section 7380 was amended to increase the base cost of the Report Card from three dollars to five dollars as adjusted pursuant to Section 713, and to change the return of the Report Card from voluntary to mandatory.

AB 2773 (Stats 2006) reestablished and amended Fish and Game Code Sections 7380, 7381, and 7382. This bill changed the name of the Steelhead Trout Catch Report-Restoration Card to the Steelhead Fishing Report-Restoration Card, changed the information recording requirement from after fishing to before the cardholder begins fishing for the day, and appropriated \$800,000 from the Report Card dedicated account to the Department for monitoring and restoring steelhead resources through the Report Card program. The money was made available for expenditure by the Department through June 30, 2009.

IMPLEMENTATION AND TENURE

The Department began implementing the Report Card program in 1993. An Associate Biologist position was established in 1992 to implement and coordinate the Steelhead Report-Restoration Card program. The duties of this position are to administer the program, collect the Report Card information through statistically valid surveys, analyze fishing and catch information, and review, prioritize, and coordinate the development of specific stream restoration projects to be funded by Report Card revenues.

The Department went to great lengths to inform the public about the program and the restoration projects that are funded. Based on comments received, the angling public appears to have recognized the benefits and the Department continues efforts to educate the public about the Report Card program through news releases, informational fliers, speaking engagements to angling and fisheries groups around the State, radio talk shows, and magazine articles.

Program implementation also required a close working relationship with the California Advisory Committee on Salmon and Steelhead Trout (CAC), a legislatively appointed advisory committee that advises the Department. The Steelhead Subcommittee of the CAC is composed of five members, representing sport fisheries and biologists. Prior to implementation, the Steelhead Subcommittee reviewed and advised the Department on the Report Card design and, together with the Department, developed a protocol for reviewing and approving steelhead projects to be funded by Report Card revenues. The Department and the Steelhead Subcommittee have a complementary relationship and the

Steelhead Subcommittee has provided valuable insight and advice. The Department has kept the Steelhead Subcommittee apprised through e-mails, progress reports, memos, presentations, and phone and personal conversations.

Design of the Report Card

Numerous iterations of Report Card design were made before the 1993 design was accepted. The basic design, with minor management and clarity improvements annually, is still used (Figure 12). From 1993 through 1998, the Report Card was relatively small and difficult for many anglers to read. To increase readability and provide additional information for the angler, the Report Card size was increased.


In 1993, the Department recognized the section of the Sacramento River below Lake Shasta and upstream of the Deschutes Bridge Road (Shasta County) as a “trophy” resident rainbow trout fishery (Figure 13). To eliminate inclusion of catch data for these rainbow trout from the Sacramento River steelhead catch analyses, Location Code 26 was modified to exclude this area. This is the only anadromous water in the state where the Report Card is not required for fishing for rainbow trout greater than 16 inches.

Collection of steelhead harvest data required the development and implementation of a repeatable sampling design. For the first ten years of the program, return of the Report Card was voluntary. All Report Card purchasers were requested to return the Report Card to the Department after the end of the survey period. This design was successful at gathering some useful data previously not available to the Department. However, overall returns were much lower than desired (approximately 8%) of Report Card purchases. It is well-documented that voluntary surveys are usually biased because the more successful anglers are more likely to return their information than less successful anglers. Thus, to improve statistical validity in our estimations and to increase the number of Report Card returns, each year a subset of 10,000 Report Card purchasers were surveyed with a stratified random survey methodology. Those selected were mailed a survey form and a postage paid envelope, and requested to return their Report Card to the Department, which resulted in an average response rate of 22%.

In 1997, the Department instituted a 100% marking program for all hatchery steelhead (Figure 14), including those raised at non-Department hatcheries and rearing projects. As a result, all hatchery steelhead are now marked with an adipose fin clip, and are readily identifiable to the angler as hatchery steelhead. In 1998, the Commission adopted regulations requiring all non adipose fin-clipped steelhead (i.e, wild steelhead) to be released, except in the Sacramento River above Redding and in the Smith River system

Since 1999, the Report Card has gathered information on the origin (hatchery or wild) of returning steelhead caught by anglers. A graphic showing the differences between wild and hatchery steelhead was displayed on the Report Card to assist the angler in properly distinguishing the two (see Figure 12). Hatchery/wild information is useful to determine catch rates and potential angling impacts to wild steelhead. This information is used to adjust angling regulations and direct management efforts to enhance the health of California’s wild steelhead stocks.

Though the voluntary return and stratified random survey method was successful at gathering data and developing reliable statewide harvest estimates, the Report Card return rates were much too low to develop reliable catch estimates for a majority of California’s steelhead streams. This prompted significant discussion within the Department and between the Department and the Steelhead Subcommittee to investigate options to increase the return rate, including looking at steelhead programs in other states.



**2006 CALIFORNIA
STEELHEAD FISHING REPORT
AND RESTORATION CARD**
(Card invalid after December 31, 2006)

DATE ISSUED: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____


CALIFORNIA FISHING LICENSE NUMBER: _____ HOME PHONE: _____

Fee — \$5.50 CARD NUMBER **001413-04**

MONTH	DAY	LOCATION CODE	WILD KEPT	HATCHERY KEPT	MONTH	DAY	LOCATION CODE	WILD KEPT	HATCHERY KEPT
			0	00				0	00
			0	00				0	00
			0	00				0	00
			0	00				0	00
			0	00				0	00
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WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED FISHING FOR THE DAY, OR MOVE TO ANOTHER LOCATION CODE, OR UPON RETAINING A STEELHEAD (as defined on back), IMMEDIATELY RECORD the Month, Day and Location Code. This information must be recorded EVEN IF NO STEELHEAD WERE CAUGHT. SEE BACK FOR ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS.

Wild fish have all fins with straight, branched fin rays and adipose fin is intact.



Wild fish have all their fins.

Hatchery fish exhibit adipose fin clipped-off and healed scar.



Hatchery steelhead missing this circled fin.

You are REQUIRED BY LAW TO RETURN THIS REPORT CARD to the Department of Fish and Game by **January 31, 2007**. Mail your card to:
California Department of Fish and Game, NAFWB
Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card
P. O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

**THIS CARD IS NONTRANSFERABLE
LICENSEE'S COPY**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STEELHEAD ANGLERS

Title 14, Section 1.74(b), of the California Code of Regulations requires that this card be in your possession while fishing for steelhead trout in California anadromous waters and that you record your catch with a **BALL POINT PEN**, in accordance with these instructions. For purposes of this regulation, a steelhead trout is defined as any rainbow trout greater than 16 inches in length found in the anadromous waters listed below. Anadromous waters are defined as inland waters that are accessible to fish migrating from the ocean.

- Enter the date and a location code from the list below. If the stream is not listed, use the code for the river or stream into which it flows.
- In the column under "Wild Kept" and "Hatchery Kept" fill-in a circle **IMMEDIATELY** for each wild steelhead and hatchery steelhead caught and kept, respectively. **SEE REGULATIONS FOR THE DAILY BAG LIMIT FOR YOUR LOCATION.**
- When you have finished fishing for the day or you move to another catch area, record the total number of wild/hatchery steelhead caught and released in the respective column under "R". **RECORD "0" FOR THAT ENTRY IF YOU CATCH NO STEELHEAD.**
- You must use a new line for each day and catch area.
- If you did not fish for steelhead, please write **"DID NOT STEELHEAD FISH"** on this card and return to the Department of Fish and Game.

Example: While fishing Butte Creek (Tributary to the Sacramento River near Chico) on December 7th, you catch 6 steelhead: 2 were wild of which you released both, and 4 were hatchery of which you kept 1 and released 3. This information would be recorded as follows:
12, 7, 26b, 0, 2, ●, 0, 3.

After filing this card, you may purchase another card.

CODE	LOCATION	
2a.	Smith River	the ocean between the Gualala and Russian rivers
2b.	NF Smith River	Russian rivers
2c.	MF Smith River	23. Russian River
2d.	SF Smith River	24. Coastal rivers and streams entering the ocean between the Russian River and the Golden Gate
3.	Coastal rivers and streams entering the ocean between the Smith and Klamath rivers	25. Tributaries to San Pablo and San Francisco bays, excluding the Sacramento River
4a.	Klamath River, from Iron Gate Hatchery to Trinity River Mouth	26a. Sacramento River, from Deschutes Bridge Road downstream to Red Bluff Diversion Dam
4a1.	Shasta River	26b. Sacramento River from Red Bluff Diversion Dam downstream to Hwy 20 Bridge near Meridian
4a2.	Scott River	26c. Sacramento River from Hwy 20 Bridge near Meridian downstream to Business 80 Bridge
4a3.	Salmon River	26c1. Feather River
4b.	Klamath River, from Trinity River Mouth to Ocean	26c2. Yuba River
5a.	S.F. Trinity River	26c3. American River
5b.	Hayfork Creek	26d. Sacramento River from Business 80 Bridge downstream to the Carquinez Bridge
6a.	Trinity River	26d1. Putah Creek
6b.	New River	27a. San Joaquin River
7.	Coastal rivers and streams entering the ocean between the Klamath and Mad rivers	27b. Merced River
8.	Mad River	27c. Tuolumne River
9.	Coastal rivers and streams entering the ocean between the Mad and Eel rivers	27d. Stanislaus River
10.	Eel River	27e. Mokelumne River
11.	Vap Duzen River	27f. Calaveras River
12.	S.F. Eel River	28. Coastal rivers and streams entering the ocean between the Golden Gate and the San Lorenzo River
13.	M.F. Eel River	29. San Lorenzo River
14.	Coastal rivers and streams entering the ocean between the Eel and Mattole rivers	30. Coastal rivers and streams entering the ocean between the San Lorenzo River and the Salinas River (including the Salinas River)
15.	Mattole River	31. Carmel River
16.	Coastal rivers and streams entering the ocean between the Mattole and Noyo rivers	32. Coastal rivers and streams entering the ocean between the Carmel River and San Luis Obispo Creek (including San Luis Obispo Creek)
17.	Noyo River	33. Coastal rivers and streams entering the ocean between San Luis Obispo Creek and Pt. Conception
18.	Coastal rivers and streams entering the ocean between the Noyo and Navarro rivers	
19.	Navarro River	
20.	Coastal rivers and streams entering the ocean between the Navarro and Gualala rivers	
21.	Gualala River	
22.	Coastal rivers and streams entering	

ANGLERS PLEASE NOTE: Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card REVENUES are used to monitor and restore California's steelhead populations only. Typical projects include: assessing angler harvest; restoring spawning and rearing habitat; securing adequate flows; and removing barriers to migration. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** www.dfg.ca.gov/nafwb/SteelheadReportCard.html

Figure 12. 2006 Steelhead Fishing Report-Restoration Card.



Figure 13. Resident rainbow trout, Sacramento River upstream of Deschutes Bridge Road.



Figure 14. Adipose fin clipping hatchery steelhead.

Oregon and Washington have tried several options with varying success, all with higher return rates than a strictly voluntary return methodology. Oregon, Washington and Idaho also have Automated License Data Systems (ALDS), which allows real-time accounting of anglers. Some of the measures they've implemented include: using a larger multi-section card with a perforated postage-paid return postcard for anglers to record their data and mail back at the end of the season (roughly 30% response); mandatory return laws with follow-up mailings and phone calls to non-compliant anglers (roughly 55% response); and raffling prizes to those that return their data.

The Department and Steelhead Subcommittee's preferred choices were the raffle system, the incentive program and a mandatory return, respectively. The raffle incentive program proved to be too administratively problematic to implement, so the program opted for a mandatory return.

In 2002, the Department supported legislation to change the Report Card to require the purchaser to return the Report Card to the Department. In 2003, language on the Report Card was amended to reflect this major change. The Department disseminated several news releases and provided license agents with fliers (Figure 15) prior to the January 31, 2004 return deadline to inform anglers of the mandatory law and potential of a misdemeanor for noncompliance. The Department also developed a web page (<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/nafwb/steelhead.html>) specifically for steelhead (Appendix A).

A marked increase in Report Card returns was immediately realized, with nearly an 11% initial return of 2003 Report Cards. Anglers who had not returned their 2003 Report Card were mailed a reminder postcard (Figure 16) in May 2004 informing them that they needed to return their Report Card. The result was a tremendous increase in return of the Report Card of nearly 61% response from noncompliant anglers after being contacted with the reminder postcard (Figure 17). This provides the Department with significantly more data to analyze and use for management decisions.

In December 2004, the Department again produced several news releases and provided license agents with fliers to inform anglers of the mandatory law and potential of a misdemeanor for noncompliance. Based on numerous questions from the public regarding the Report Card program, the Department developed a “Frequently Asked Questions” link (<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/nafwb/SteelheadReportCardFAQ.html>) on the Department’s steelhead website to address the majority of angler’s questions (Appendix B). With increased awareness of the new mandatory return law, the Department initially received nearly 15% of the 2004 Report Cards without notifying anglers and approximately a 70% response to the reminder postcards.

As with the 2003 Report Card, anglers were requested to write “Did Not Fish” on their Report Card if they had not fished for steelhead in 2004, but numerous returned Report Cards had nothing written on them or “none caught”. A phone survey was conducted on a randomly selected subset of these anglers to clarify if this meant they didn’t fish or if they had not recorded, as required, their “unsuccessful” fishing trips. Approximately 50% of these anglers had fished at least one day. Several claimed they refused to record unsuccessful trips because they didn’t want to fill-up their Report Card, but the majority had not read the instructions and assumed, based on the word “Catch” in the title of the *Steelhead Trout Catch Report-Restoration Card*, that they were only to record their catches. To avoid this confusion in the future, in 2005 the Commission, based on recommendations from the Department, changed the name of the Report Card from the *Steelhead Trout Catch Report-Restoration Card* to the *Steelhead Fishing Report-Restoration Card*.

Reminder postcards were mailed in November 2006 to steelhead anglers who had not returned their 2005 Report Cards. The Department developed a process to allow anglers to report on-line, which hopefully will be helpful to anglers and the Department. In an effort to better disseminate information to the anglers and reduce postage costs, a space to provide an e-mail address was added to the 2006 Report Card. The Department is hopeful that anglers will provide this information.

All other Pacific States that have steelhead populations have report card-type requirements that provide a means to monitor steelhead fisheries, but only California requires that the proceeds from card sales be used exclusively for steelhead restoration projects.



STEELHEAD ANGLERS!!!

Improve steelhead fishing opportunities by:
returning your
2004 Steelhead Report Card
to the California Department of Fish and Game
by **January 31, 2005***



Mail your card to: **CDFG, NAFWB**
Steelhead Catch Report-Restoration Card
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Please **thoroughly read the INSTRUCTIONS FOR STEELHEAD ANGLERS** on the back of your Report Card. Our goal is to improve California steelhead habitat and populations. The data from the Report Card are used to **improve steelhead fishing** opportunities and success. This requires accurate and complete data reporting from you, even if no steelhead were caught.

If you **Did Not Fish** for steelhead in 2004, please write that information on your Report Card and return your card to Fish and Game. It is **CRITICAL**, for proper management of steelhead populations, that the information you record on your Report Card is **accurate and complete**.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

* Failure to return the report card is a misdemeanor (F&G Code 7380 and 12000)

All wild steelhead caught must be released unharmed except in the Smith River (see Section 7.50(180)). Wild steelhead are identified by having an intact adipose fin. Hatchery steelhead may be kept in selected waters. Hatchery steelhead are identified by a missing adipose fin and a healed scar in the location of the missing fin. Anglers are encouraged to keep hatchery steelhead, consistent with the regulations.



<p>Wild steelhead have all fins, including intact adipose fin</p> 	<p>Hatchery steelhead are missing their adipose fin, with a healed scar</p> 
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Figure 15. Flier provided to license agents to inform anglers of the mandatory law.

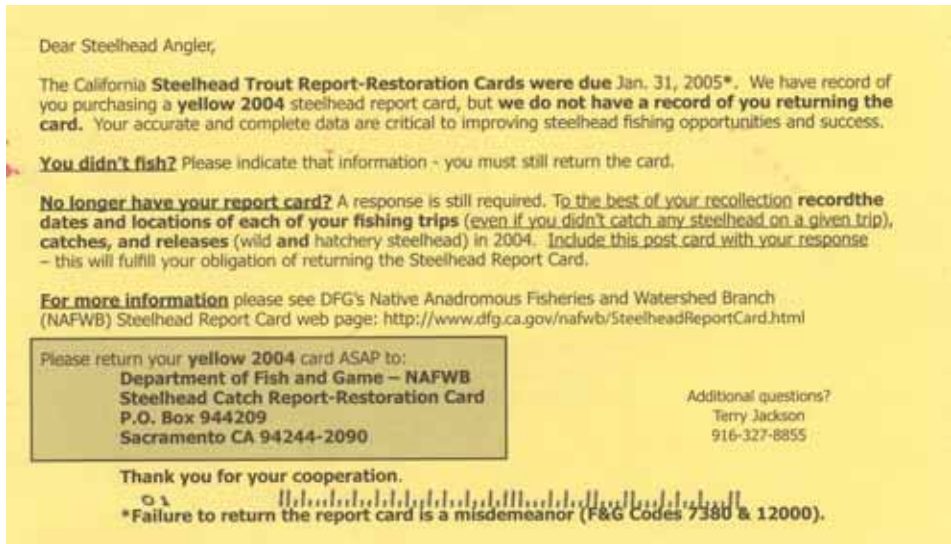


Figure 16. Reminder Postcard.

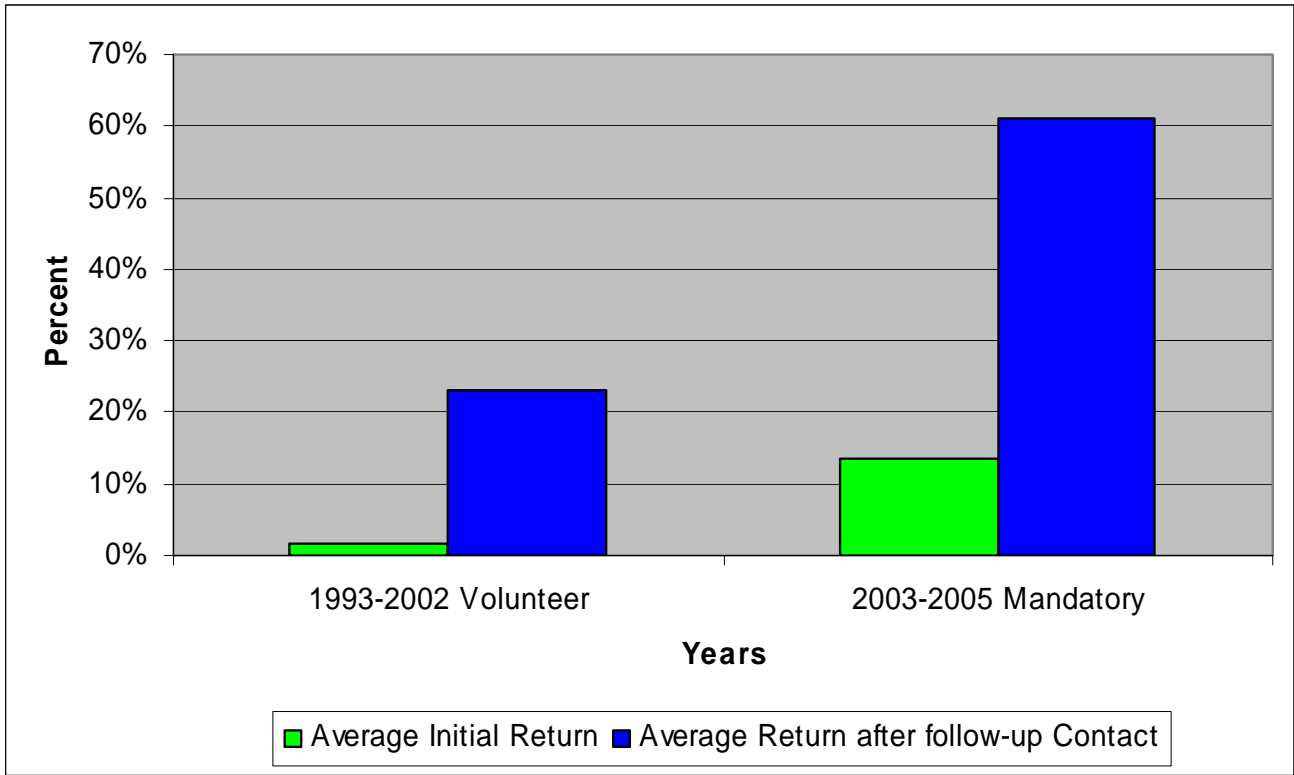


Figure 17. Steelhead Report Card return rates, comparing voluntary and mandatory return requirements.

Overview of Funding and Restoration Efforts

Prior to 1993, steelhead seldom received funding for projects specific to population monitoring, habitat restoration or enhancement. Any benefit received was indirect from salmon projects under the supposition of “what’s good for salmon must be good for steelhead too.” This is often not the case. The Report Card provides a specific funding source for steelhead restoration and is the only state-wide program designed for such a purpose.

Revenue received from sales of the Report Card are placed in a dedicated account and may only be expended to monitor, restore, or enhance steelhead trout resources consistent with Fish and Game Code sections 6901 and 6902¹, and to administer the Report Card program. Typical projects include: assessing angler harvest, restoring spawning and rearing habitat, securing adequate streamflows, and removing barriers to migration.

Proposals for steelhead habitat restoration and enhancement projects throughout the range of steelhead in California are considered for funding. Project proposals received by the Department come from non-profit organizations, local, state and federal agencies, and private enterprise. Proposals are reviewed each spring by the Department for biological soundness, cost effectiveness, technical merit and use of matching funds by the applicant. These proposals are also reviewed by the Steelhead Subcommittee. The Department and the Steelhead Subcommittee meet annually to discuss each proposal and decide which proposals should be funded by the Report Card program, and at what level. Proposals that adhere to the management goals outlined in the Department's *Steelhead Restoration and Management Plan for California* (Steelhead Plan) receive the greatest consideration for funding. Habitat restoration projects must use Department-standardized methodologies described in the *California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual*.

To date, the Report Card program has funded, or co-funded, 111 steelhead projects totaling approximately \$1,198,500 (Figure 18). These projects include steelhead population assessment and monitoring, rearing, habitat restoration, and education. Some projects combine restoration and education, where students and/or volunteers from communities implement the project under Department supervision. Many of the assessment-monitoring and restoration projects are still in progress. Some projects, such as educational projects (e.g., "Salmonids in the Classroom"), have provided immediate success and gratification for students and teachers alike.

¹ Fish and Game Code sections 6901 and 6902 are part of the Salmon, Steelhead Trout, and Anadromous Fisheries Program Act, which primarily focuses on naturally spawning salmon and steelhead resources. These sections direct the Department to protect and increase naturally spawning salmon, steelhead, and anadromous fish populations primarily through the improvement of stream habitat.

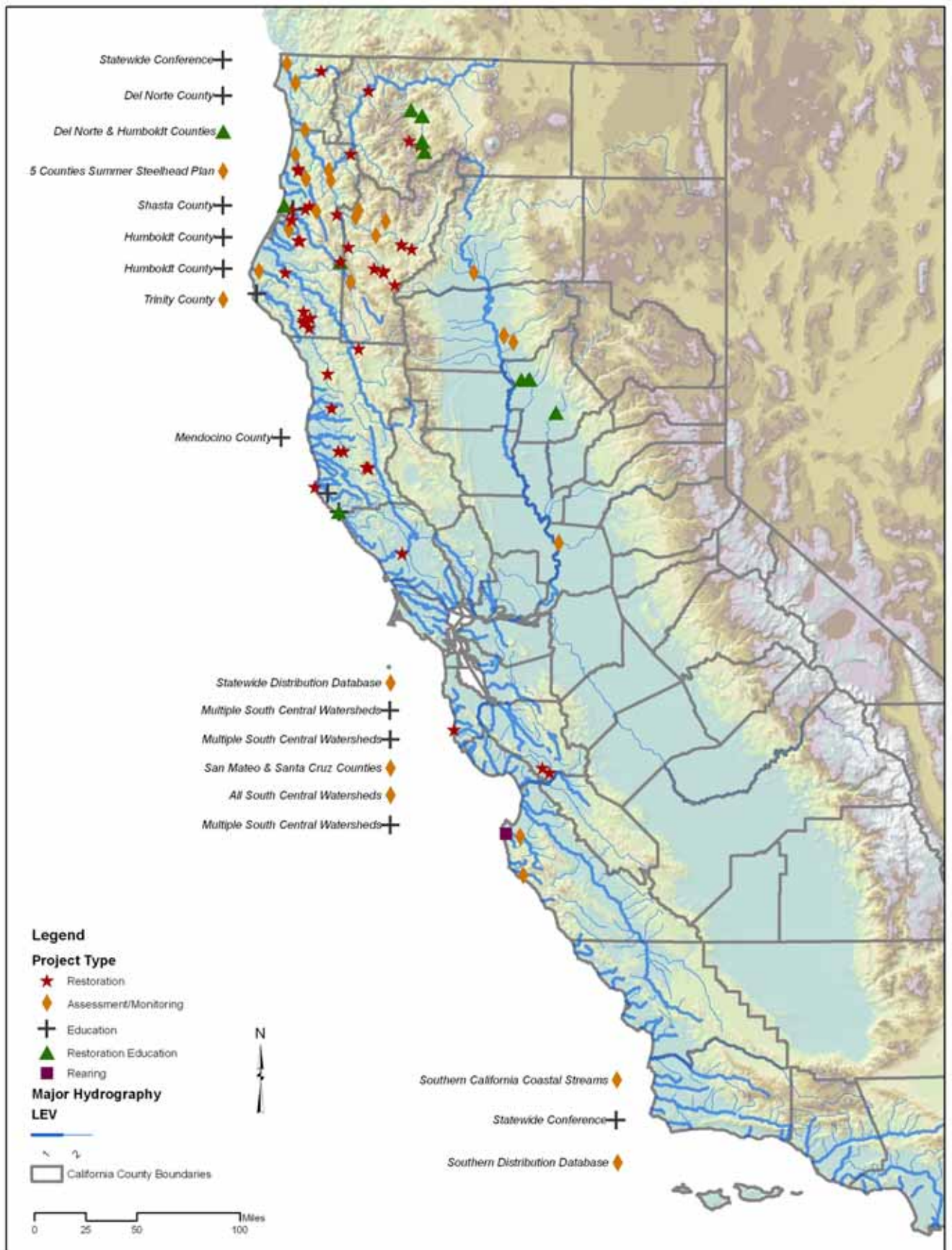


Figure 18. Projects, by type and location, funded by the steelhead Report Card program, 1993-2007.

FISCAL

Report Card Cost

Purchasing a Report Card is an investment into the future of California's steelhead resource. Each Report Card costs \$5.80 (2007) and allows for 30 steelhead fishing trips. In addition, anglers must purchase a Sport Fishing License for \$33.50. Permit costs in Oregon, Washington and Idaho are similar to California.

A resident Oregon Angling License is \$24.75. The Combined Angling Harvest Tag (currently \$21.50 for adults) is required for all anglers to fish for salmon, steelhead, sturgeon or Pacific halibut. The Combined Tag allows a harvest of 20 salmon or steelhead per year. In addition, anglers may purchase a Hatchery Harvest Tag (currently \$12.00), which allows the angler to harvest an additional combined total of 10 hatchery salmon or steelhead.

A resident Washington Annual Combination License (freshwater & saltwater) is \$41.61. The State of Washington provides the first catch record card free with the purchase of a license. Replacements and additional catch record cards are \$10.95 for all ages. Anglers are allowed to harvest one wild steelhead statewide annually.

A resident Idaho Fishing License is \$23.50. A permit is required to fish for steelhead and costs \$11.50.

Finances

An essential responsibility of the Report Card Coordinator has been an accounting of the Report Card budget, revenue and expenditures. The number of Report Cards sold and annual revenue generated for calendar years 1993 through 2005 are shown in Figure 19. For both 1993 and 1994, the sale of over 77,000 Report Cards each year generated over \$230,000 annually. From 1994 through 1998, Report Card sales declined steadily to a low of approximately 39,500 in 1998. Several factors probably accounted for this:

- Inclement weather that causes high, turbid stream flows can have a substantial affect on angling opportunity and was a factor in the 1994-95 and 1996-97 fishing seasons. The Klamath River system, for example, was not fishable for steelhead for 57% of the time during the 1996-97 season. Likewise, the Eel River was not fishable for 38% of the time during this same season.
- Declining stocks led to more restrictive angling regulations and stream closures.
- Publicity regarding the ESA listing of steelhead likely led some anglers to conclude that steelhead angling was no longer allowed.

From 1998, Report Card sales steadily increased to approximately 56,000 Report Cards sold annually, and held steady for three years (2002-2004). Since 2002, revenue also increased because of the increase of the cost of the Report Card, pursuant to Section 713. Starting in 2004, legislation increased the base cost of the Report Card from \$3.00 to \$5.00, which increased revenue to the program for steelhead projects.

In 2005, Report Card sales dropped slightly to approximately 51,000, and dropped again to roughly 45,000 for 2006. A number of Report Card purchasers reported to the Department that they only purchased the Report Card to support the program, with no intention of fishing for steelhead. With the implementation of the mandatory return requirement, we speculate that the decrease in sales was the result of these "supportive" individuals choosing to discontinue purchasing the Report Card because of

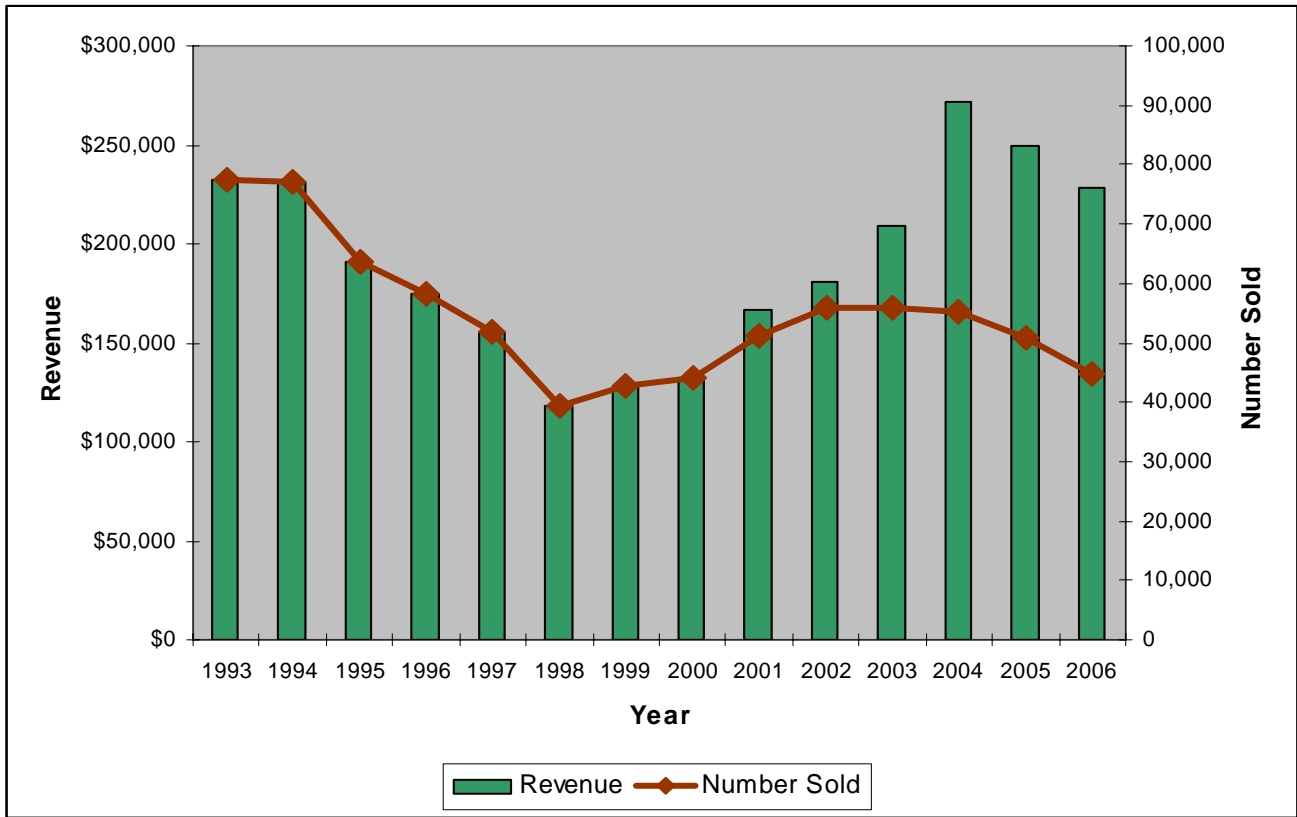


Figure 19. Annual steelhead Report Card sales and revenue, 1993-2005.

the requirement to return their blank Report Card to the Department. Though it is unfortunate to lose the revenue from the sales of the Report Card to these individuals, no steelhead angler data are lost, and in fact, removal of these non-steelhead anglers will strengthen the Department’s angling and harvest estimates.

Since 1994, the Report Card’s annual spending authority has been below annual revenue. For several years the program’s spending authority was approximately \$96,000 and is currently approximately \$150,000. With annual revenue exceeding annual spending authority, the Report Card dedicated account continues to grow and, as of December 2006, was \$1,000,900. With the signing of AB2773 and the appropriation of \$800,000 through June 2009, the dedicated account will be reduced to a satisfactory balance and numerous additional steelhead monitoring and habitat restoration projects, particularly as identified within the Steelhead Plan, will be implemented.

PROJECTS FUNDED

1993-1997

In the *1997 Report to the Legislature*, we reported that from FY 1993/94 through FY 1996/97, 67 steelhead projects throughout the state were funded by the Report Card program. A total of \$410,919 was spent on these projects, which involved steelhead habitat restoration, habitat and population assessment, public education, restoration-education and fin clipping hatchery raised steelhead. All of the projects were considered critical for improving steelhead resources throughout the state, and few would have been funded without the Report Card program. Several projects and their successes are described below:

- In 1993, the Carmel River steelhead brood stock project (Figure 20) was established to prevent probable extirpation of the native steelhead run and to help return the steelhead population to a self-sustaining level. The project successfully achieved its objective. The Carmel River brood stock program has ended and the river now has a reestablished steelhead run that has been reopened for steelhead angling.
- Many immediate benefits have been derived from projects that include public involvement and education. One highlight from the 1994-95 education projects was the completion of the *Instruction Manual for Hatching Salmon and Trout Eggs in Classroom Aquarium-Incubators* (Figure 21) to educate teachers conducting the Salmonids in the Classroom program.
- In 1995, the construction of a fish screen funded by the Report Card on lower Etna Creek was completed (Figure 22). The screen prevents an estimated annual loss of several thousand juvenile steelhead and potentially prevents the loss of adult steelhead to the diversion as well.

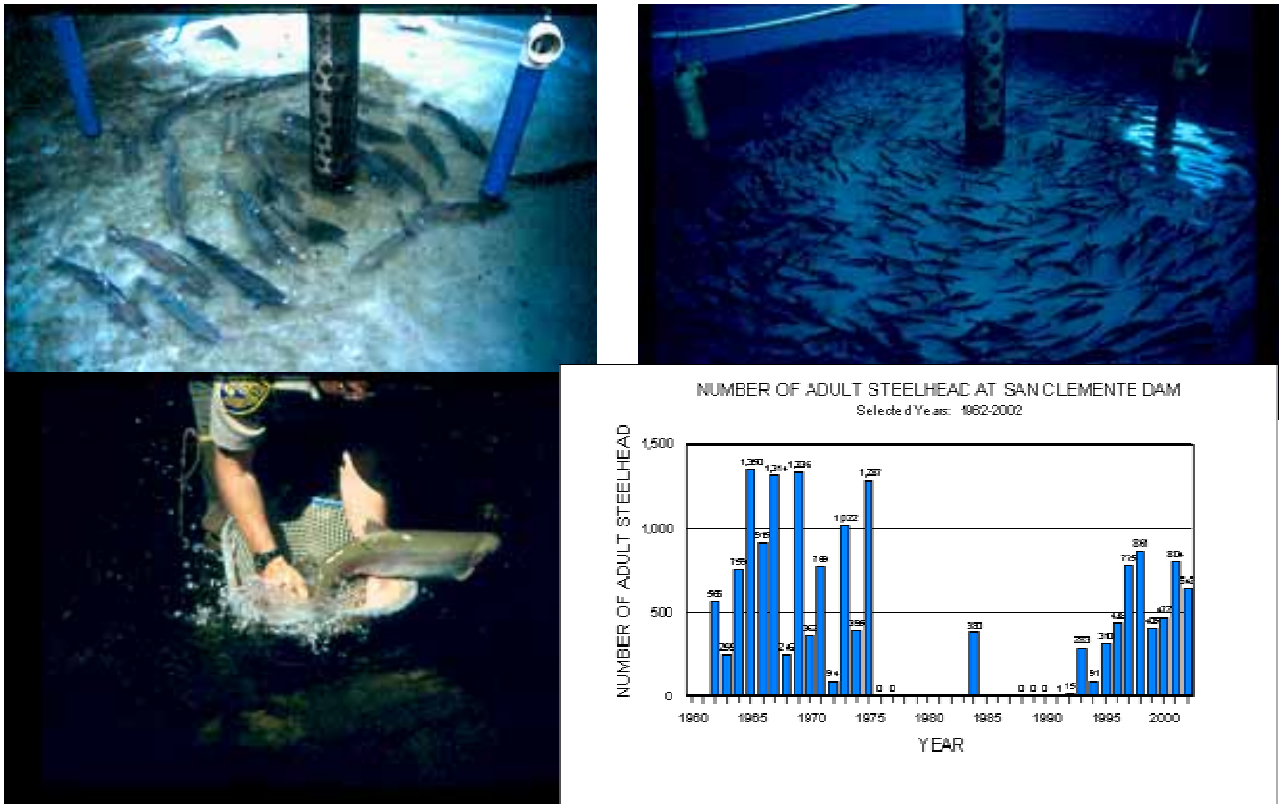


Figure 20. Carmel Broodstock project.

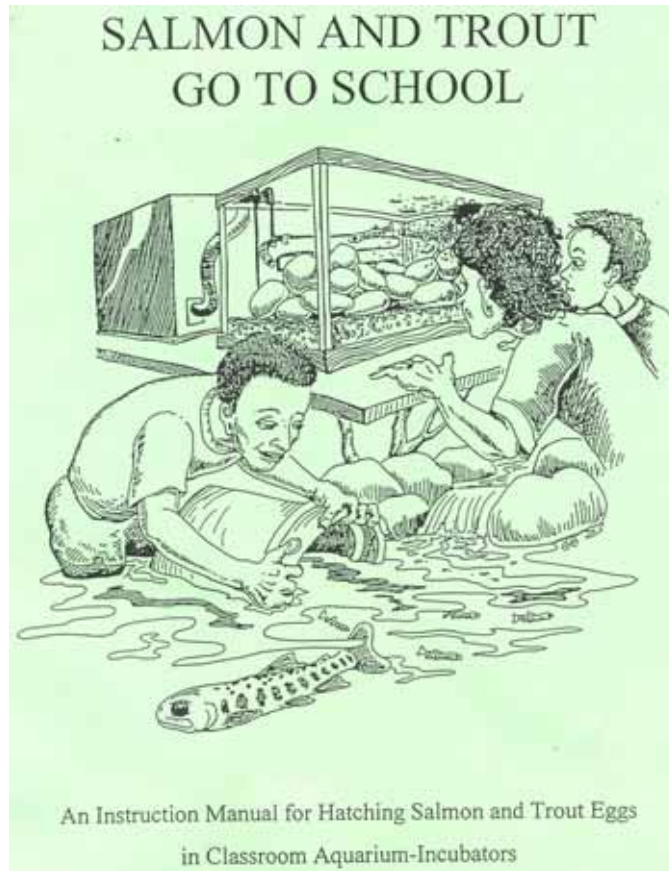


Figure 21. *Instruction Manual for Hatching Salmon and Trout Eggs in Classroom Aquarium-Incubators* to educate teachers conducting the Salmonids in the Classroom program.



Figure 22. Lower Etna Creek diversion screen, Siskiyou County.

- A steelhead restoration highlight was the removal of Trout Haven Dam on Monkey Creek in Del Norte County (Figure 23). Monkey Creek is within the Smith River drainage. Removal of this obsolete dam opened four miles of stream for steelhead to spawn. The U.S. Forest Service monitored the use of these four miles by steelhead and salmon, and reported that the project was successful, where adult steelhead densities exceeded comparison reaches. Juvenile steelhead densities increased dramatically, and went from lower densities to higher densities than comparison streams. The increase was attributed to adult access, increased quantity and quality of spawning gravel and quality of accessible over-wintering habitat.
- In 1995/96, we funded a project to evaluate the mortality of angler caught-and-released summer steelhead adults in the summer holding areas of the NF Trinity and Mad rivers. This study was conducted by a graduate student at Humboldt State University. The study, *Mortality of Angler-Caught and Released Summer Steelhead*, found that hooking mortality was highly correlated with water temperature ($p= 0.002$), stress time decreased significantly with increasing water temperature before mortality occurred, and no significant relationship was found between hook type and mortality ($p> 0.05$). Mortality was found to increase sharply at water temperatures exceeding 69.8° F (21° C).

1997-2001

In the *2000 Report to the Legislature*, we reported that from FY 1997/98 through FY 2000/01, ten additional steelhead projects throughout the state were funded by the Report Card program for \$120,972. Because of a low fund balance in FY 1997/98, and steadily declining Report Card sales through 1998, funding for steelhead projects was substantially reduced. As a result, only one project (fin-clipping steelhead at Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery on the Smith River) for \$3,060 was funded in FY 1997/98.

Because of the reduced Report Card sales and depleted fund balance, in FY 1998/99 the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) awarded a multiyear grant of \$39,468 to the Report Card program. This grant funded four steelhead habitat restoration and habitat assessment projects that addressed sediment reduction, instream habitat structures, non-native vegetation removal and native vegetation replanting for shade, and water temperature assessment. In FY 1999/00 an additional six projects were funded (culvert modification/fish passage, salmonid classroom education, drafting a summer steelhead (Figure 24) plan, Carmel River angler survey, genetic analyses, hooking mortality) for \$78,444, and two Rotary Screw Traps were purchased (\$25,000 for both) for future downstream migrant trapping programs.

The Report Card funded the salmonid classroom education project to purchase eight 20 gallon aquarium setups. The program was conducted in 52 classes throughout Humboldt and Mendocino Counties, which helped expand the 12 year program from 43 aquariums in 23 schools to 60 aquariums in 33 schools. The program utilized the *Instruction Manual for Hatching Salmon and Trout Eggs in Classroom Aquarium-Incubators*, and was well received by students, teachers, parents and community members and raised community awareness about the state of salmon and steelhead in California, their life histories and what their habitat requirements are.



Figure 23. Smith River: Monkey Creek Trout Haven Dam site 1995 and 2005.



Figure 24. School of summer steelhead holding in a deep pool on the Middle Fork Eel River.

2001- Present

With increasing Report Card sales and utilization of the NOAA Fisheries grant, the Report Card fund balance recovered to approximately \$250,000 by 2000. Since the last Legislative Report in 2000, the Report Card program has funded 34 additional projects for over \$666,600. In addition, NOAA Fisheries provided an additional \$75,000 grant for Report Card data statistical analyses and a statistical comparison of Smith River Angler Survey with Smith River Report Card angling data. These analyses are incomplete; however, preliminary results indicate that the two methodologies for collecting steelhead angling data are not comparable and produce different estimates (Figure 25).

Comparing Apples with Oranges



What did we learn? Challenges to overcome.

- Nearly everything significantly different ($p < 0.01$), except some catch estimates and total hours fished
- Possible: Angler Survey under estimates hours per trip or over estimates number of trips, thus lower catch estimates
- Possible: Report Card over estimates catch per trip with non-recorded unsuccessful trips (under estimates number of trips), thus higher catch estimates
- VERY challenging, a lot of weighting, not really comparable.

Figure 25. Preliminary conclusions regarding the statistical comparison of Smith River Creel Census with Smith River Report Card angling data.

For several years, the Report Card program has provided partial funding to two annual monitoring projects: the Redwood Creek downstream migrant study (Figure 26), conducted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in 2003 and thereafter by the Department (nearly \$221,000), and the Smith River Angler Survey (approximately \$65,000). The Report Card also continues to annually support Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery (Smith River) juvenile steelhead fin clipping (\$8,000 for 2003-2005). The hatchery provides excellent public support for the Report Card program through word of mouth and their newsletter (Figure 27). In 2003, the Report Card program funded a Yurok Tribe project to estimate juvenile steelhead abundance in tributaries of the lower Klamath River (\$15,500), and a Gualala River steelhead rescue-rearing program (\$15,000).

In 2001 and again in 2005, we funded (\$8,000 total) a study to evaluate the occurrence of wild and hatchery “half-pounder” steelhead (Figure 28) caught by anglers in the Klamath and Trinity rivers (these reports are available on the Steelhead Report Card web site). In California, “half-pounders” are distinctive to the Klamath River System. These 10-16 inch immature steelhead migrate upstream after only a few months in the ocean, return to the ocean after a few months in freshwater, and then migrate upstream the following year as mature adult steelhead. Interestingly, 91% of the total 2001 half-pounder catch (Trinity River included) were wild fish; yet the two hatcheries released 854,402 adipose fin clipped steelhead smolts in the spring of 2001, a large portion of which would have been expected to return as half-pounders later that year. Thus, either the wild fish were so abundant that their numbers masked the presence of hatchery fish, or the survival of hatchery fish was low for some reason. Although more anglers participated in the 2005 survey, the total catch was smaller than in the 2001 survey - 3,539 compared to 8,838. Low warm water and diseases have certainly affected Klamath River salmon (e.g., 2002 lower river adult fish kill and the even more extensive juvenile die offs.) and may also be negatively affecting steelhead survival. In 2005, the Klamath River half-pounder catch comprised 86% of all half-pounders reported while the Trinity River half-pounder catch comprised only 14%. In the Klamath River 93% of half-pounders were wild, and 64% of half-pounders were wild in the Trinity River.

A continuing question, particularly in the Central Valley, has been the relationship between steelhead and resident rainbow trout: do these two life history types comprise a single, interbreeding population or two distinct populations? The Report Card program contributed \$7,500 to an extensive Central Valley steelhead/resident rainbow trout life-history study, \$20,000 to evaluate anadromy/residence of Central Valley rainbow trout, and \$2,300 to evaluate the life-history of the upper Sacramento River resident rainbow trout (“River Trout”). Results are still pending; however, the upper Sacramento River study suggested that the vast majority (> 99%) of trout caught in the catch-and-release reach of the Sacramento River between Lake Shasta and Deschutes Bridge Road are non-anadromous, as suspected; thus, reinforcing the Department’s decision to not include the upper section of the Sacramento River on the Report Card.

The Report Card program contributed \$12,144 in 2004 and 2005 to a two-year survey of the Smith River summer steelhead and other salmonid populations. The surveys covered nearly 75 miles of the upper Smith River forks. The project also collated all the previous years’ counts to evaluate summer steelhead population trends. Summer steelhead counts (13 total were observed), in 2005 were the largest recorded since 1982 equating to roughly one steelhead every 2.5 miles of stream.



Figure 26. Upper (A) and Lower (B) Redwood Creek downstream migrant rotary screw traps, juvenile coho (C) and Chinook (D) salmon, juvenile steelhead (E), and adult steelhead caught in the trap (F) on journey to return to the ocean after spawning.

In 2005, we funded a Trinity River tributaries winter steelhead spawning survey (\$12,634) and a New River summer steelhead snorkel survey (\$3,158). On the Trinity River, steelhead redds (spawning nests) were counted to provide an index of winter steelhead spawner escapement, and spawning habitat was evaluated on twelve tributaries. This project was necessary to further assess status and long-term population trends and to collect data necessary to make responsible management decisions for the Trinity River. The New River project examined the proportion of the summer steelhead run in the area open to angling to assess their vulnerability to angling. Roughly 1,300 adult summer steelhead were observed during October 2005 in New River and its tributaries.

Also in 2005, we co-funded with the Resource Conservation District a habitat restoration project (\$6,189) within the South Fork Eel River drainage to slow the erosion from a landslide, by planting roughly 700 conifers and 3,000 willow and baccharis cuttings. The plantings were conducted in a two-phase project, and met its objective.

January is the time of year when we begin the task of clipping the adipose fin on our yearling Steelhead.

This year, the Steelhead Catch Report Restoration Card Program has given the hatchery a grant to assist with our 'marking' expenses. We appreciate and proudly acknowledge their support. It is reassuring to know that the money we, as anglers, spend on these cards goes toward improving Steelhead fishing opportunities in California.

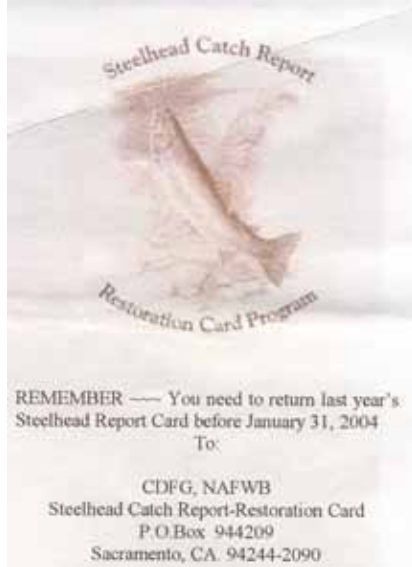


Figure 27. Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery newsletter.



Figure 28. Large (15 ½ inch) “half-pounder” steelhead caught during the lower Klamath-Trinity rivers spot fishery study.

The Report Card program contributed \$7,000 toward the 2006 Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) Conference that primarily addressed steelhead recovery efforts in southern California. The conference was designed to improve the technical skills of salmonid restoration practitioners, landowners, agency personnel and contractors. The public and private sector training focuses on habitat analysis, monitoring, education, and restoration techniques to recover anadromous salmonid populations.

In 2006, the Report Card is funding (\$49,257) a two-year study by the Humboldt State University Foundation Cooperative Fish Research Unit (HSU Fish Coop) to evaluate the growth and movement of resident rainbow trout below barriers to anadromy. The project's objective is to determine if resident rainbow trout isolated above barriers to anadromy will become steelhead by exhibiting migratory behavior when transplanted below the barriers. We provided HSU Fish Coop with an additional \$14,812 for genetic analyses of Freshwater Creek rainbow trout.

We provided some additional funding (\$1,265) to a substantial habitat restoration project on Squaw Creek, a tributary of the Mattole River. These funds were for instream habitat structures, as well as an interpretive sign to educate the public about salmonids, their habitat, and associated restoration work in the Mattole River.

The Report Card also provided \$10,670 for a temporary weir in Butano Channel to improve dissolved oxygen water quality, which presumably has been responsible for annual adult steelhead die-offs. Butano Channel is a tidal slough to Butano Creek, tributary of Pescadero Creek. The bladders are individually 50' long and 20" in diameter, constructed of heavy gauge fiberglass reinforced PVC plastic

(Figure 29). The temporary bladder weir was intended to slow the flow of water from the marsh through the breach, trap fine organic sediment in Butano Channel, and improve water quality throughout the marsh. The project was in cooperation between the NOAA Restoration Center, the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Fish and Game, and has been successful.



Figure 29. Example of bladders for temporary weir.

The Report Card is providing \$41,572 to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) to complete Phase II of a geographic distribution dataset of steelhead and resident rainbow trout throughout California. The Report Card paid to collect, compile, and evaluate steelhead observation data and derive range and distribution GIS layers (Figure 30). The primary benefits will be used to help guide steelhead management and planning efforts. Having an easily-accessible, continually updated distribution map for steelhead will greatly enhance development and evaluation of restoration proposals, creation of status maps, etc. Additionally, this dataset can be used to focus further research and assessment efforts, such as targeting specific streams that appear to be under-sampled or serving as a guide to develop a steelhead monitoring program. These data could also be used in conjunction with similar data for other species (e.g., coho and Chinook salmon) to facilitate multi-species planning efforts.

In 2006, we again supported Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery (Smith River), and provided them with \$7,653 for juvenile steelhead fin clipping over the next three years. The objective was to produce hatchery steelhead for anglers to harvest and help relieve pressure on the Smith River wild steelhead population.

In 2007, the Report Card is providing the Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration \$30,000 to collect available information related to steelhead resources of the south central and south coast, including DFG repositories, the Los Padres National Forest office in Santa Maria, UC Santa Barbara, and several other sources, and to provide references for the past distribution and current population status of steelhead and salmon in the coastal watersheds south of San Francisco. The products are to be a DVD that contains digital copies of several thousand historic documents regarding fish distribution and abundance in the study area in a searchable database, and a report that presents results in text, tables, and maps with an associated Microsoft Access® database (Figure 31). These data also will be utilized by PSMFC for the geographic distribution project. This will provide a comprehensive complete list of steelhead streams south of San Francisco, assess the historical distribution of steelhead and salmon in those streams, and summarize what is known about passage, population structure, causes of population decline, and other factors that are essential to an understanding of the fishery.

The Report Card program is providing \$15,000 for a project on the Garcia River. The purpose of the project is to assist a rancher to switch from a direct stream agricultural diversion, to an offsite well to reduce surface flow impacts, and to provide juvenile salmonid rearing areas in the lower Garcia River.



Figure 30. Geographic distribution of steelhead and resident rainbow trout in California.

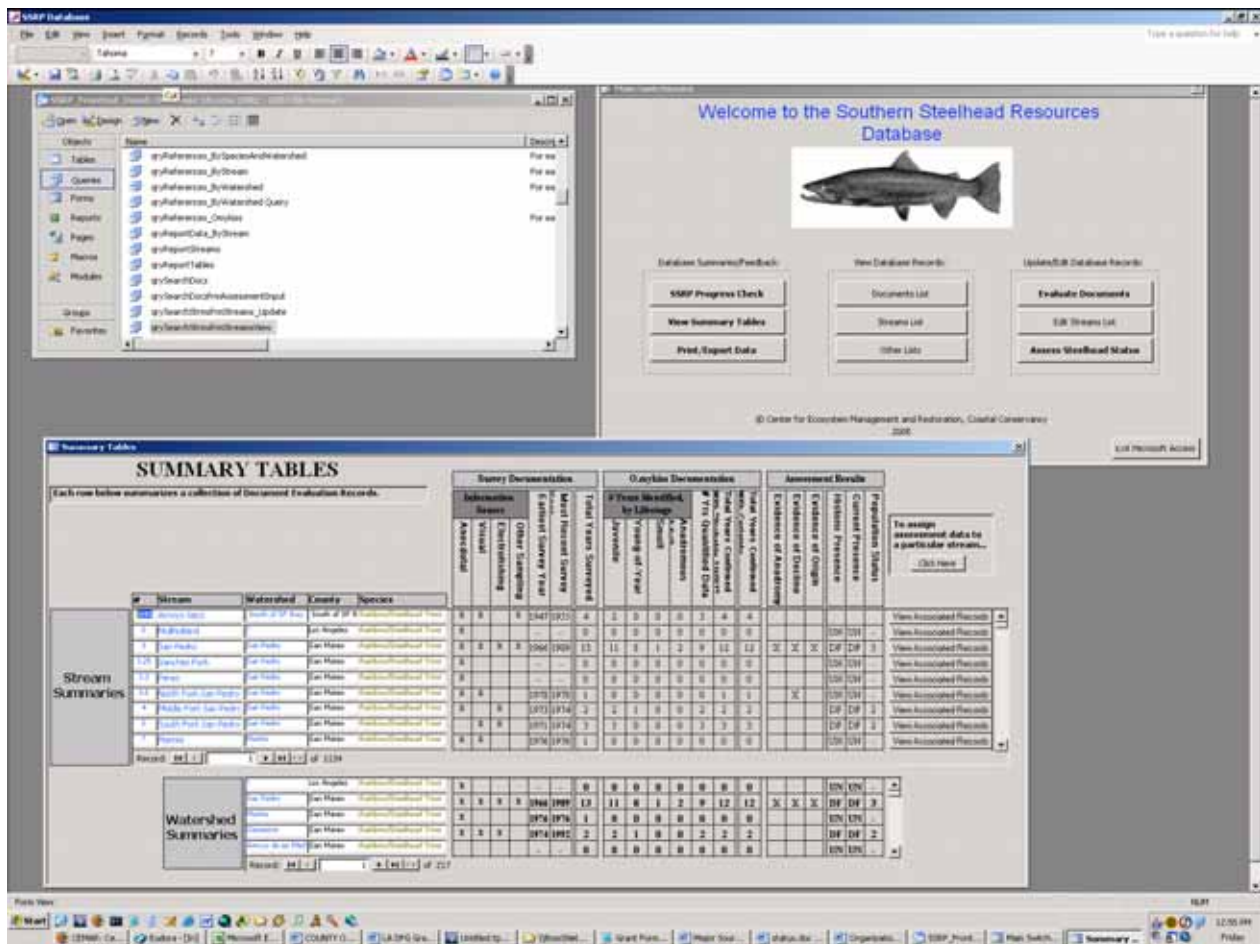


Figure 31. Example of tables with an associated searchable Microsoft Access® database.

The Report Card is also providing \$52,972 to the HSU Fish Coop for an “Age Structure of Steelhead in the Klamath River Basin and the Effect of the Half-Pounder Life History on Populations” project. One objective is to determine the current age structure of steelhead stocks throughout the Klamath River basin. These data will be compared to biological and age structure steelhead data collected two decades ago. A second objective is to investigate the benefit of the “half-pounder” life history to steelhead populations in the Klamath River basin. Knowing how the half-pounder life history phenomenon contributes to the sustainability (reproductive success or population viability) of the Klamath River steelhead population should assist in managing the fishery.

The Report Card program recently approved \$40,000 toward a HSU master’s thesis in fisheries. The thesis will investigate the “Possible Decline in the Half-pounder Life History among Trinity River Steelhead”. This study will complement the Klamath River half-pounder study through scale collections and genetic analysis. The project will evaluate hatchery practices evaluation by examining and contrasting spawning, rearing and release protocols at Trinity River Hatchery.

The Report Card program is currently considering several additional proposals, as word is out that additional resources are available with the additional \$800,000 appropriation.

ANGLING DATA



The Report Card has provided the Department with data on how many steelhead anglers there are, where they live, where they fish, and how successful they are in catching steelhead. Angler effort and harvest data provide indications of steelhead population status and help the Department identify areas potentially requiring additional restoration, and adjust angling regulations according to management objectives.

Annually, the greatest percentage of Report Cards are sold to Humboldt, Sacramento and Sonoma county residents (Figure 32, Table 1). However, by comparing the number of Report Cards sold within a county to the number of residence within a county (“per county capita”) we can assess the percentage of steelhead anglers within a county. Interestingly, annual Report Card sales per county capita shows that although only 1.7% of Report Card sales are to Trinity County residence (Table 1), roughly 7% of Trinity County residents purchase Report Cards. Humboldt, Del Norte, Siskiyou and Mendocino counties also have relatively large percentages of steelhead anglers. Conversely, though nearly 11% of annual Report Card sales are to Sacramento County residence, only 0.5% of Sacramento County residence purchase a Report Card. Sonoma County sales are similar to Sacramento County.

From 1993 through 1998, the majority of steelhead fishing in California took place in the Smith (18%), Klamath (16.2%), Trinity (9.6%), Mad (8.3%), Russian (7.8%), and Feather rivers (5.6%) (Figure 33). Combined, the Klamath-Trinity watershed received the greatest steelhead angling effort (approximately 27% of the statewide effort). The Sacramento River system (including Feather, Yuba and American rivers) received approximately 13% of the statewide effort from 1993-1998.

From 1999 through 2005, many of the same rivers received the majority of the state’s steelhead fishing effort, but there were several notable shifts in fishing effort (Figure 33). Nearly all coastal streams (with the exception of the Klamath and Trinity rivers) decreased in fishing effort since 1998, and the Trinity and Central Valley rivers (Sacramento and San Joaquin systems) received a notable increase in steelhead fishing effort since 1998. This information is useful for determining angling pressure on individual river systems.

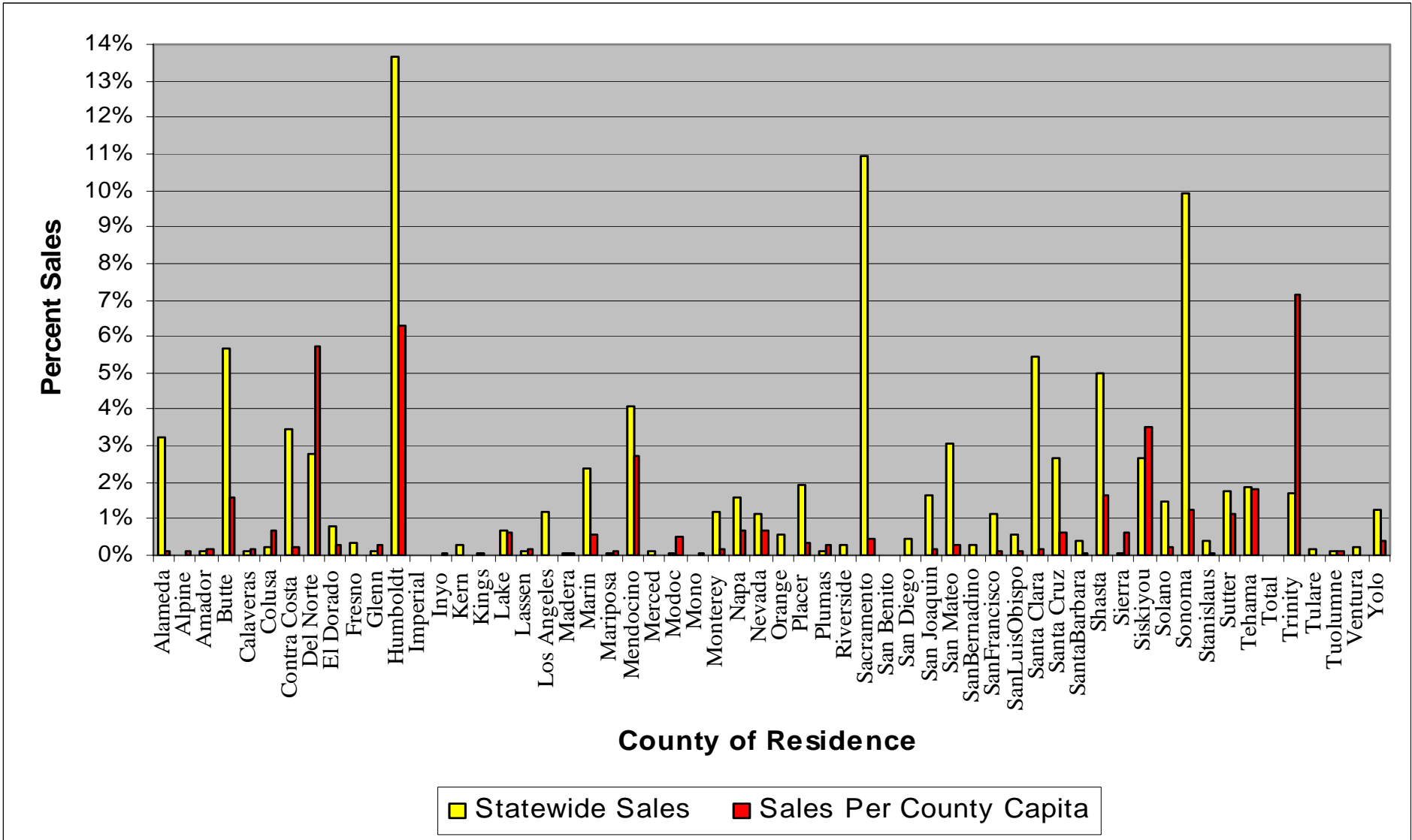


Figure 32. Statewide steelhead Report Card percent sales by county of residence and Report Card sales per county capita.

Table 1. Statewide steelhead Report Card percent sales by county of residence and Report Card sales per county capita.

County	Statewide Sales	Sales Per County Capita
Alameda	3.23%	0.13%
Alpine	0.00%	0.13%
Amador	0.12%	0.18%
Butte	5.68%	1.56%
Calaveras	0.12%	0.15%
Colusa	0.24%	0.68%
Contra Costa	3.47%	0.20%
Del Norte	2.78%	5.70%
El Dorado	0.77%	0.26%
Fresno	0.36%	0.02%
Glenn	0.13%	0.27%
Humboldt	13.65%	6.31%
Imperial	0.02%	0.01%
Inyo	0.01%	0.04%
Kern	0.27%	0.02%
Kings	0.04%	0.02%
Lake	0.70%	0.63%
Lassen	0.11%	0.19%
Los Angeles	1.17%	0.01%
Madera	0.08%	0.03%
Marin	2.37%	0.56%
Mariposa	0.04%	0.12%
Mendocino	4.08%	2.75%
Merced	0.10%	0.02%
Modoc	0.08%	0.51%
Mono	0.01%	0.05%
Monterey	1.21%	0.18%
Napa	1.57%	0.70%
Nevada	1.13%	0.68%
Orange	0.55%	0.01%
Placer	1.95%	0.35%
Plumas	0.10%	0.29%
Riverside	0.27%	0.01%
Sacramento	10.97%	0.47%
San Benito	0.02%	0.03%
San Bernadino	0.30%	0.01%
San Diego	0.45%	0.01%
San Francisco	1.11%	0.09%
San Joaquin	1.67%	0.15%
San Luis Obispo	0.58%	0.13%
San Mateo	3.04%	0.26%
Santa Barbara	0.41%	0.06%
Santa Clara	5.46%	0.19%
Santa Cruz	2.69%	0.64%
Shasta	5.00%	1.65%
Sierra	0.04%	0.62%
Siskiyou	2.67%	3.51%
Solano	1.47%	0.21%
Sonoma	9.94%	1.26%
Stanislaus	0.39%	0.05%
Sutter	1.75%	1.13%
Tehama	1.87%	1.80%
Trinity	1.72%	7.14%
Tulare	0.14%	0.02%
Tuolumne	0.10%	0.11%
Ventura	0.24%	0.02%
Yolo	1.27%	0.40%
Yuba	0.26%	0.22%

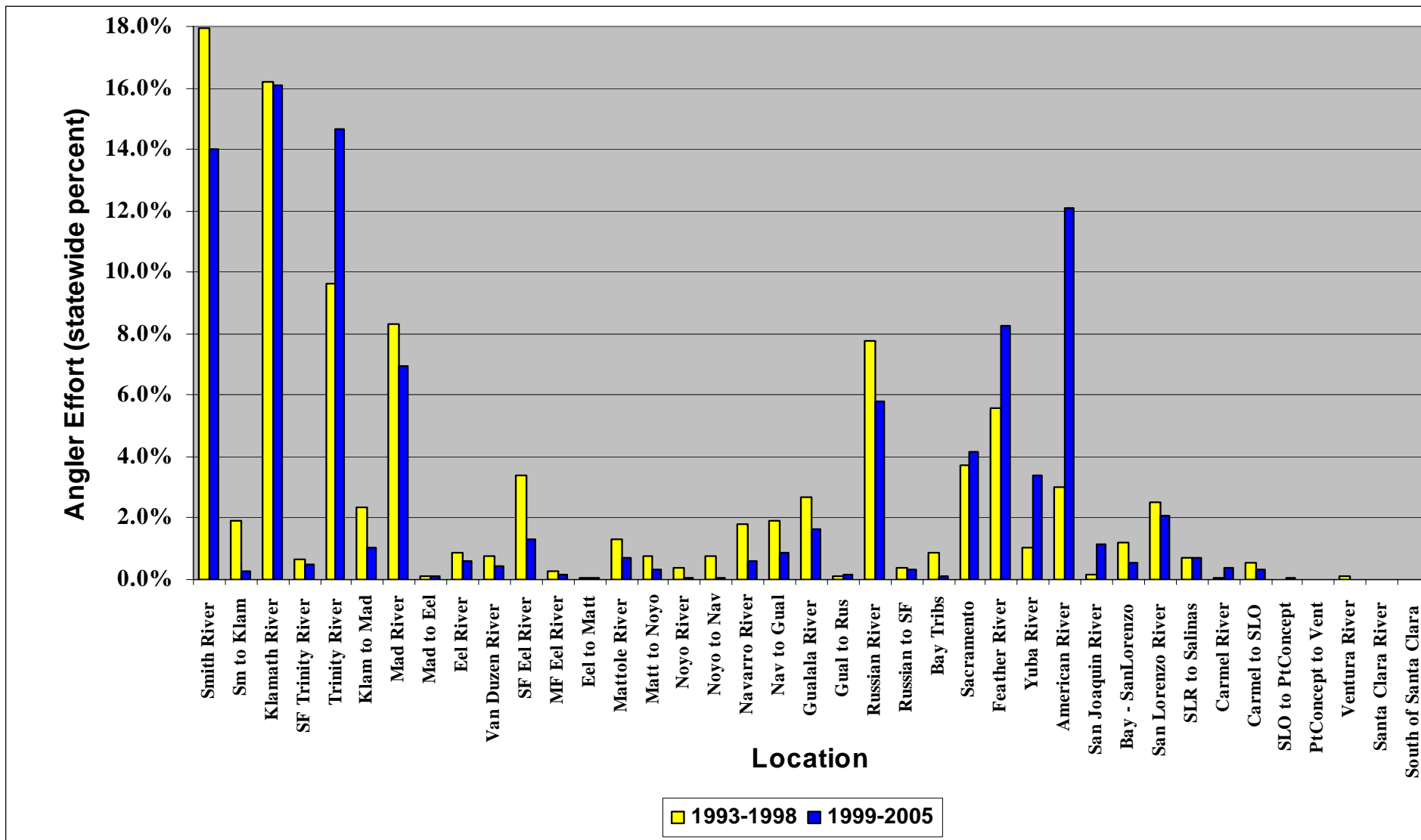


Figure 33. Steelhead angler effort by location, 1993-1998 and 1999-2005, expressed as a percentage of total statewide effort.

Figure 34 displays the number of steelhead caught per trip (wild and hatchery combined) for individual rivers throughout California from the periods of 1993-1998 and 1999-2005. These numbers are likely over-estimates of actual catch per trip, as many anglers did not record unsuccessful fishing trips, but they represent a good relative index between streams. The Feather, Yuba and Klamath rivers had the highest likelihood of catching a steelhead on a given fishing trip from 1993 to 1998. Interestingly, some streams that received little fishing pressure had relatively high success rates (i.e., South Fork Trinity had less than 1% of the statewide effort (see Figure 33), yet anglers reported catching greater than one steelhead per trip). This is likely from local anglers familiar with good fishing spots on a relatively healthy steelhead run. Conversely, the Russian River received nearly 8% of the angling effort with less than one steelhead caught every two trips from 1993-1998.

Figure 34 also illustrates that on a statewide basis, since 1998 anglers are catching more steelhead (wild and hatchery combined) per trip, particularly on the coastal rivers. The Carmel River was reopened to angling in 1998/99 season, after the river reconnected with the Pacific Ocean for several years and steelhead populations rebounded (see Figure 19). For the streams south of Carmel, few anglers expend effort on these streams and are likely local anglers knowledgeable about fishing their familiar spots.

For the northern coastal streams and Central Valley rivers, a couple of possibilities (stand alone or combined) are apparent. Steelhead populations have indeed improved on the north coast streams, and steelhead catch per trip has improved, and 2) Central Valley steelhead populations have remained relatively constant. However taking into consideration angler effort information (Figure 34), it is probable that steelhead populations have improved within the Central Valley rivers and the semi-static catch per trip is a reflection of the shifting of steelhead angler effort toward Central Valley rivers.

As mentioned previously, prior to 1999, the Department and steelhead anglers were unable to differentiate between wild and unmarked hatchery-reared steelhead. By fin clipping all hatchery-reared steelhead and having anglers record their catches, we are now able to evaluate wild steelhead run size relative to hatchery run size and the percentage of straying². This is tremendously important for evaluating whether management objectives are being met, effectiveness of hatchery practices, and evaluating directives set by FGC 6900 *et seq.* Figure 35 illustrates the average number of wild and hatchery steelhead caught per trip (1999-2005) on a given anadromous stream throughout California. In general, wild steelhead are caught predominantly throughout the state. Several streams with hatchery programs (Smith, Klamath, Trinity, Mad, Russian, Sacramento, Feather, American, and San Lorenzo and area streams) have high hatchery steelhead catches.

Also, the Report Card data reveal that most non-hatchery streams have low catch rates of hatchery steelhead, indicating that some straying is occurring, but that generally only a low percent of the overall steelhead run within these streams are hatchery. Particularly notable are several coastal streams that are managed as wild steelhead streams, where the data indicate that a considerable proportion of those runs are now hatchery strays. The Department is currently investigating the implication of these data.

² Hatchery steelhead caught in streams that do not have hatchery releases.

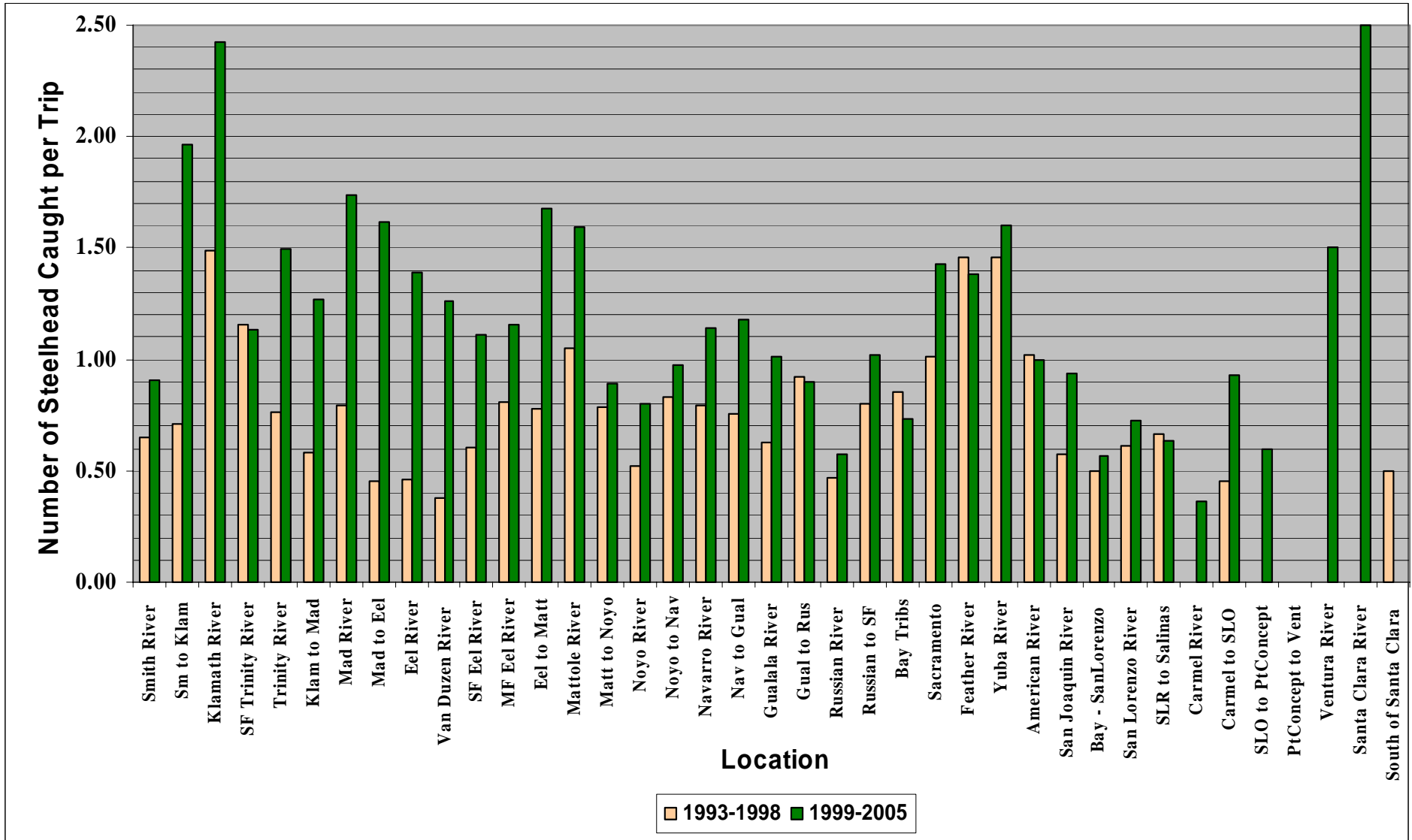


Figure 34. Comparison of average number of steelhead caught per trip per location (streams) between 1993-1998 and 1999-2005.

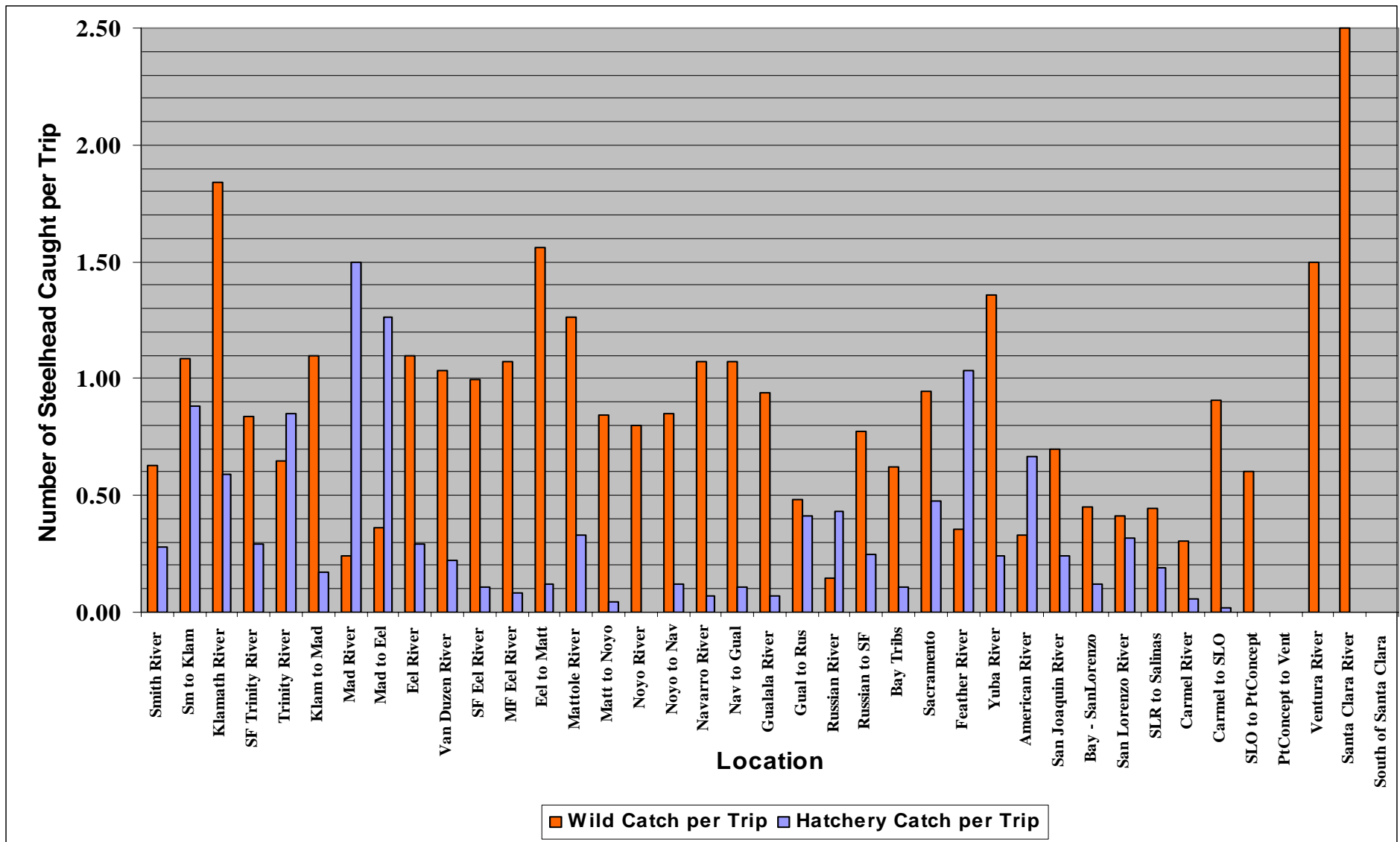


Figure 35. Comparison of average number of wild and hatchery steelhead caught per trip per location (streams) between 1999-2005.

California Steelhead anglers in general tend to practice catch-and-release. Even prior to the implementation of a catch-and-release requirement in 1998 for wild steelhead, anglers generally released 70% of all steelhead caught, regardless of whether they were hatchery or wild (Figure 36). Since the marking of all hatchery-reared steelhead and requirement that all wild steelhead be released (with the exception of the Smith River), conservation of wild and naturally spawning steelhead, per FGC 6900 *et seq.*, can be monitored, regulated and managed because of the Report Card Program.

From 1999 through 2005, steelhead anglers continued to release the majority of their steelhead (including hatchery steelhead) caught in most streams (Figure 37). Though all wild steelhead are to be released, with the exception of the Smith River, a small percentage of wild steelhead are harvested annually. This may be from a lack on knowledge regarding the regulations, or possibly some anglers chose to keep an injured wild steelhead regardless of the regulations. Although anglers are allowed to keep as many as 5 wild steelhead annually on the Smith River, only 27% of those caught were kept. Conversely, in the relatively remote coastal rivers and streams entering the ocean between the Gualala and Russian rivers, 21% of the wild steelhead were reported illegally harvested. There are likely many other steelhead that go unreported.

Regarding the high rate of release of hatchery steelhead, several factors likely contribute. Steelhead anglers generally tend to be concerned with the resource and conservation. Thus releasing the steelhead, in theory, would improve the future fishery. However, releasing hatchery steelhead to potentially spawn with wild steelhead is contrary to the Department's management objectives (per FGC 6900 *et seq.*) and can alter the resilience of the wild run (e.g., shift run timing, alter patters of genetic diversity) that has adapted to the environmental conditions of the stream or drainage. This could be tremendously unfavorable in the case of hatchery steelhead straying into streams managed strictly for wild stocks. An outreach program to educate steelhead anglers may be necessary to educate and encourage anglers to keep hatchery steelhead, consistent with the regulations especially in streams with small wild populations or streams designated for management of run as "wild".

Anglers also may be releasing hatchery steelhead because the regulations limit their ability to keep hatchery steelhead and continue fishing, e.g. if the regulation prevents anglers from retaining hatchery steelhead or limits angler possession to one hatchery steelhead per day. The angler is thus put in a dilemma of keeping the hatchery steelhead and ending their day of fishing, or releasing it to continue their fishing experience, which they have often traveled long distances to do. The Department is evaluating the freshwater sport fishing regulations regarding harvest of hatchery steelhead throughout California to try to address this issue.

The Report Card data were combined into California steelhead DPSs to look at trends. These data show that since 1998, there has been a shift in angler effort from the Northern and Central California steelhead DPS to the Central Valley DPS (Figure 38). Several factors may contribute to this shift, including increased fuel costs causing anglers to fish closer to home (e.g., Central Valley anglers choosing to fish locally rather than traveling to coastal streams). Additionally, anglers may be targeting hatchery steelhead and the Central Valley overall provides better opportunity for harvesting a hatchery steelhead.

Looking at the number of steelhead (wild or hatchery) caught per trip within each DPS, the Report Card data indicate that steelhead fishing has improved overall since 1998, with the exception of the Central Valley (Figure 39). One explanation for this increase in catch per trip may be that, in general, steelhead populations statewide have indeed improved, but steelhead populations have remained relatively constant within the Central Valley rivers. This takes into consideration the increased angler effort (fishing pressure) exerted on Central Valley rivers. It is also possible that steelhead populations have also improved within the Central Valley rivers and the slight decrease in catch per trip is a reflection of the tremendous shifting of steelhead angler effort toward Central Valley rivers.

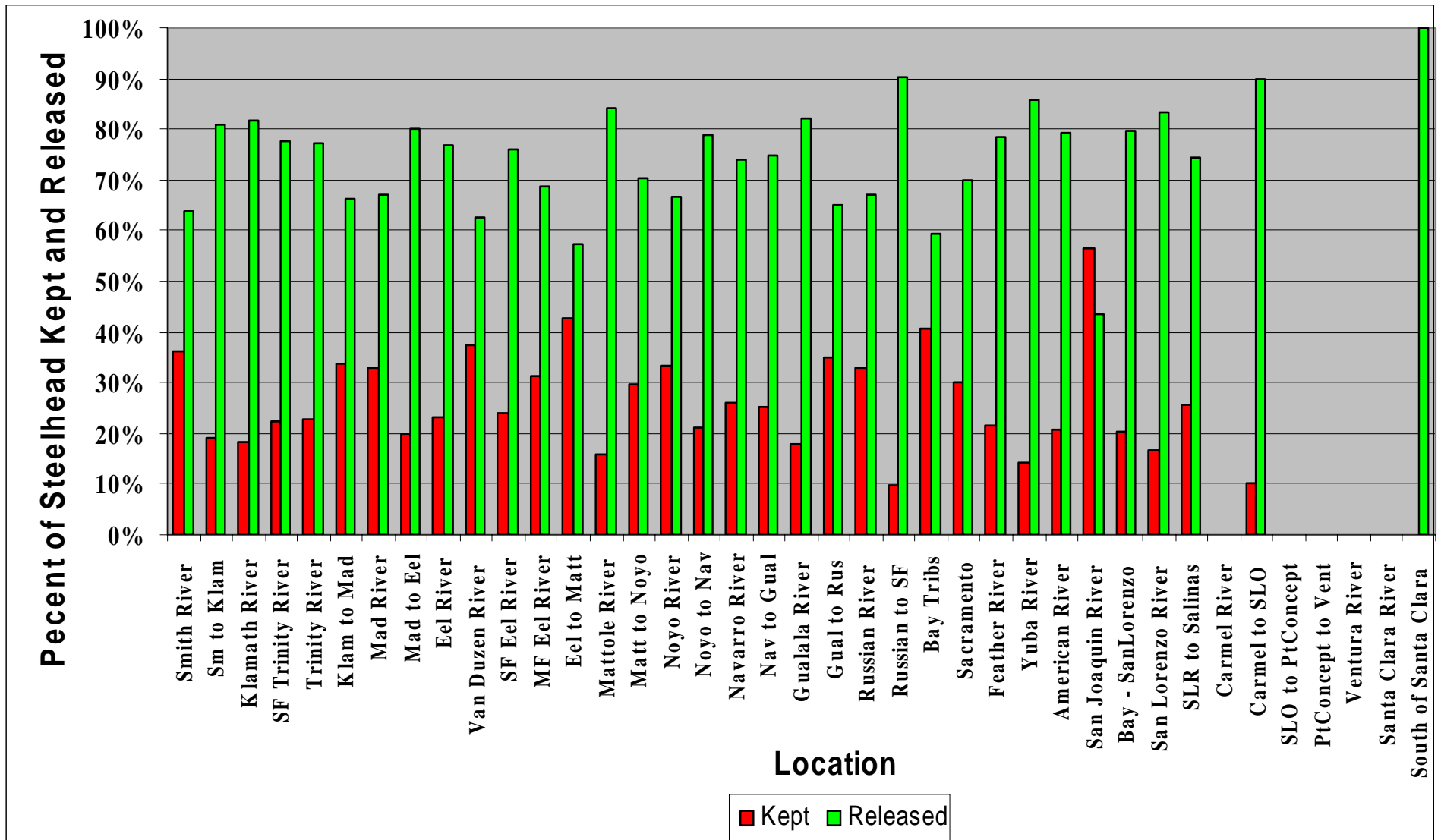


Figure 36. Percentage of steelhead kept and released by location, 1993-1998.

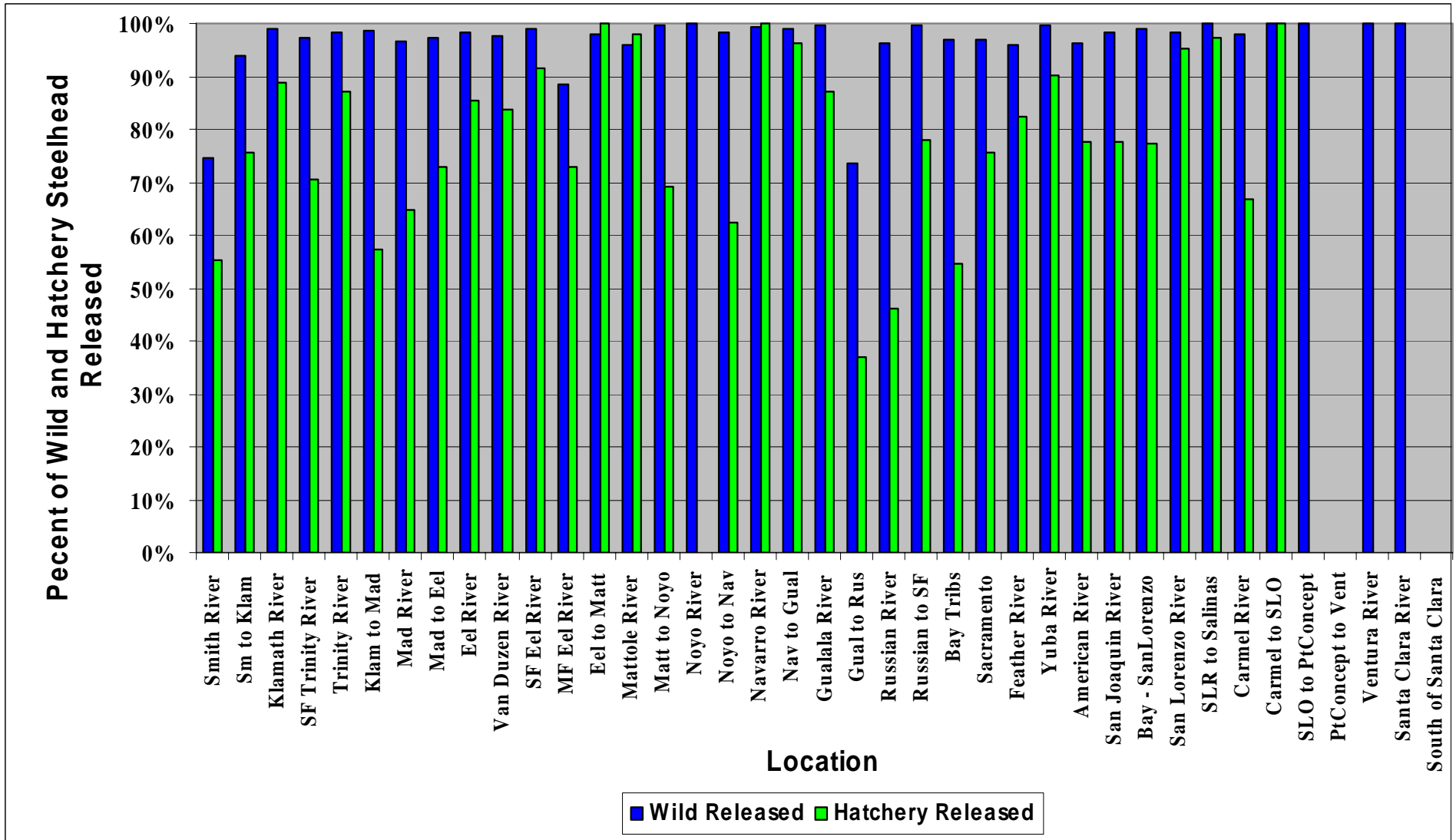


Figure 37. Percentage of steelhead kept and released by location, 1999-2005.

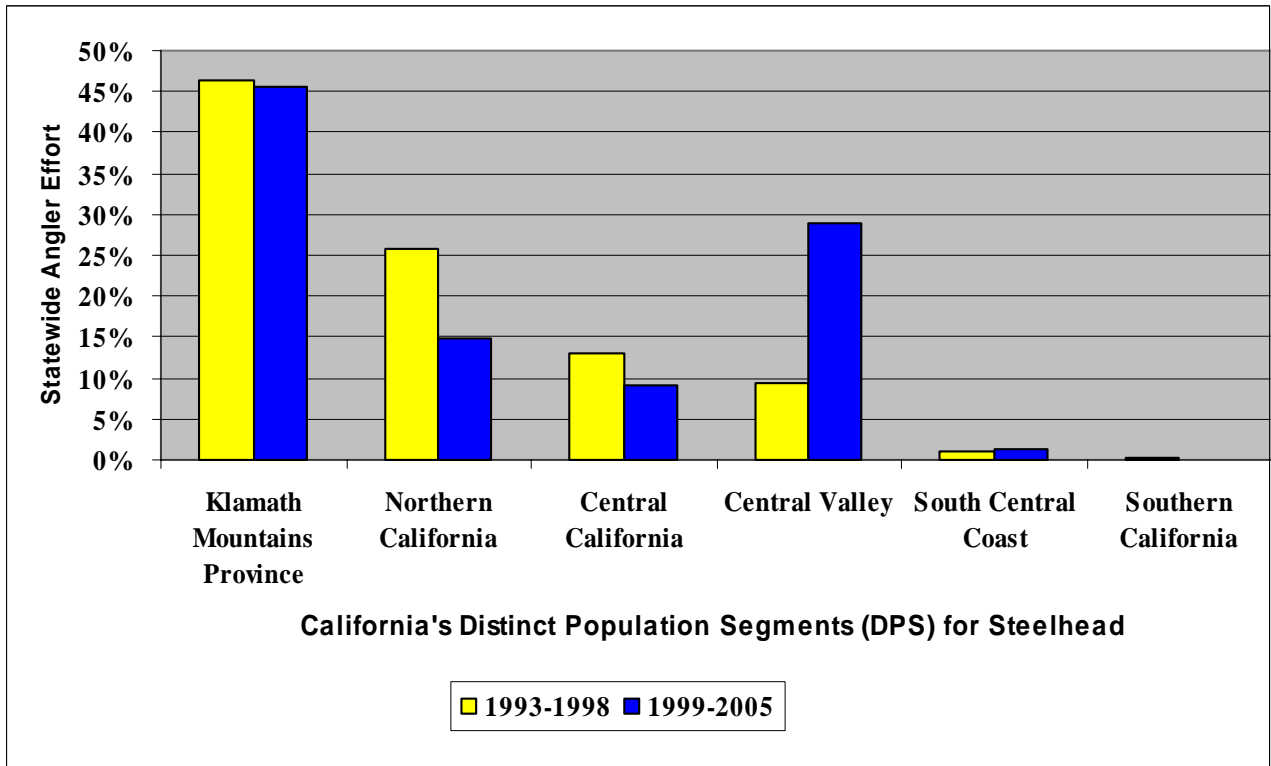


Figure 38. Steelhead angling effort by California's Distinct Population Segments for steelhead, 1993-1998 and 1999-2005, expressed as a percentage of total statewide effort.

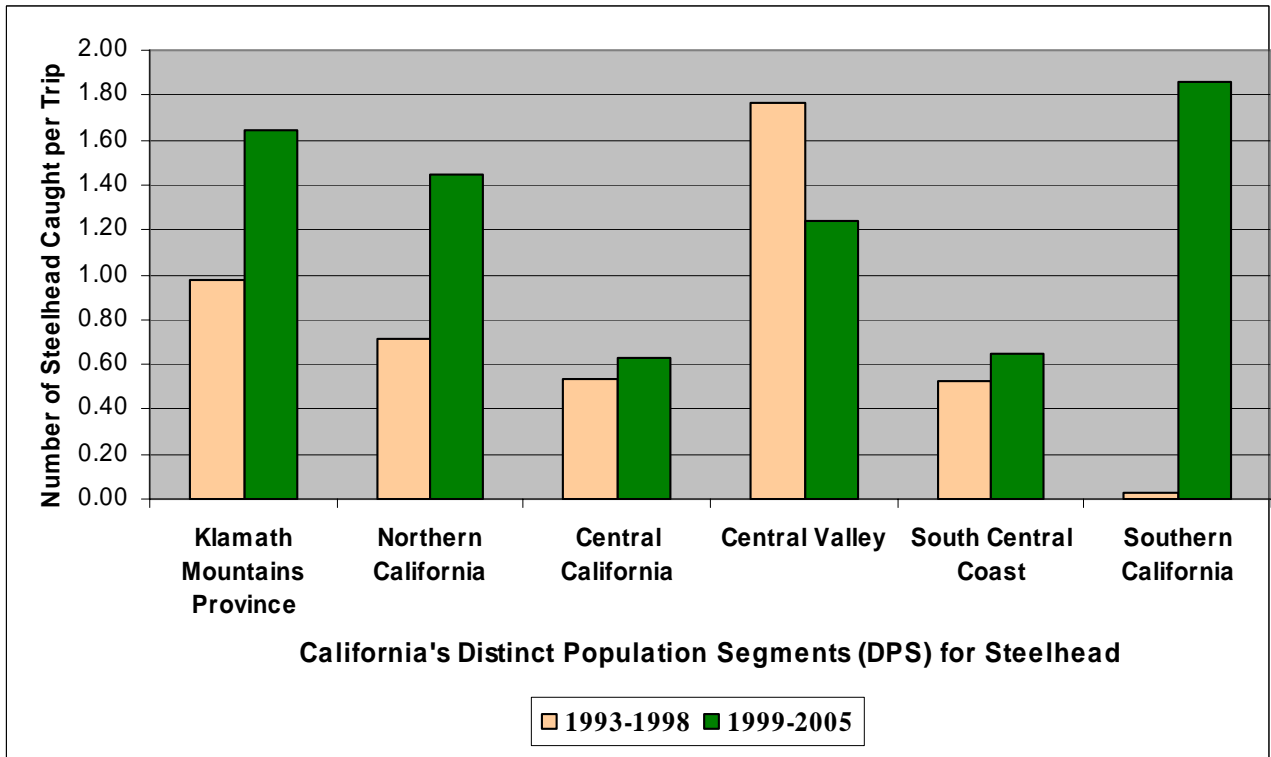


Figure 39. Steelhead angling effort by California's Distinct Population Segments for steelhead, 1993-1998 and 1999-2005, expressed as a percentage of total statewide effort.

The Report Card has provided the Department with the ability to estimate total statewide steelhead catches. From 1993 through 2002, the number of steelhead kept and released has fluctuated annually (Figure 40), with the greatest number of steelhead caught and released in 2001 and 2002. The 2003 through 2005 data are currently being analyzed for catch estimates, and the 2006 data are still being returned by anglers and entered by the Department.

Again, prior to 1999 hatchery raised steelhead were not marked with an adipose fin clip. Being able to distinguish hatchery steelhead from wild steelhead has allowed the Department to develop better harvest estimates (Figure 41). In 1999, approximately 7,000 wild steelhead were kept statewide, which may be an overestimate since anglers were learning to differentiate between wild and hatchery, and some hatchery fish may not have been clipped (1996 hatch, but clipping didn't start until 1997). However, the estimate may be accurate as it was prior to more restrictive harvest regulations for wild fish, and over 17,000 hatchery steelhead were kept in 1999. An estimated average of 3,500 wild steelhead were kept statewide in 2000, 2001 and 2002. An increasing number of hatchery steelhead were kept and released annually from 2000 through 2002. Since 1999, an average of 1.5 times more wild steelhead have been caught statewide than hatchery steelhead.

An important benefit of the Report Card data are that they allow the Department to look at streams individually for management specific to the needs of the stream. Prior to the mandatory return requirement implemented in 2003, catch estimates per stream were not possible because there were too few data for the majority of streams. The Department anticipates being able to provide individual stream catch estimates annually with future analyses, as more anglers comply with the mandatory return. Data presented in Table 2 provides an indication of steelhead angling effort and catch for each location. This table displays, for 2003 to 2005, the average number of steelhead fishing trips reported, and the average number of wild and hatchery steelhead reported caught annually for each location.

The angling data gathered from the Report Cards allows the Department to evaluate the timing of steelhead migration, angler effort and angler success by month for each stream. Angling effort and success for the majority of California's streams for the periods of 1993 through 1998, and 1999 through 2005 (hatchery steelhead differentiated) are provided in Appendix C. These figures display the percent of angler effort and percent of steelhead catch each month in a given stream for 1993-1998, and percent of wild and hatchery steelhead catch each month for 1999-2005. The figures illustrate the run timing for those streams. Additional and detailed annual analyses for each stream and DPS, beyond the scope of this report, will be available in a forthcoming biological and management-focused administrative report.

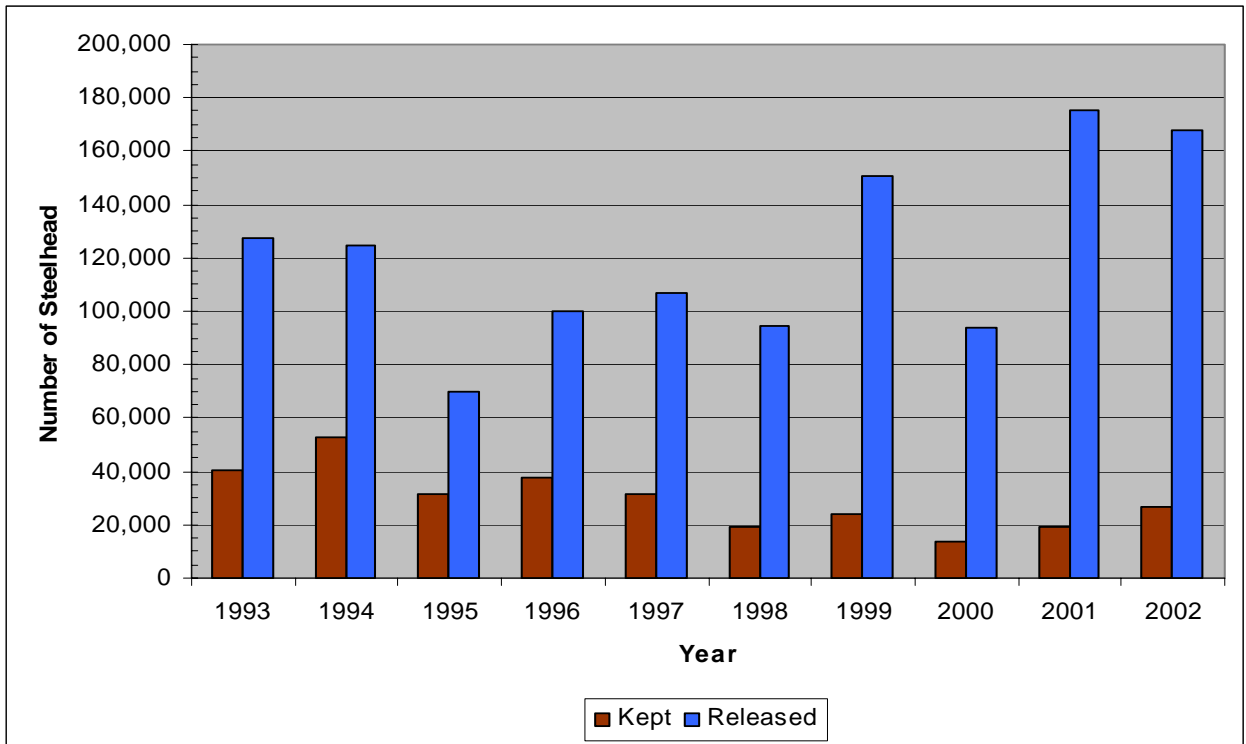


Figure 40. Statewide estimates of number of steelhead kept and released, 1993-2002.

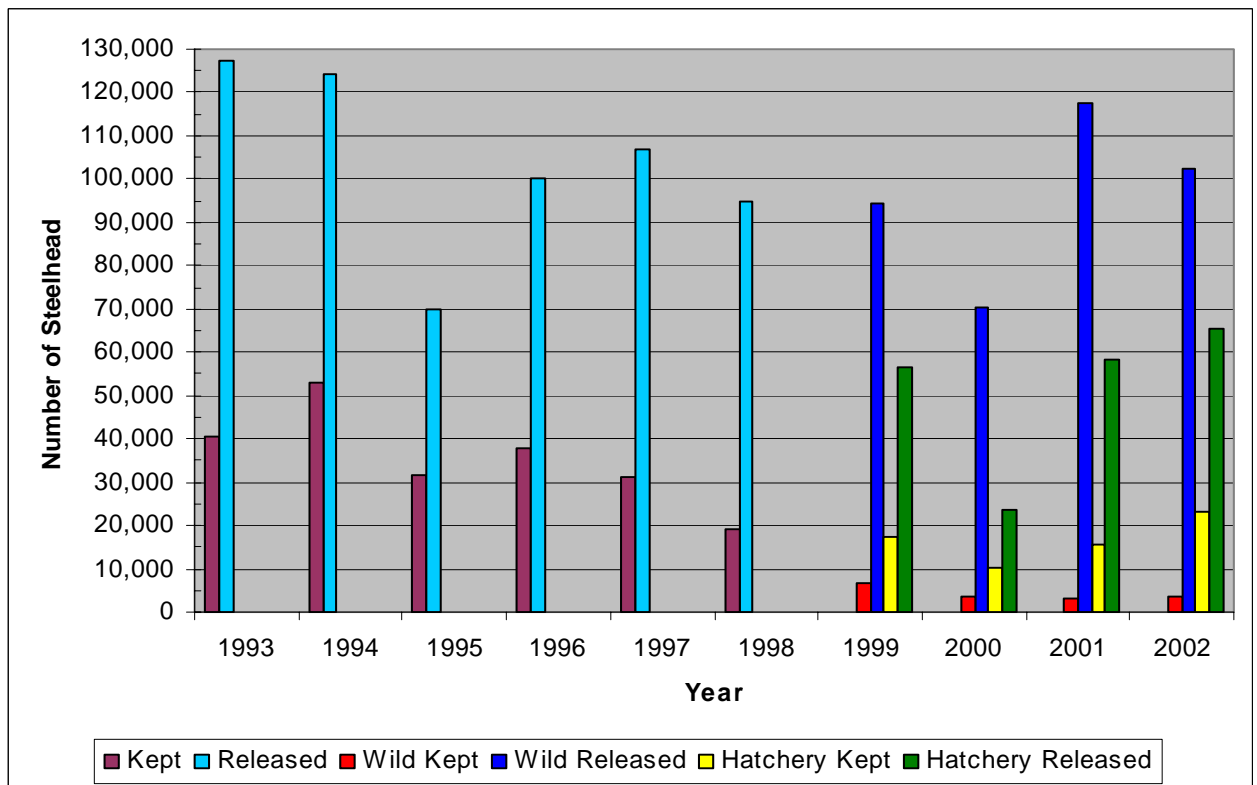


Figure 41. Statewide estimates of number of steelhead kept and released, 1993-1998, and statewide estimates of number of wild and hatchery steelhead kept and released, 1999-2002.

Table 2. Average number of steelhead fishing trips and average number of wild and hatchery steelhead reported annually (2003-3005).

Location Code	Location	Trips	Wild Kept	Wild Released	Hatchery Kept	Hatchery Released
2a	Smith River	3,783	623	1,355	537	687
2b	NF Smith River	78	13	32	5	16
2c	MF Smith River	965	129	494	104	174
2d	SF Smith River	705	116	567	56	126
3	Smith to Klamath	55	4	67	13	42
4a	Upper Klamath River	1,936	31	3,188	105	867
4a1	Shasta River	10	1	5	2	1
4a2	Scott River	116	0	199	1	2
4a3	Salmon River	121	0	227	0	6
4b	Lower Klamath River	1,232	24	2,012	104	909
5a	SF Trinity River	115	8	97	9	38
5b	Hayfork Creek	26	1	28	2	0
6a	Trinity River	5,296	55	2,974	606	3,968
6b	New River	53	0	49	1	1
7	Klamath to Mad	190	2	219	13	23
8	Mad River	1,244	9	248	650	1,320
9	Mad to Eel	23	0	5	9	31
10	Eel River	111	3	130	5	31
11	Van Duzen River	74	1	67	1	6
12	SF Eel River	250	4	265	2	30
13	MF Eel River	20	1	23	1	1
14	Eel to Mattole	10	0	15	0	0
15	Mattole River	132	10	173	1	4
16	Mattole to Noyo	65	0	42	1	1
17	Noyo River	12	0	9	0	0
18	Noyo to Navarro	14	0	14	1	2
19	Navarro River	104	0	105	0	9
20	Navarro to Gualala	164	2	195	1	9
21	Gualala River	316	2	231	4	13
22	Gualala to Russian	17	0	2	3	2
23	Russian River	1,089	4	115	249	204
24	Russian to SF	66	0	52	3	15
25	Bay Tributaries	29	1	15	1	1
26a	Upper Sacramento	445	11	344	37	124
26b	Mid-Upper Sacramento	271	4	237	31	96
26c	Mid-Lower Sacramento	126	2	43	15	38
26d	Lower Sacramento	59	1	16	9	9
26c1	Feather River	1,667	20	562	262	1,297
26c2	Yuba River	767	2	1,046	10	172
26c3	American River	3,542	31	1,809	359	1,440
26d1	Putah Creek	2	0	0	0	0
27a	San Joaquin River	7	0	7	1	0
27b	Merced River	24	0	20	1	3
27c	Tuolumne River	8	0	11	0	0
27d	Stanislaus River	110	1	41	1	20
27e	Mokelumne River	92	2	81	4	20
27f	Calaveras River	34	0	45	1	2
28	Bay to San Lorenzo	111	1	49	4	11
29	San Lorenzo River	429	4	159	3	150
30	SLR to Salinas	139	0	55	0	23
31	Carmel River	70	1	15	1	1
32	Carmel to San Luis Obispo	57	0	28	0	1
33	SLO to Pt Concept	2	0	2	0	0
34	Pt Concept to Ventura	0	0	0	0	0
35	Ventura River	0	0	0	0	0
36	Santa Clara River	1	0	1	0	0
37	South of Santa Clara	1	0	0	0	0

SUMMARY

The Report Card program has been successful in providing a unique and fairly stable funding source for steelhead projects throughout California. To date, over 100 projects have been funded through the Report Card program totaling nearly \$1.2 million dollars. There are no other long-term funding sources available exclusively for steelhead restoration projects. Without this program, steelhead would likely receive little, if any, direct attention. Prior to implementation of the Report Card program, steelhead only benefited indirectly from salmon projects that were implemented where steelhead and salmon were found together.

The accomplishments have been tremendous, and project funding from the Report Card has:

- modified and removed barriers (i.e., dams, culverts) to improve fish passage.
- screened diversions to protect emigrating juvenile steelhead.
- provided instream escape cover, sorted spawning gravels, stabilized stream banks, and increased the frequency and depth of pool habitats.
- stabilized eroding areas and revegetated upslope areas to reduce sedimentation.
- provided for riparian restoration and revegetation in, or adjacent to, the stream channel to increase habitat availability and reduce stream temperatures.
- monitored and maintained programs that address the biological and physical effects of completed projects; provided baseline and/or trend data for assessing recovery; maintenance and corrective actions.
- provided watershed organizational support to increase public involvement in support of watershed health.
- provided watershed education to the public and school districts that provided education on anadromous salmonid life cycles and habitat requirements.

The \$800,000 appropriation for the next two years will greatly benefit steelhead populations and the steelhead angler, through increased habitat restoration efforts, population assessment and monitoring, and enhanced management and educational outreach.

Report Card catch data suggest that steelhead populations have likely improved for the north coast and Central Valley, and on a statewide basis, anglers are catching more steelhead (wild and hatchery combined) per trip, particularly on the coastal rivers.

Since most of California's steelhead stocks were listed under the federal ESA in the late 1990's, catch and angler data generated from the Report Card have taken on a greater significance regarding the Department's ability to comply with ESA protections for listed steelhead. The Department must develop and implement Fisheries Management and Evaluation Plans (FMEP) to assess and monitor the fishery to ensure that angling in the listed areas does not cause further impacts to, or impede the recovery of listed steelhead. The Department has identified steelhead angler effort and catch as performance indicators that will be monitored and evaluated on an annual basis to assess the achievement of the FMEPs. NOAA Fisheries-approved FMEPs would allow continued angling opportunities without jeopardizing the survival and recovery of listed steelhead. The Report Card program is integral to obtaining this information for ESA Rule compliance that allows angling opportunities to continue and improve.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Department recommends that the Steelhead Fishing Report-Restoration Card requirement and program be continued.

The Department believes that the Report Card program provides the best option for generating steelhead catch data to assess harvest and meet management goals outlined in the Steelhead Plan, to measure potential angling impacts to ESA-listed steelhead in compliance with the ESA, and to generate revenue to implement restoration measures identified in the Steelhead Plan and elsewhere. Because the Report Card captures data on wild steelhead separately from hatchery steelhead, it is a tremendously valuable tool for managing steelhead populations listed under the ESA. The mandatory return requirement of the Report Card is currently the best option for recovering the steelhead angler's data, and has appreciably increased the volume of data which significantly improves the Department's ability to evaluate steelhead angling and manage each stream separately.

The Department also recommends that the Report Card program's annual spending authority be increased, subsequent to the sunset of the \$800,000 appropriation, to allow for a greater number and/or larger steelhead projects. This would allow for an acceleration of the restoration of habitat conditions for California steelhead, thus improving steelhead populations, angling opportunities, and angler success sooner. Revenue generated from steelhead anglers purchasing a Report Card should be managed and spent wisely to improve the resource. It is recommended that an annual spending be set at approximately the annual revenue (roughly \$250,000). This would allow the Department to fund steelhead projects, while maintaining a prudent reserve but not accruing a substantial unspent balance.

APPENDIX A

Department's Steelhead Fishing Report-Restoration Program Web Page,

currently:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/nafwb/SteelheadReportCard.html>



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Steelhead Fishing Report - Restoration Card Program

ABOUT

The California Department of Fish & Game (Department) is responsible for managing and conserving California's fish and wildlife resources and facilitating and enhancing angling opportunities. The Department is required by statute (Fish and Game Code 6900) to monitor and restore steelhead populations, and central to this mandate is obtaining information on angler effort and harvest of both wild and hatchery steelhead.



The Steelhead Fishing Report-Restoration Card (Steelhead Report Card) is the only state-wide program designed to gather such data. Because the majority of California's steelhead populations are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), angling information is even more critical, not only to ensure that angling does not cause further impacts to steelhead populations, but also to demonstrate that impacts due to angling are minimal. This information is necessary to allow angling to continue under provisions of the ESA. Failure to collect these data could result in the closure of steelhead fisheries across the state. The Department's goal is to improve steelhead habitat and populations, and enhance steelhead fishing opportunities and success. This requires accurate and complete data from steelhead anglers. Accurate record of anglers that purchased a Steelhead Report Card and didn't fish is vital to this project.

Revenue received pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 7380 (Steelhead Report Card) may only be expended to monitor, restore, or enhance steelhead trout resources consistent with Fish and Game Code sections 6901 and 6902, and to administer the Steelhead Report Card program. Typical projects include: assessing angler harvest, restoring spawning and rearing habitat, securing adequate flows, and removing barriers to migration (see the [1997](#) and [2000](#) Reports to the Legislature). The Department believes that the Steelhead Report Card program provides the best option for generating steelhead harvest data to meet management goals outlined in the [Steelhead Restoration and Management Plan For California](#) (Steelhead Plan), to measure potential angling

impacts to ESA listed steelhead in compliance with ESA Section 4d, and to generate revenue to implement restoration measures identified in the Steelhead Plan and elsewhere.

Fish and Game Code sections [6901](#) and [6902](#) are part of the Salmon, Steelhead Trout, and Anadromous Fisheries Program Act, which primarily focuses on naturally spawning salmon and steelhead resources. In essence, these sections direct the Department to protect and increase naturally spawning salmon, steelhead, and anadromous fish populations primarily through the improvement of stream habitat. Proper salmon and steelhead trout resource management requires maintaining adequate levels of natural spawning and rearing. Though hatchery production may be an appropriate means of protecting and increasing salmon and steelhead in specific situations, when both are feasible alternatives, preference shall be given to natural production.

For the first 10 years of the program, return of the Steelhead Report Card was not mandatory and steelhead anglers were asked to voluntarily return their Report Card (this request was printed on the Steelhead Report Cards). In addition, a random sample of 10,000 steelhead anglers annually were mailed a survey form (with an addressed, postage-paid return envelope) and a request that they return their Report Card. Despite the effort to obtain the Steelhead Report Card through voluntary compliance, the return rate of the Steelhead Report Cards was only about 8% annually, which is too small a number for adequate monitoring of our steelhead populations. That is why the legislation was changed in 2002 to make return of the Steelhead Report Card mandatory.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

More questions? Check the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page.

REPORTS

- Periodically, DFG prepares reports to the legislature regarding the Steelhead Fishing Report - Restoration Card Program. Currently, two reports are available for download as Adobe PDF files:

REPORT	SIZE
2000	2.5 mb
1997 (high res.)	26 mb
1997 (low res.)	12 mb

- The [Steelhead Restoration and Management Plan For California](#) is available for download in Adobe's Portable Document Format (1996, p. 234, 3.76MB PDF)

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APPENDIX B

Frequently Asked Questions

Currently:

[\(http://www.dfg.ca.gov/nafwb/SteelheadReportCardFAQ.html\)](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/nafwb/SteelheadReportCardFAQ.html)



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Steelhead Fishing Report - Restoration Card FAQ

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS

1. [Why do you ask for the Steelhead Report Cards to be returned?](#)
2. [What is the money used for?](#)
3. [I didn't fish for steelhead this year. Do I still need to return the Steelhead Report Card?](#)
4. [I no longer have my Steelhead Report Card to return, what do I do?](#)
5. [I didn't catch any or I released all steelhead that I caught. Do I still need to return the Steelhead Report Card?](#)
6. [I already sent in my Steelhead Report Card, what do I do?](#)
7. [I didn't purchase a Steelhead Report Card. Why was I sent a post card telling me to return my Steelhead Report Card?](#)
8. [My name isn't spelled right, it's not me.](#)
9. [The Fishing License and Steelhead Report Card are expensive. Other states are much cheaper to fish for steelhead.](#)
10. [If I fill-out the card everyday I fish I would fill-up the Steelhead Report Card. What do I do then?](#)
11. [Why don't you just ask anglers to return their Steelhead Report Cards, why a mandatory return?](#)
12. [Why are you threatening me with a misdemeanor?](#)
13. [How much does this reminder post card cost the program?](#)
14. [I want to keep my card for my collection](#)
15. [Where can I get the data for the river\(s\) I fish? How can I get the results of these data?](#)
16. [The angler has passed away and I don't know anything about the Steelhead Report Card, what do I do?](#)

ANSWERS

1. **Why do you ask for the Steelhead Report Cards to be returned?**

DFG is responsible for managing and conserving California's fish and wildlife resources and facilitating and enhancing angling opportunities. The Department is required by statute (Fish and Game Code 6900) to monitor and restore steelhead populations, and central to this mandate is obtaining information on angler effort and harvest of both wild and hatchery steelhead. The Steelhead Report Card is the only state-wide program designed to gather such data. Because the majority of California's steelhead populations are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), angling information is even more critical, not only to ensure that angling does not cause further impacts to steelhead populations, but also to demonstrate that impacts due to angling are minimal. This information is necessary to allow angling to continue under provisions of the ESA. Failure to collect these data could result in the closure of steelhead fisheries across the state. The Department's goal is to improve steelhead habitat and populations, and enhance steelhead fishing opportunities and success. This requires accurate and complete data from steelhead anglers. Accurate record of anglers that purchased a Report Card and didn't fish is vital to this project.

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2. What is the money used for?

Revenue received pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 7380 (Steelhead Report Card) may only be expended to monitor, restore, or enhance steelhead trout resources consistent with Fish and Game Code sections 6901 and 6902, and to administer the Report Card program. Typical projects include: assessing angler harvest, restoring spawning and rearing habitat, securing adequate flows, and removing barriers to migration (see the 1997 and 2000 Reports to the Legislature on this Steelhead Report Card web site:

www.dfg.ca.gov/nafwb/SteelheadReportCard.html.

Fish and Game Code sections 6901 and 6902 are part of the Salmon, Steelhead Trout, and Anadromous Fisheries Program Act, which primarily focuses on naturally spawning salmon and steelhead resources. In essence, these sections direct the DFG to protect and increase naturally spawning salmon, steelhead, and anadromous fish populations primarily through the improvement of stream habitat. Proper salmon and steelhead trout resource management requires maintaining adequate levels of natural spawning and rearing. Though hatchery production may be an appropriate means of protecting and increasing salmon and steelhead in specific situations, when both are feasible alternatives, preference shall be given to natural production.

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3. I didn't fish for steelhead this year. Do I still need to return the Steelhead Report Card?

Yes, this information is still valuable as it increases our statistical accuracy and reliability. Please write "Did Not Fish" on your Steelhead Report Card and return it to the Department of Fish and Game at the address indicated.

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4. I no longer have my Steelhead Report Card to return, what do I do?

To the best of your ability, please provide the most detailed recollection possible of your steelhead fishing experiences and return it with the post card you received.

Ideally, this information will include the date(s) fished, location(s) fished, number of wild and hatchery steelhead kept and released for EACH trip. Please be as specific as you can. Providing a response will fulfill your statutory obligation to return your Steelhead Report Card.

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5. I didn't catch any or I released all steelhead that I caught. Do I still need to return the Steelhead Report Card?

Yes. Please read the Sport Fishing Regulations and the back of your Steelhead Report Card about recording your steelhead fishing efforts. The Report Card is designed for you to record fishing effort, regardless of whether or not you catch a steelhead. It is also designed to record catch and release information, so if you didn't keep any, at least your fishing efforts and releases should be recorded. This information very still valuable.

To the best of your ability, please provide the most detailed recollection possible of your steelhead fishing experiences and return it with your Steelhead Report Card, or reminder post card if you no longer have your Report Card (see above). Hopefully this will include the date(s) fished, location(s) fished, number of wild and hatchery steelhead kept and released for EACH trip. Number of days per month fished in each stream is an acceptable minimum.

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6. I already sent in my Steelhead Report Card, what do I do?

Your Report Card had not arrived in our office at the time the reminder post cards were mailed. Please note that you've already returned the Report Card and return the reminder post card for our records. Sorry for any inconvenience.

[TOP](#)

7. I didn't purchase a Steelhead Report Card. Why was I sent a post card telling me to return my Steelhead Report Card?

A copy of the top portion of the Steelhead Report Card (angler name, address, phone number, etc) is retained by the License Agent at the time of purchase, and eventually returned to the Department of Fish and Game. It is from this information only that we compile the mailing list and addresses for the reminder post card. Presumably, if you do not remember purchasing a Report Card, you likely did not fish for steelhead this year. Please indicate this information on your post card and return it to the DFG.

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8. My name isn't spelled right, it's not me.

All steelhead angler addresses, phone numbers, etc., are entered from records received from the License Agents. The angler information at the top of the Steelhead Report Card is **hand written** at the time of purchase. We do our best to accurately interpret and enter these data. Either the hand writing was difficult to interpret or our data entry person mistyped - if it came to your address, it is likely for you or somebody in your home.

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9. The Fishing License and Steelhead Report Card are expensive. Other states are much cheaper to fish for steelhead.

A resident 2005 California Sport Fishing License is \$33.35. Though purchasing a Steelhead Report Card may be an additional expense (currently \$5.25 for anglers 16 and older) to fish for steelhead, it is actually an investment into the future of the steelhead resource. Revenue received from the sales of the Steelhead Report Card goes into a dedicated account specifically for funding steelhead habitat restoration and monitoring projects designed to improve steelhead populations, with the goal of providing you greater steelhead fishing opportunities and success.

The California's Steelhead Report Card is not a "harvest card" like other states; it is designed to collect data on fishing effort per stream, harvest and release of steelhead. Each Report Card allows for 30 steelhead fishing trips (see instructions on back of Report Card), which equates to 18 cents per fishing trip or location fished.

A resident Oregon Angling License is \$24.75. The Combined Angling Harvest Tag (currently \$21.50) is required for all anglers, regardless of age (\$6.50 under 18), to angle for salmon, steelhead, sturgeon or Pacific halibut. The Combined Tag allows harvest of 20 salmon or steelhead per year. In addition, if you have purchased a Combined Angling Harvest Tag, you may purchase a Hatchery Harvest Tag (currently \$12.00) which allows the angler to record up to a combined total of 10 adipose or otherwise fin-clipped salmon or adipose fin-clipped steelhead harvested, in lieu of recording those fish on the Combined Angling Tag.

A resident Washington Annual Combination License (freshwater & saltwater) is \$41.61, (\$7.67 for age 15). The state of Washington provides the first catch record card free with the purchase of a license. Replacements and additional catch record cards are \$10.95 for all ages. You are allowed harvest of 1 wild steelhead state-wide annually.

A resident Idaho Fishing License is \$23.50. A Salmon or Steelhead Permit is \$11.50.

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10. If I fill-out the card everyday I fish I would fill-up the Steelhead Report Card. What do I do then?

You would need to purchase another Steelhead Report Card.

Though purchasing an additional Report Card may be an additional expense, it is actually an investment into the future of the steelhead resource. Revenue received from the sales of the Steelhead Report Card go into a dedicated account specifically for funding steelhead habitat restoration and monitoring projects designed to improve steelhead populations, with the goal of providing you greater steelhead fishing opportunities and success.

Though recording all steelhead fishing efforts may seem inconvenient (and an additional expense), the data you provide are critical to proper management of the steelhead resource. DFG's goal is to improve steelhead fishing opportunities and success, and this requires accurate data.

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11. Why don't you just ask anglers to return their Steelhead Report Cards, why a mandatory return?

For the first 10 years of the program, return of the Report Card was not mandatory and steelhead anglers were asked to voluntarily return their Report Card (this request was printed on the Steelhead Report Cards). In addition, a random sample of 10,000 steelhead anglers annually were mailed a survey form (with an addressed, postage-paid return envelope) and a request that they return their Report Card. Despite the effort to obtain the Report Card through voluntary compliance, the return rate of the Report Cards was only about 8% annually, which is too small a number for adequate monitoring of our steelhead populations. That is why the legislation was changed in 2002 to make return of the Report Card mandatory.

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12. Why are you threatening me with a misdemeanor?

You are being provided information regarding compliance with the law. Given the need for this information relative to the continued future of the steelhead fishery, the Department will continue to educate anglers that return of the Steelhead Report Card is necessary for them to be in compliance with the law.

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13. How much does this reminder post card cost the program?

The cost to send the reminder post card is \$0.24 per non-compliant angler. This year 25,507 post cards were mailed-out, thus the cost was \$6,841.68.

If anglers would return their Report Card, as required by law, no additional effort or financial expenditure would be required. But the data are critical, so the effort is necessary. The cost is negligible compared to losing the fishery for lack of data.

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14. I want to keep my card for my collection

That is fine. Please provide a quality photo copy of your report card and return that information.

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15. Where can I get the data for the river(s) I fish? How can I get the results of these data?

The 1997 and 2000 reports to the Legislature that describe the results and accomplishments of the Steelhead Report Card program are available on this Steelhead Report Card web site: www.dfg.ca.gov/nafwb/SteelheadReportCard.html. The next report is due to the Legislature by July 1, 2007. This report will be available once submitted to the Legislature. Annual statistics are being compiled and will be posted upon completion on the Steelhead Report Card web page. Please stay posted.

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16. **The angler has passed away and I don't know anything about the Steelhead Report Card, what do I do?**

Please accept our genuine apologies regarding your loss and for any inconvenience, distress or additional sorrow this request for past information may have caused you and your family. Please write this information on the post card you just received and return it to the address provided. Thank you.

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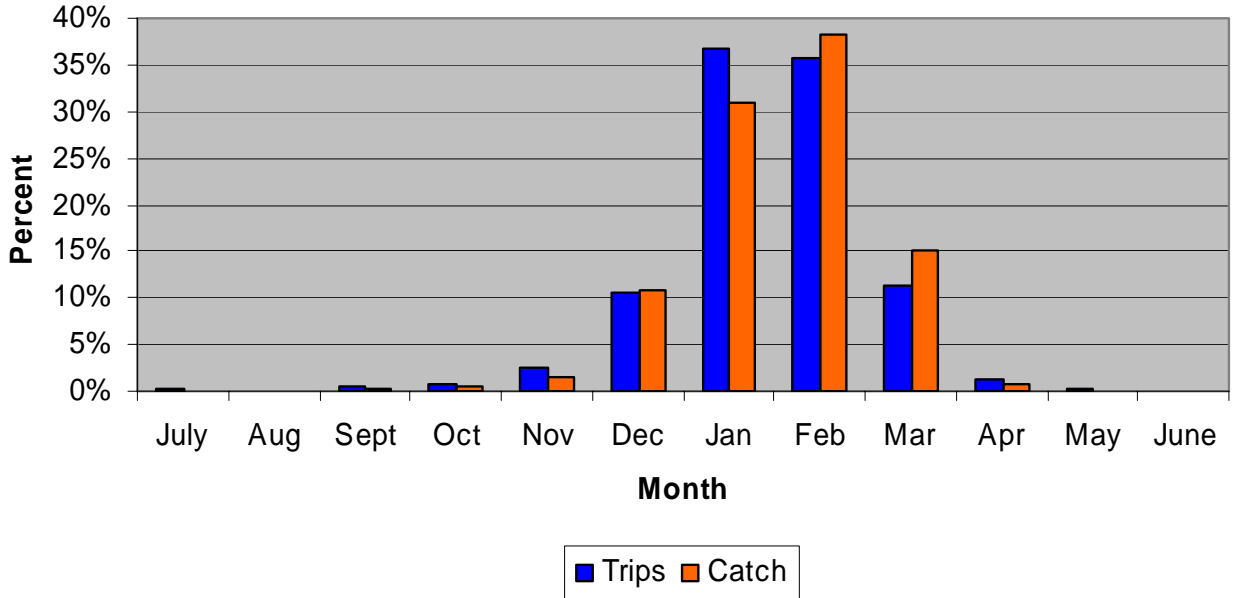
The content found herein may not necessarily represent the views and opinions of the Schwarzenegger Administration.

APPENDIX C

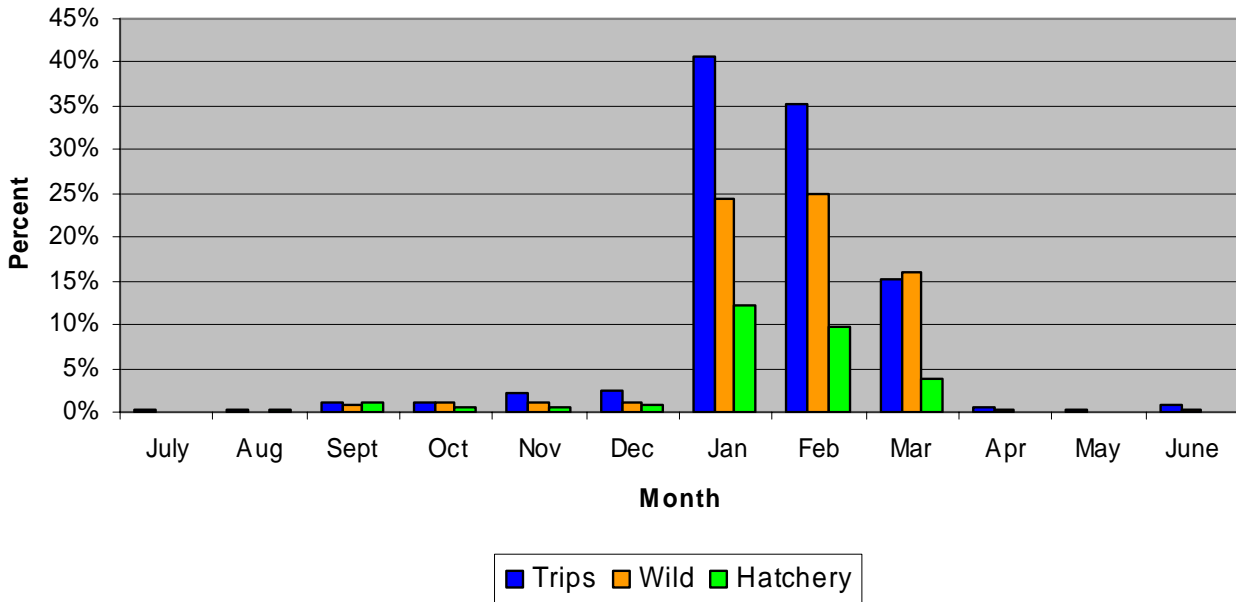
**Monthly Angling Effort and Monthly Catch
for the Majority of California's Streams**

1993 through 1998,
and 1999 through 2005

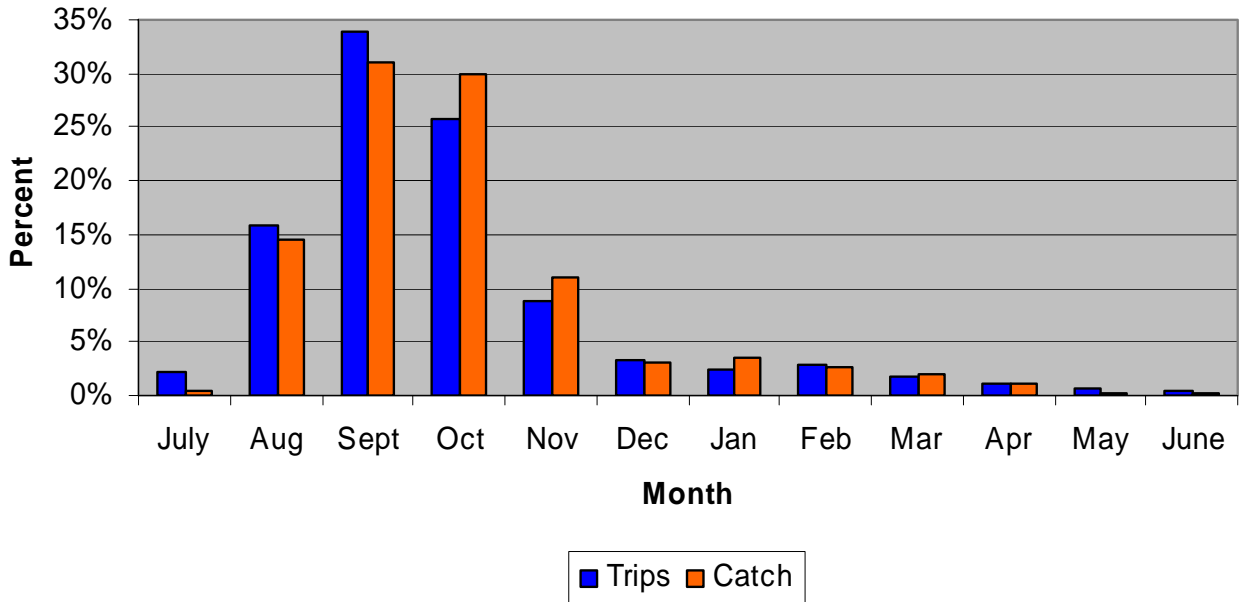
**Smith River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and
Monthly Catch Percentages, 1993-1998**



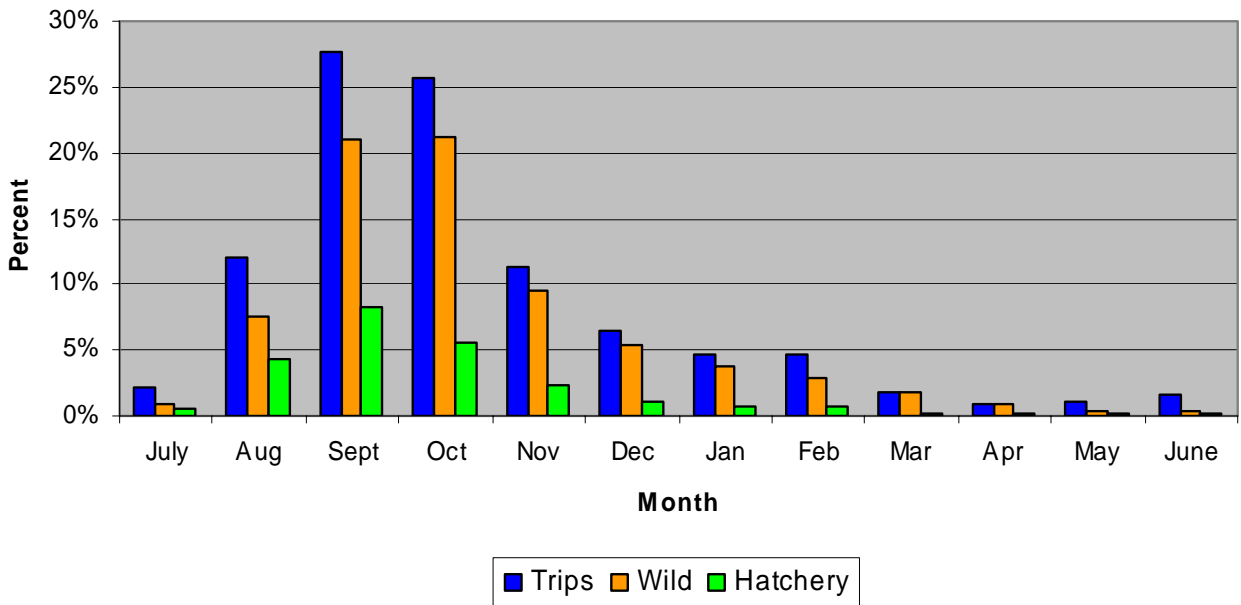
**Smith River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and
Monthly Wild & Hatchery Catch Percentages, 1999-2005**



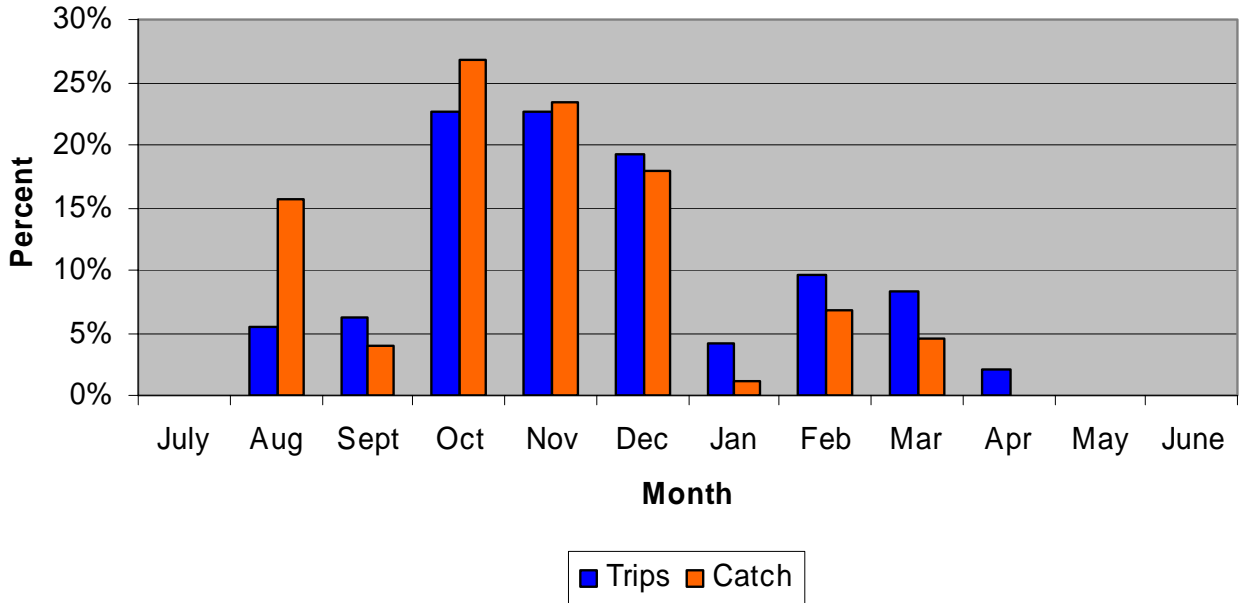
Klamath River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Catch Percentages, 1993-1998



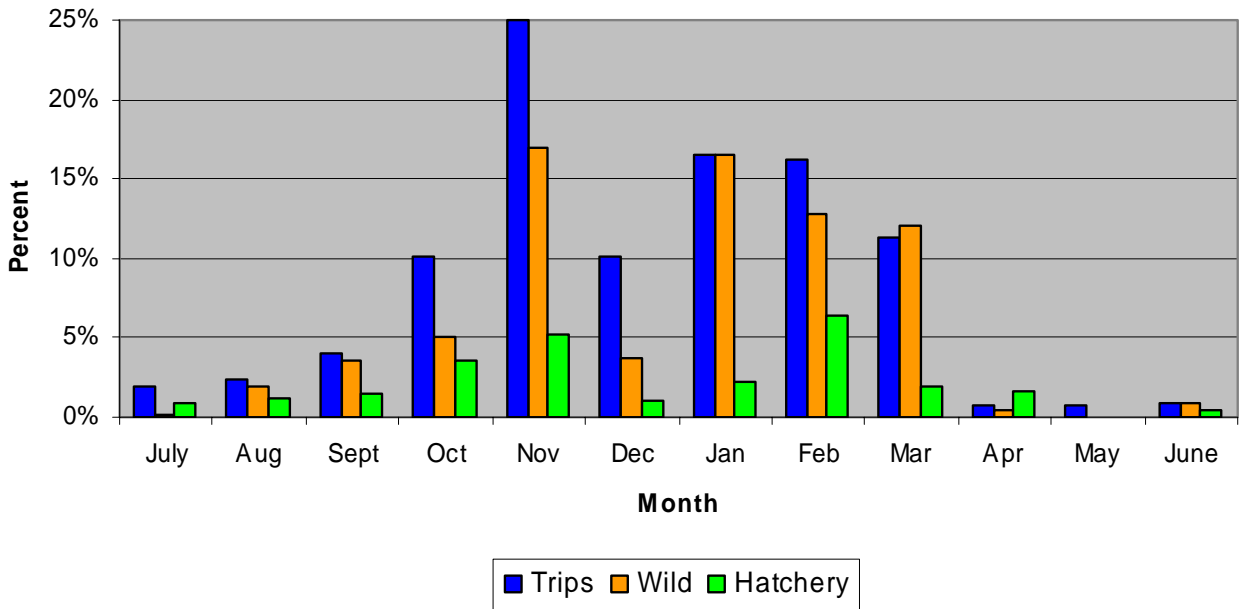
Klamath River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Wild & Hatchery Catch Percentages, 1999-2005



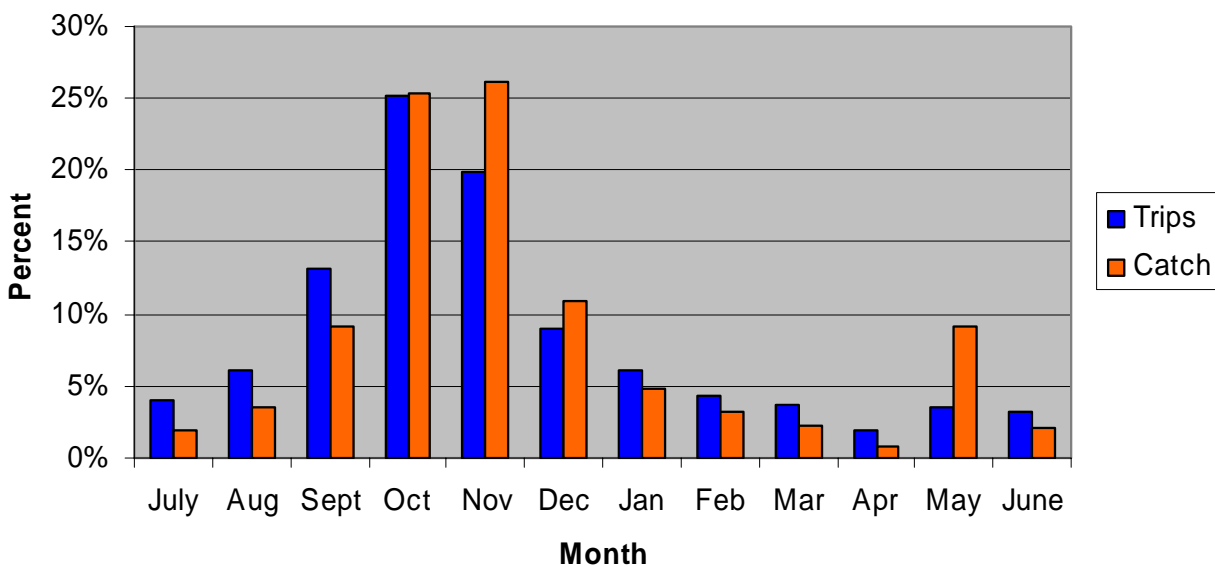
SF Trinity River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Catch Percentages, 1993-1998



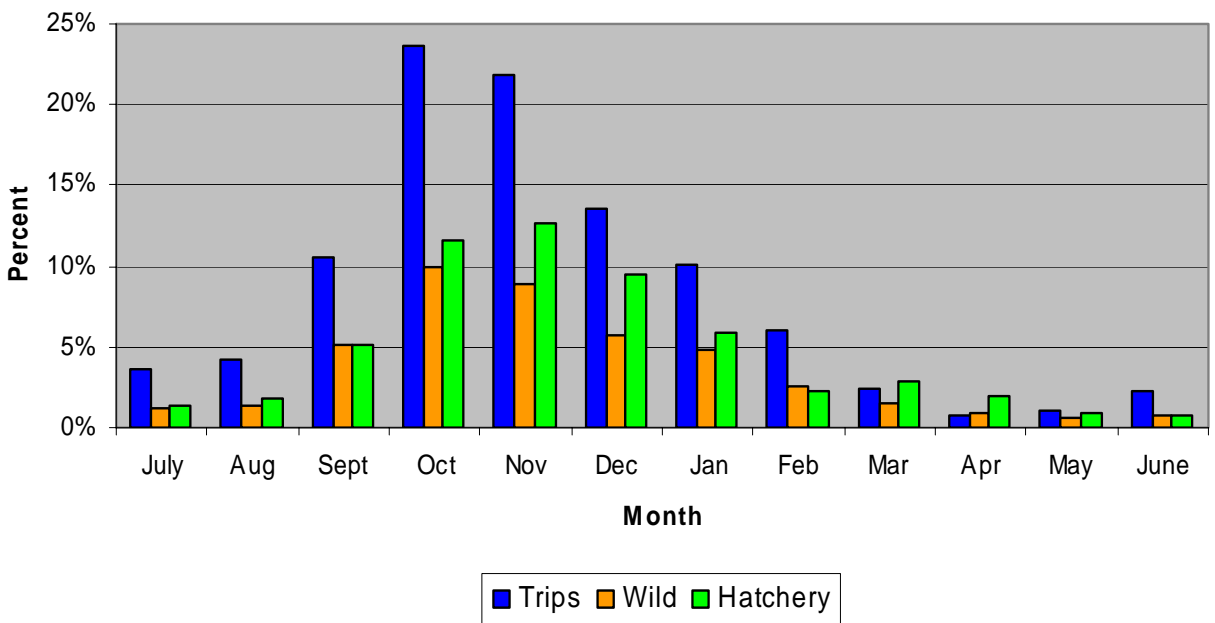
SF Trinity River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Wild & Hatchery Catch Percentages, 1999-2005



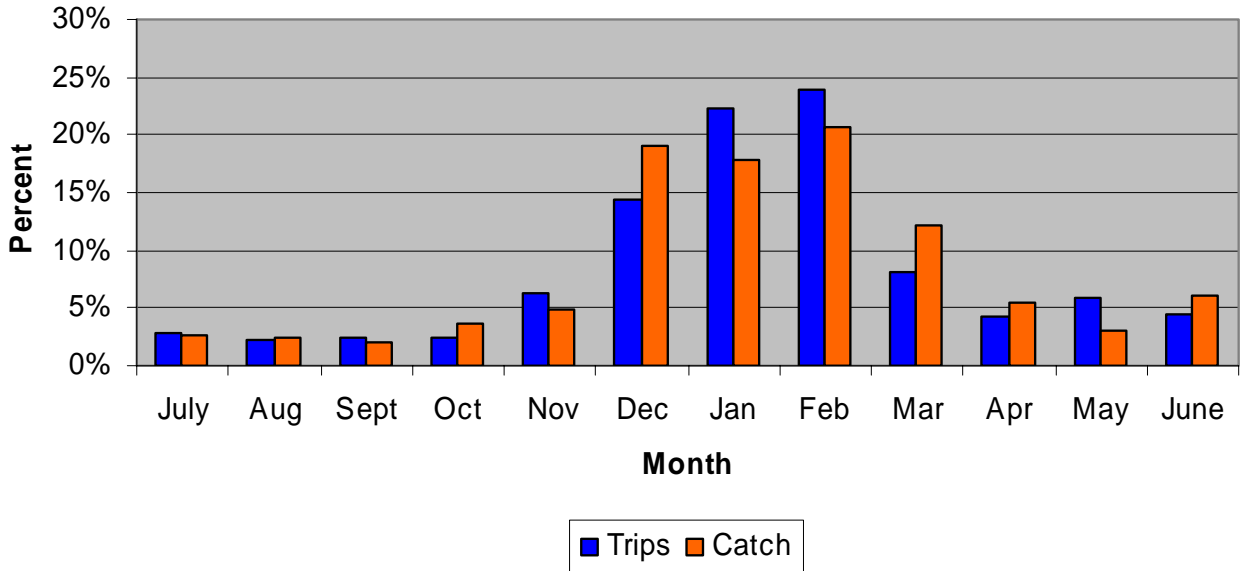
Trinity River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Catch Percentages, 1993-1998



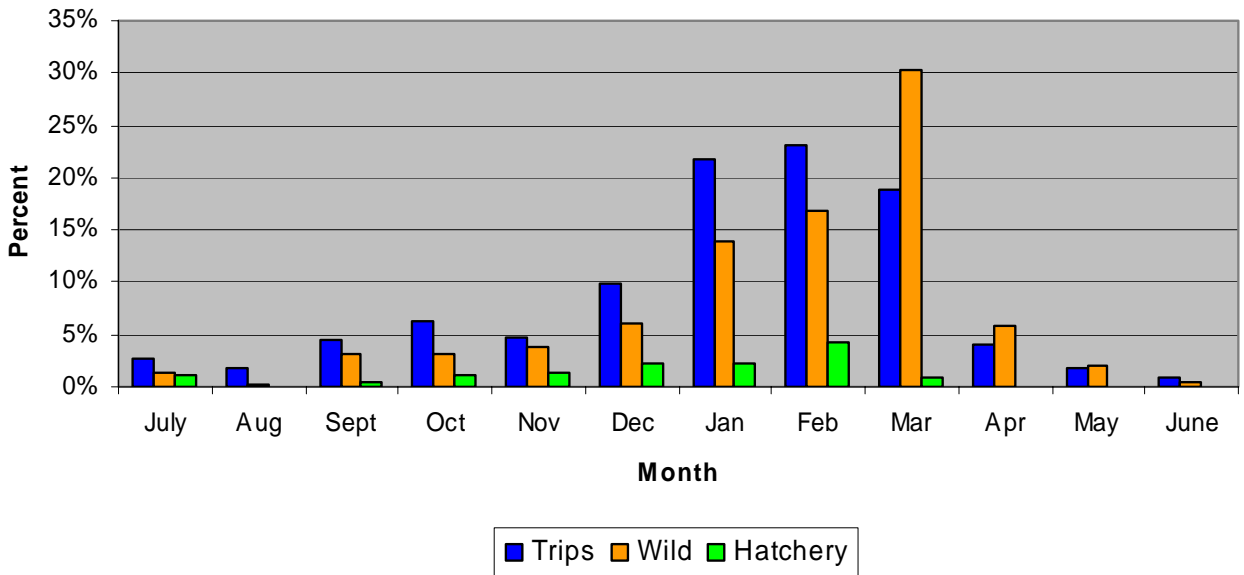
Trinity River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Wild & Hatchery Catch Percentages, 1999-2005



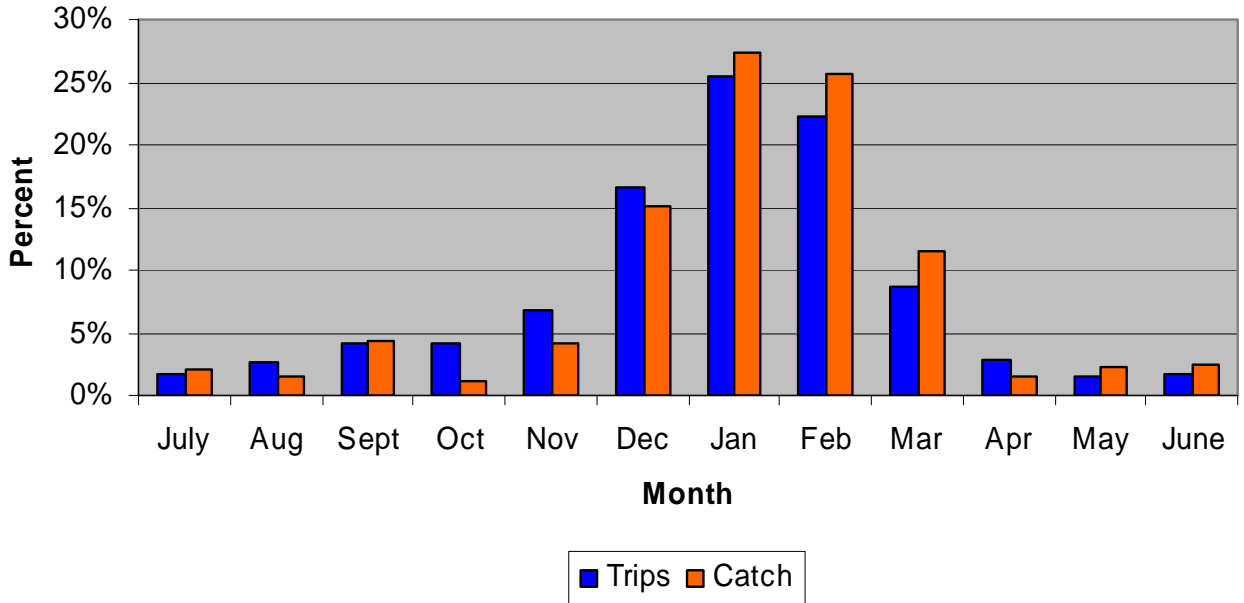
**Rivers between Klamath and Mad rivers (Loc. 7)
Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and
Monthly Catch Percentages, 1993-1998**



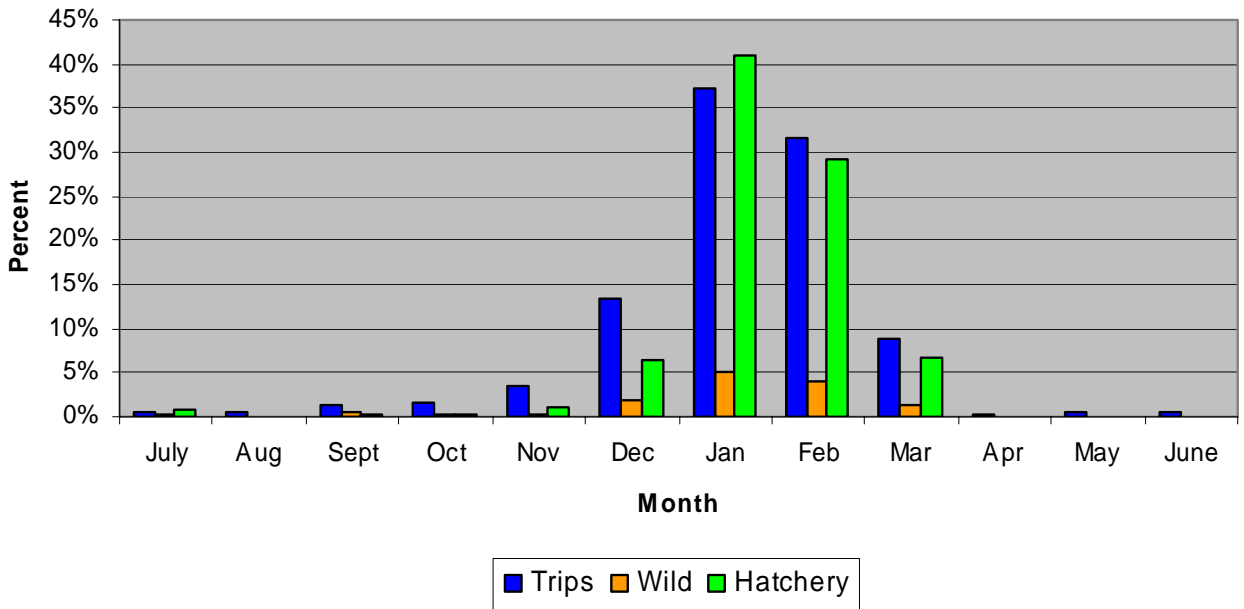
**Rivers between Klamath and Mad rivers (Loc. 7)
Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and
Monthly Wild & Hatchery Catch Percentages, 1999-2005**



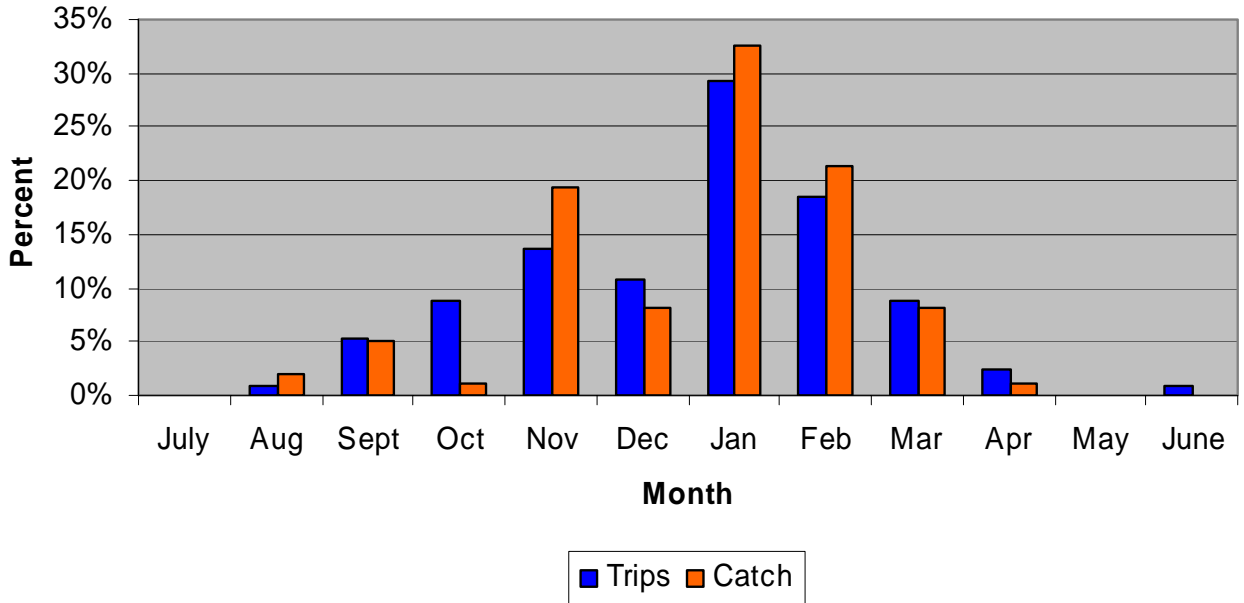
Mad River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Catch Percentages, 1993-1998



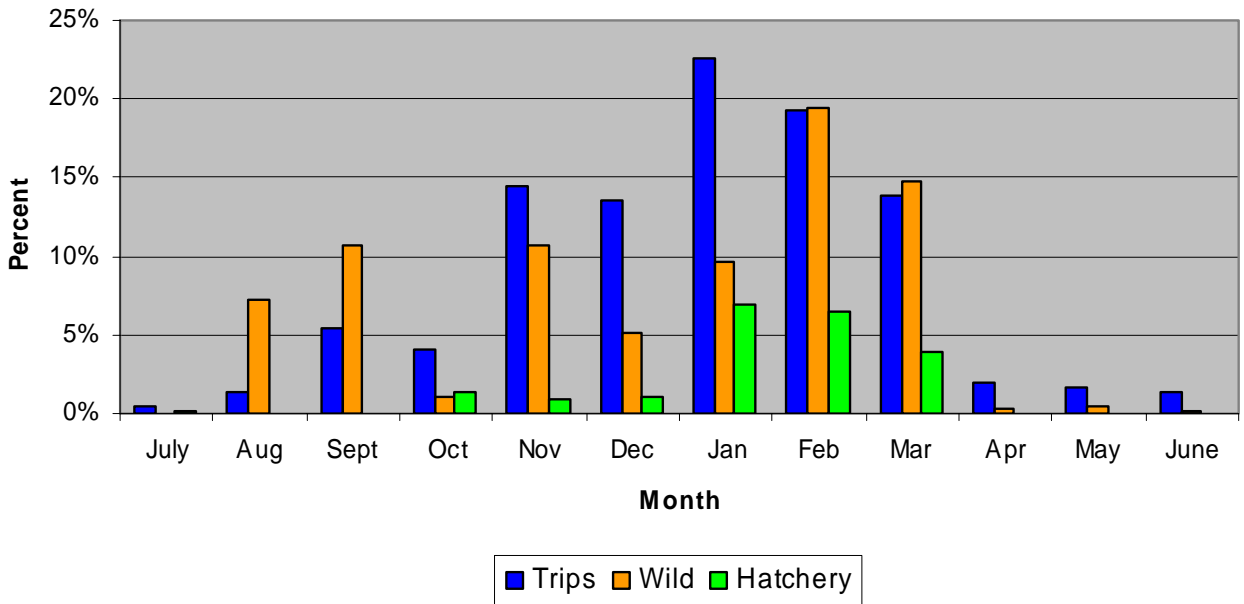
Mad River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Wild & Hatchery Catch Percentages, 1999-2005



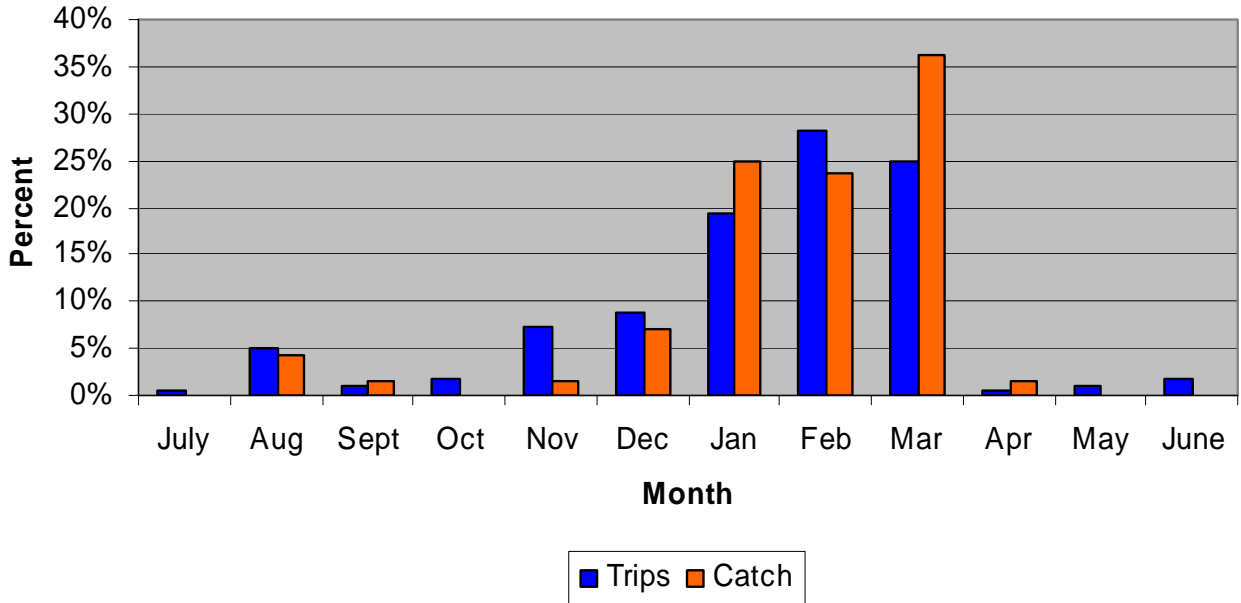
Eel River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Catch Percentages, 1993-1998



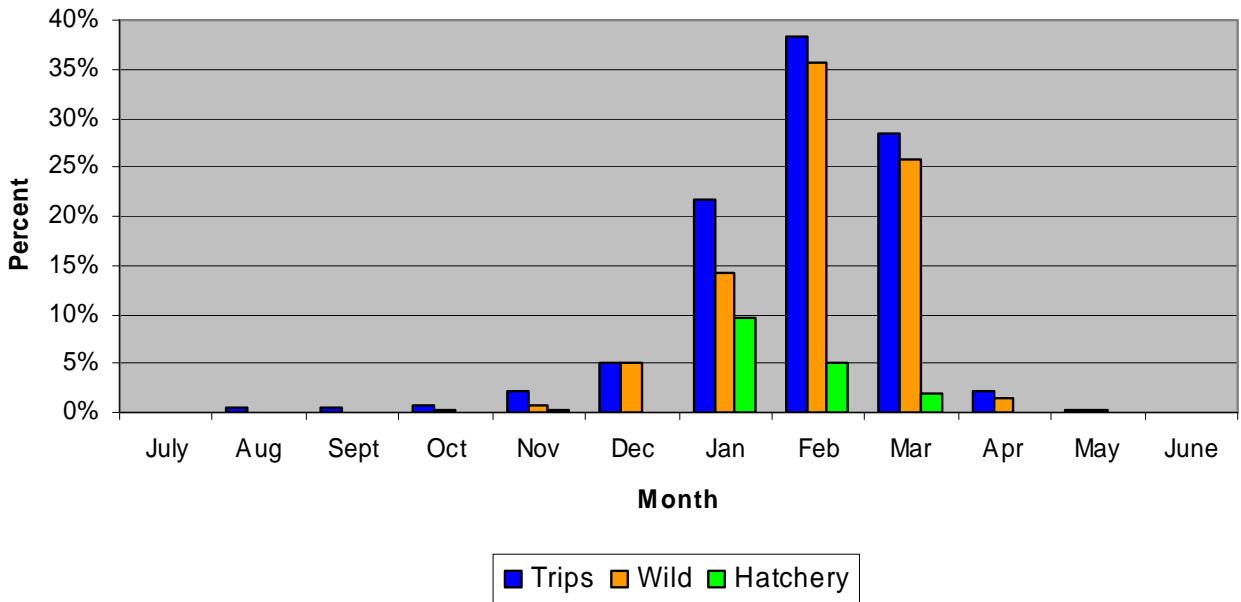
Eel River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Wild & Hatchery Catch Percentages, 1999-2005



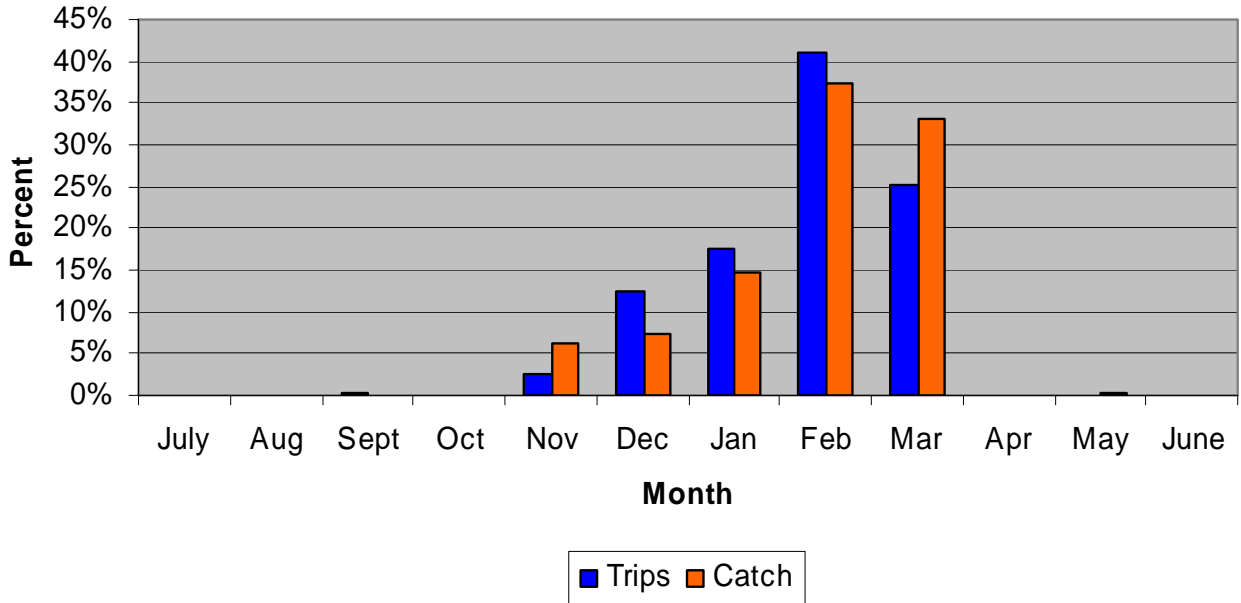
**Van Duzen River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and
Monthly Catch Percentages, 1993-1998**



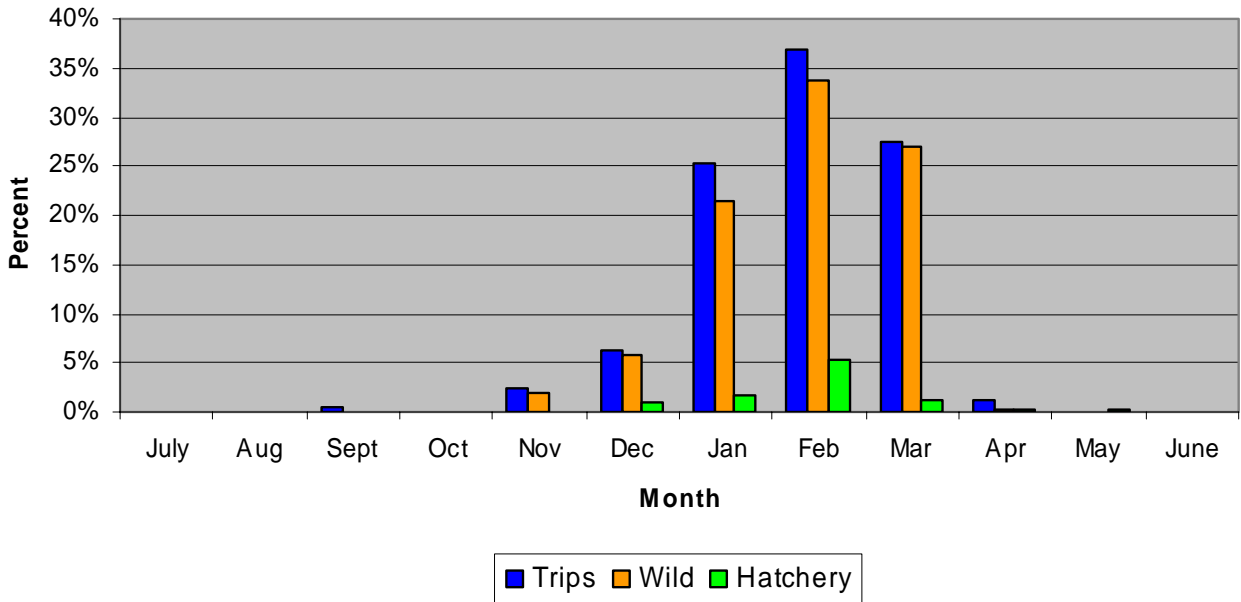
**Van Duzen River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and
Monthly Wild & Hatchery Catch Percentages, 1999-2005**



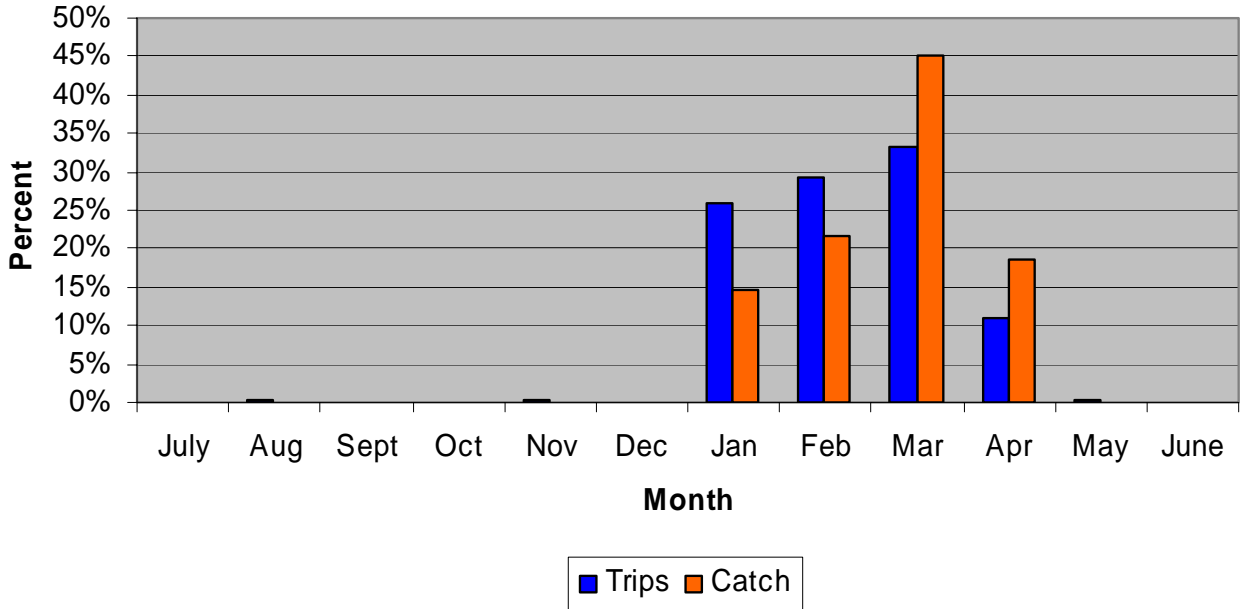
**SF Eel River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and
Monthly Catch Percentages, 1993-1998**



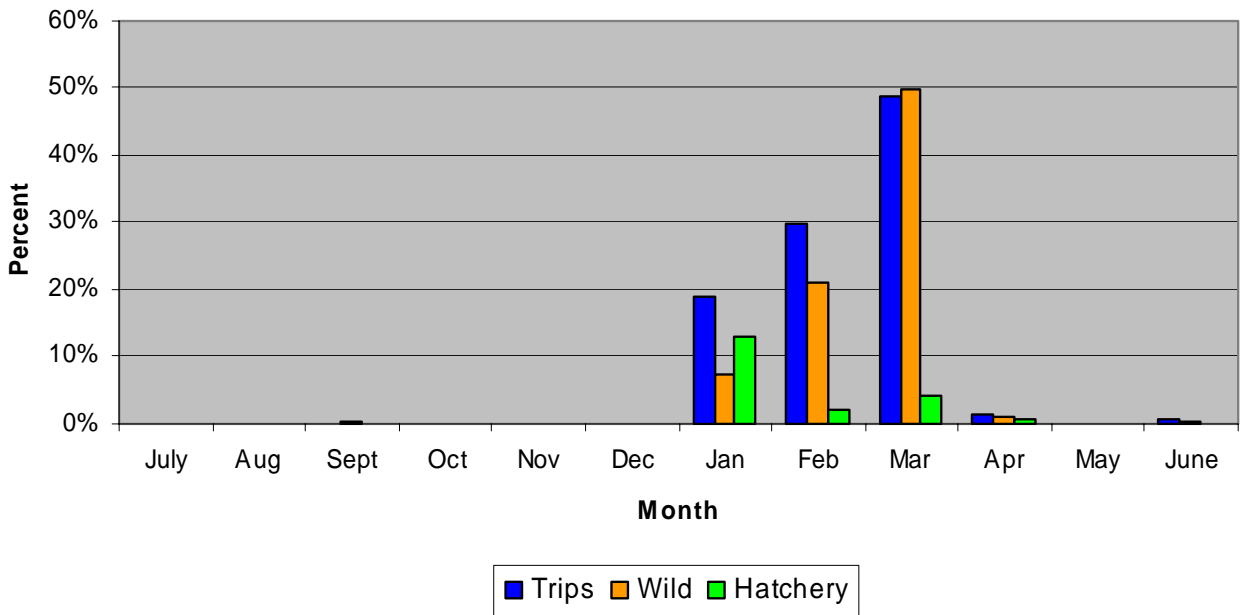
**SF Eel River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and
Monthly Wild & Hatchery Catch Percentages, 1999-2005**



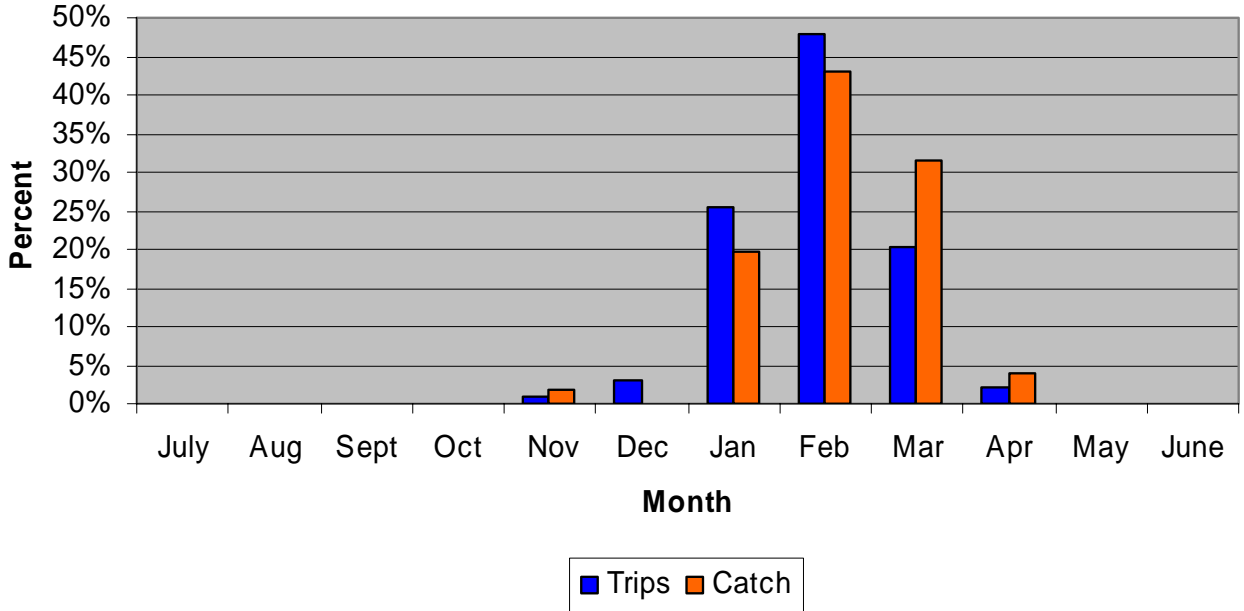
Mattole River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Catch Percentages, 1993-1998



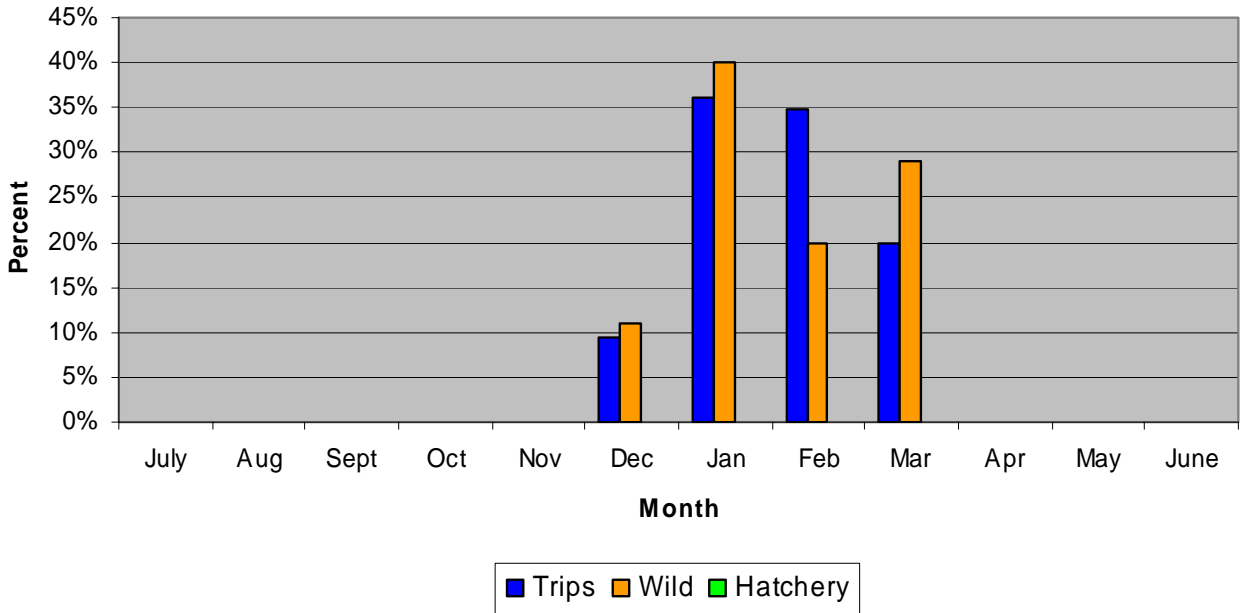
Mattole River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Wild & Hatchery Catch Percentages, 1999-2005



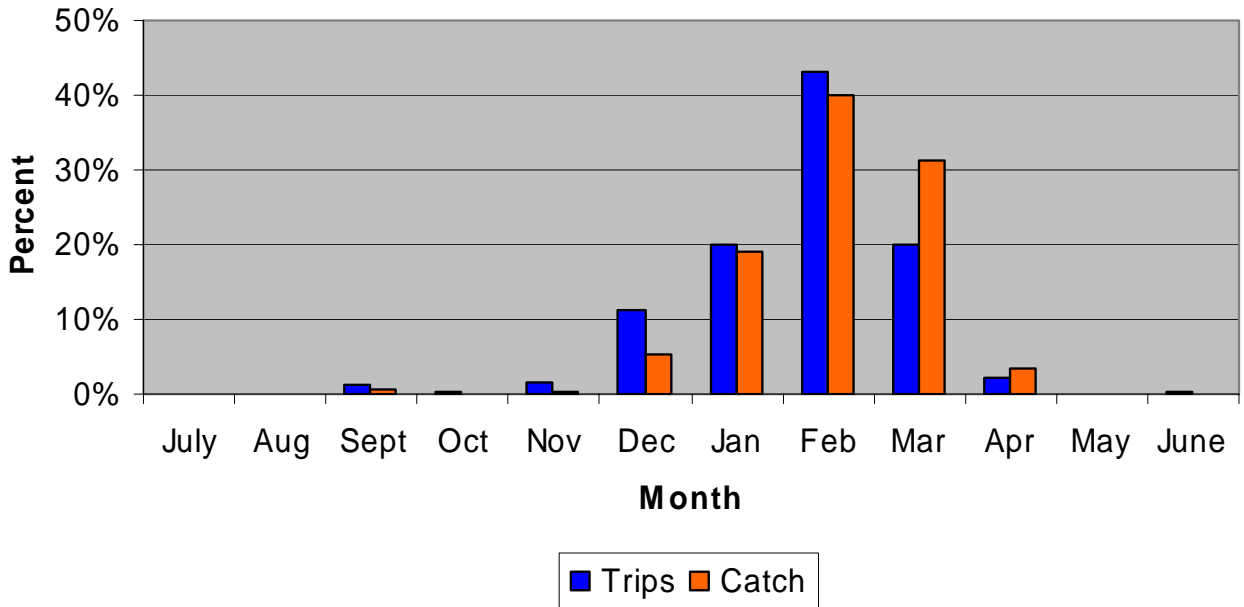
Noyo River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Catch Percentages, 1993-1998



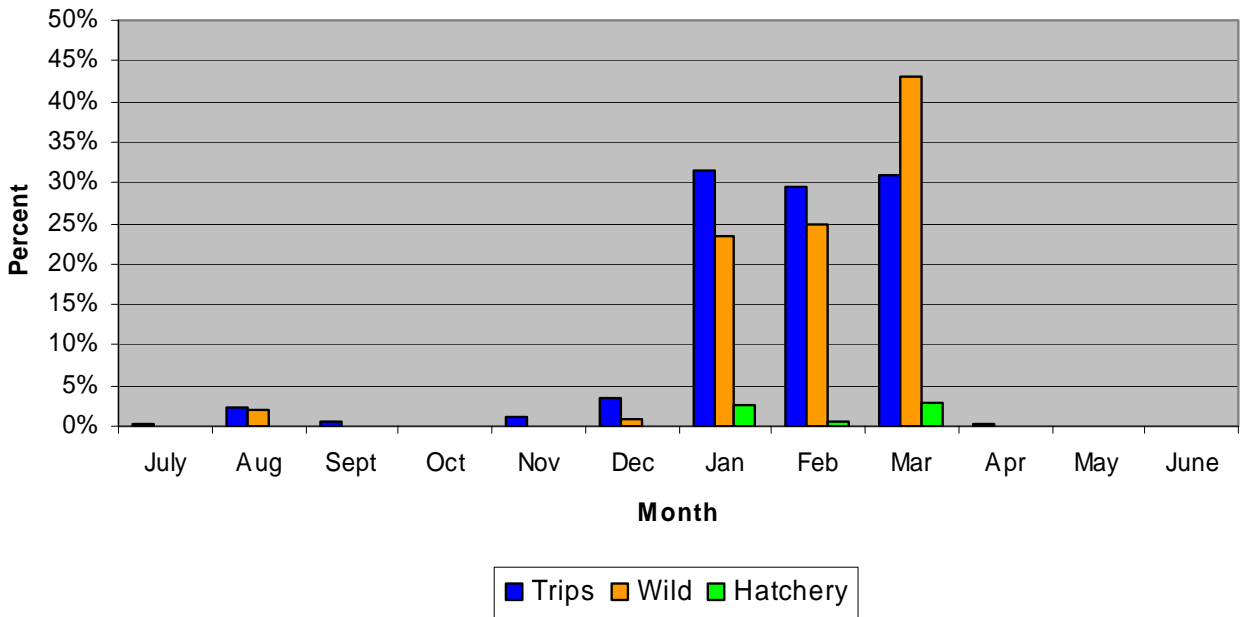
Noyo River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Wild & Hatchery Catch Percentages, 1999-2005



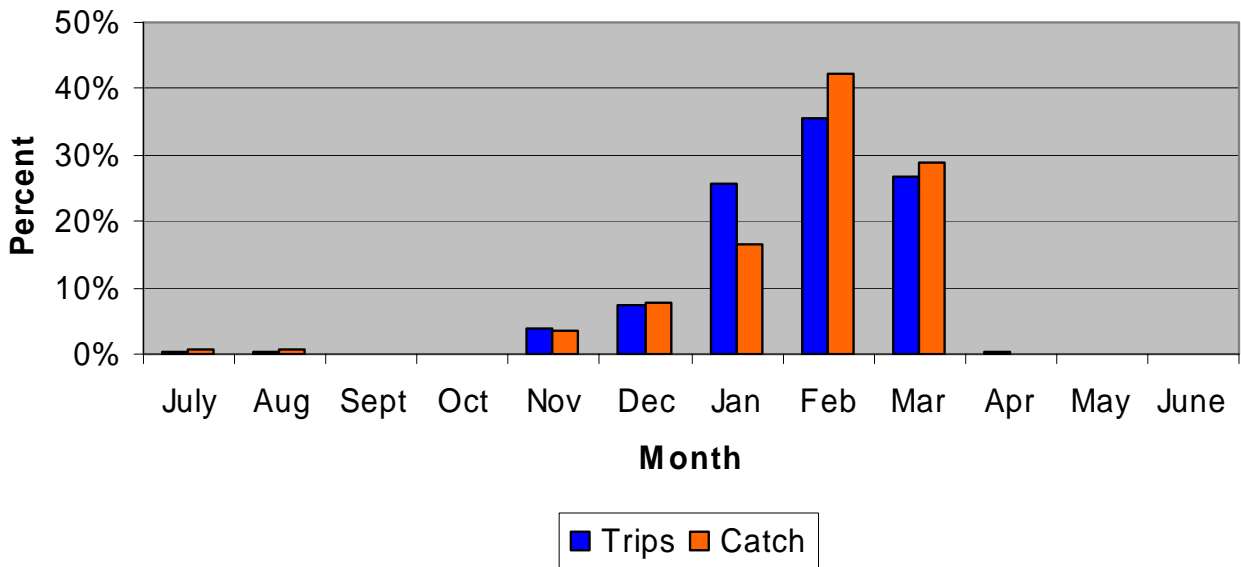
Navarro River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Catch Percentages, 1993-1998



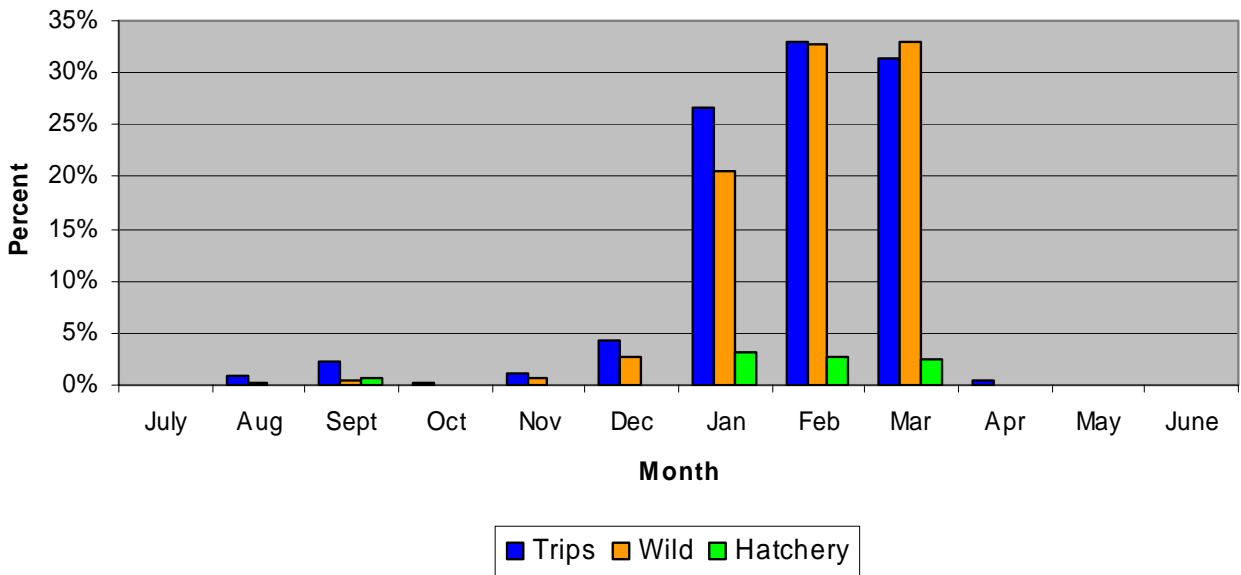
Navarro River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Wild & Hatchery Catch Percentages, 1999-2005



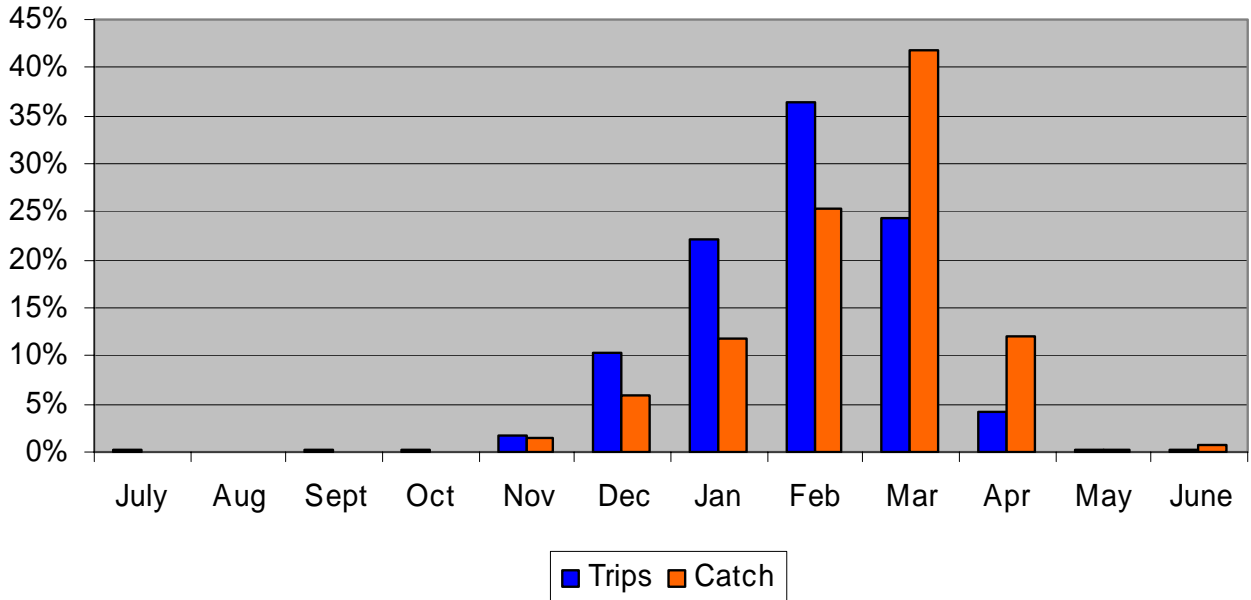
**Rivers between Navarro and Gualala rivers (Loc. 20)
Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and
Monthly Catch Percentages, 1993-1998**



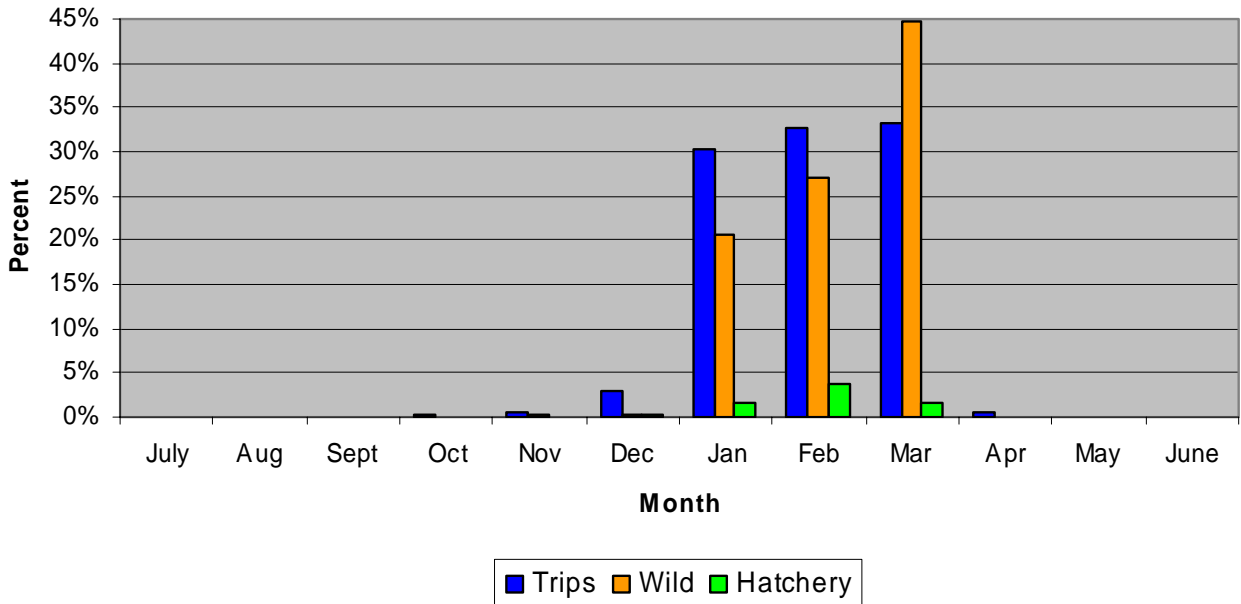
**Rivers between Navarro and Gualala rivers (Loc. 20)
Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and
Monthly Wild & Hatchery Catch Percentages, 1999-2005**



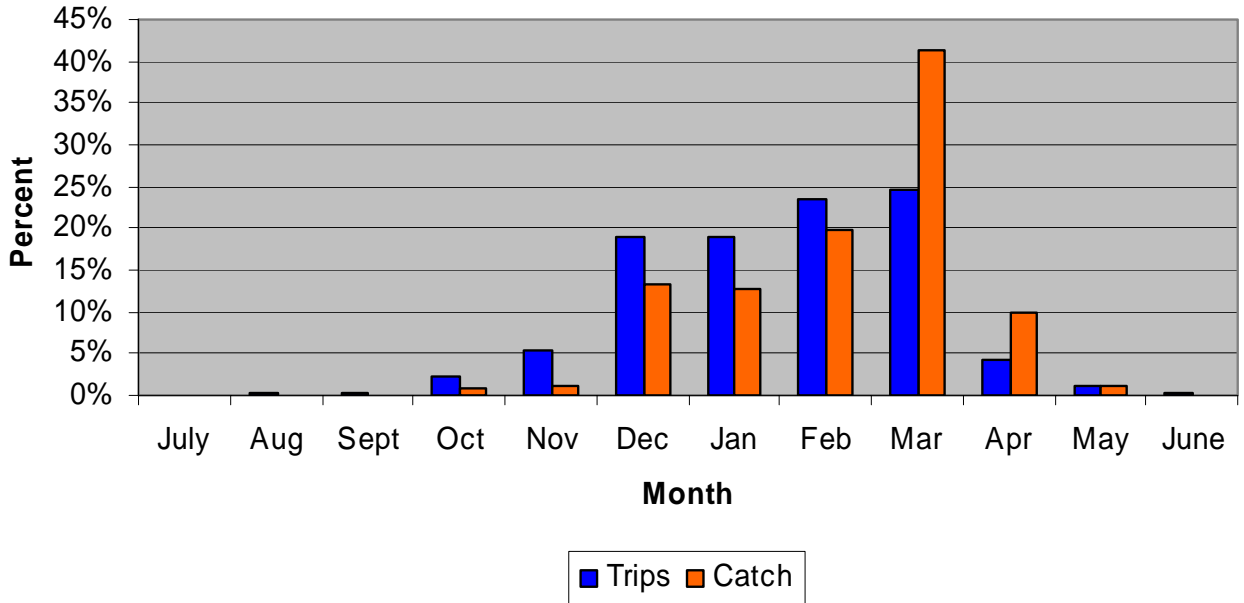
Gualala River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Catch Percentages, 1993-1998



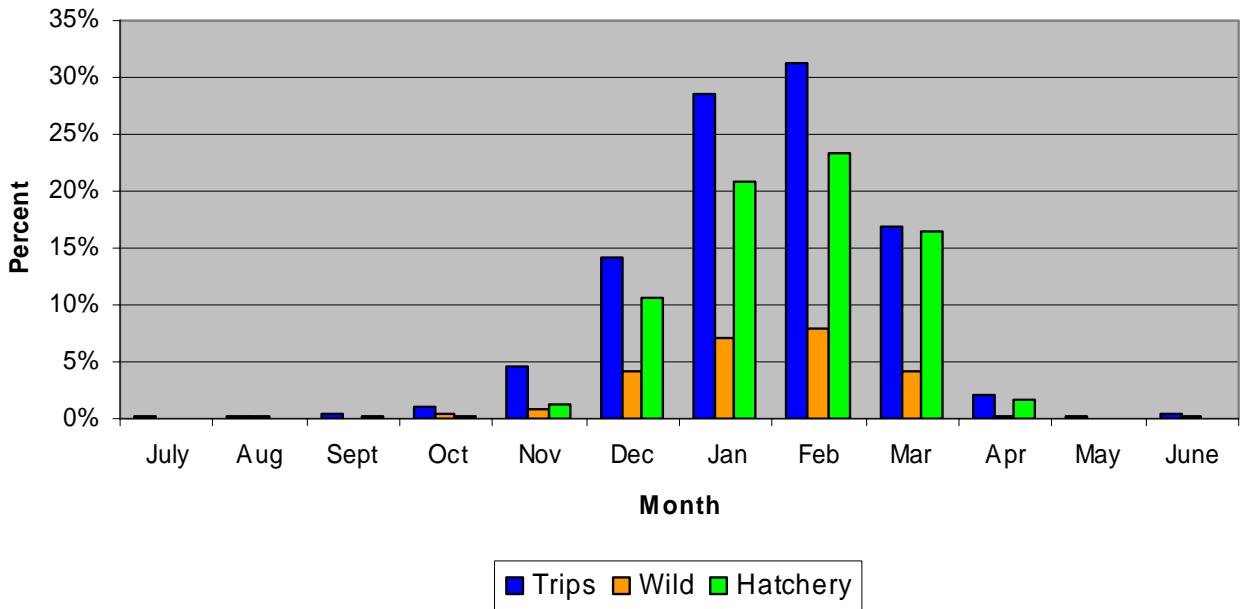
Gualala River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Wild & Hatchery Catch Percentages, 1999-2005



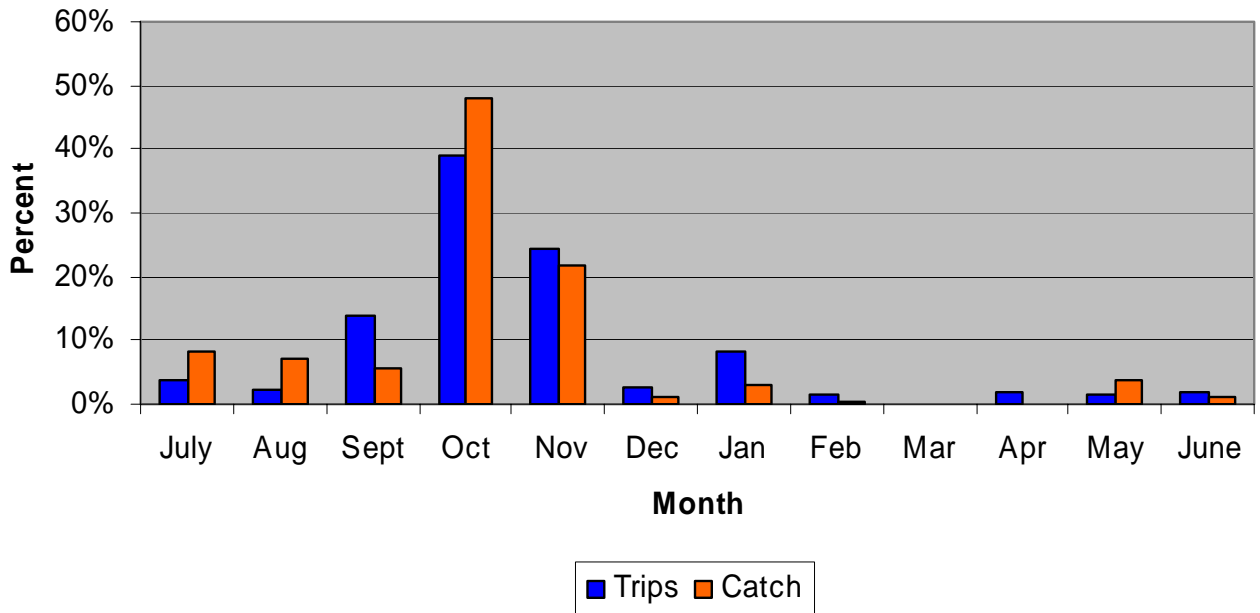
Russian River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Catch Percentages, 1993-1998



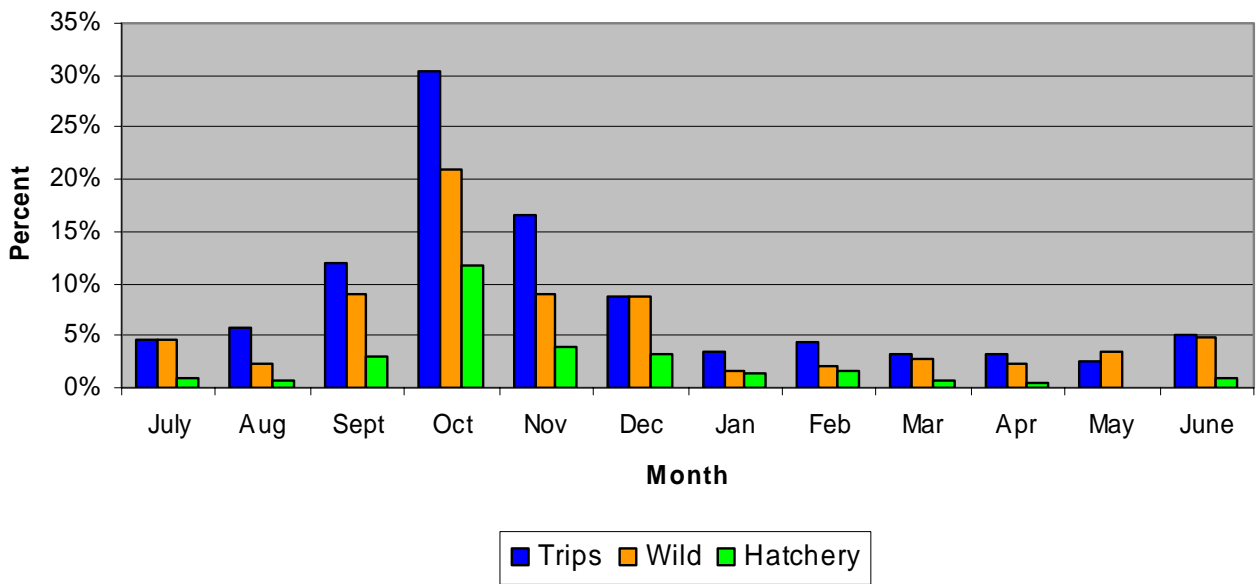
Russian River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Wild & Hatchery Catch Percentages, 1999-2005



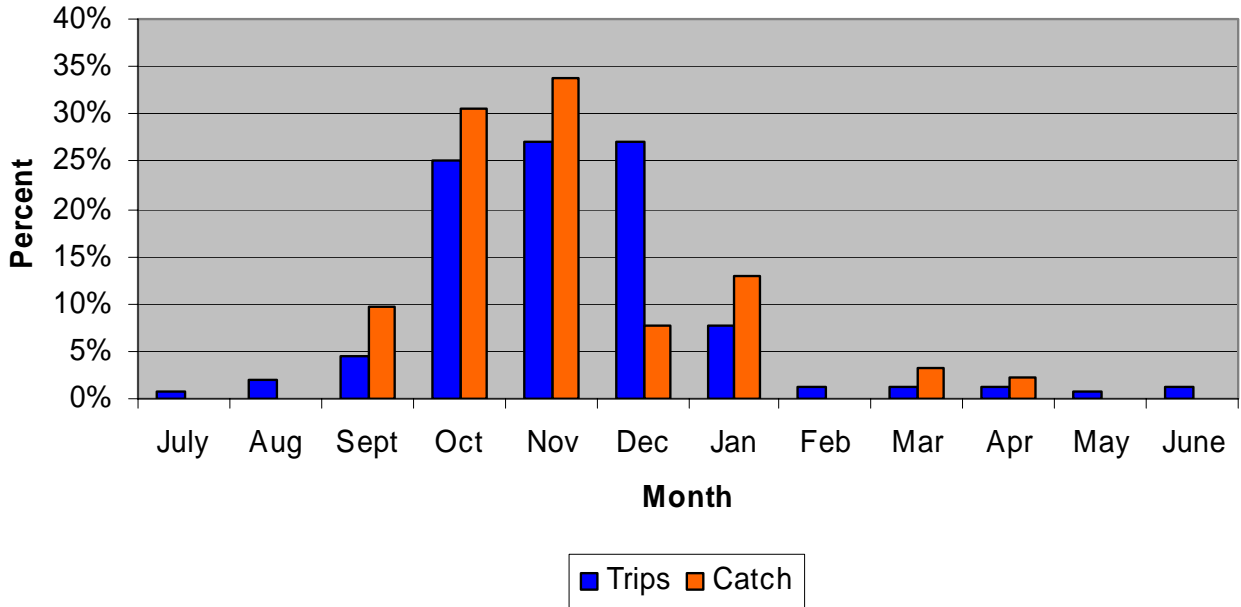
Upper Sacramento River (Deschutes to Red Bluff, "26a") Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Catch Percentages, 1993-1998



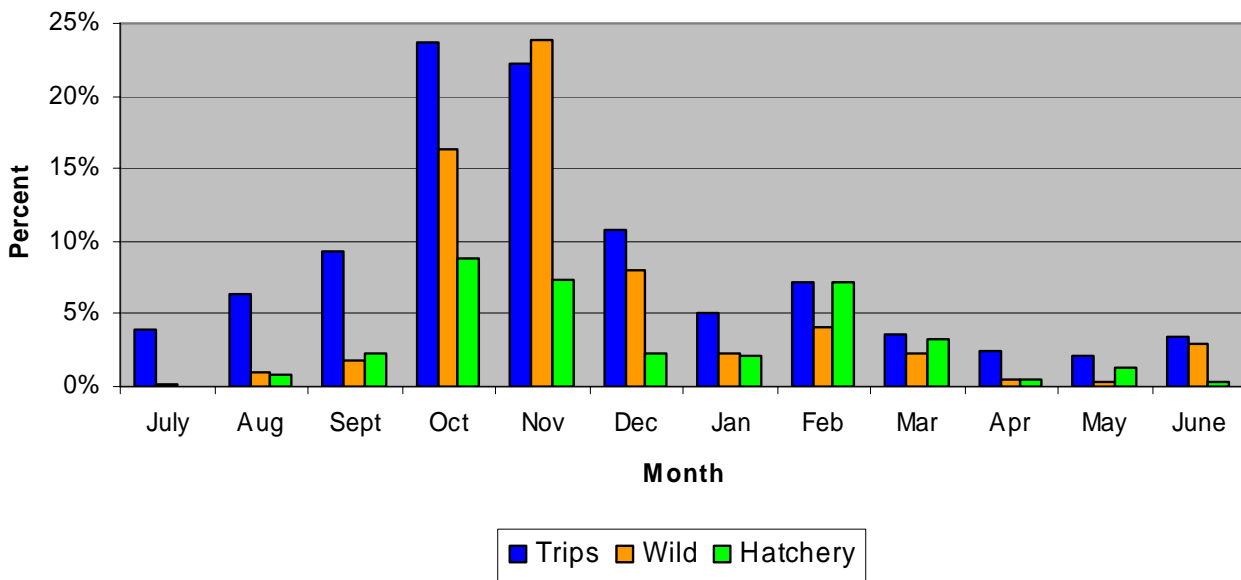
Upper Sacramento River (Deschutes to Red Bluff, "26a") Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Wild & Hatchery Catch Percentages, 1999-2005



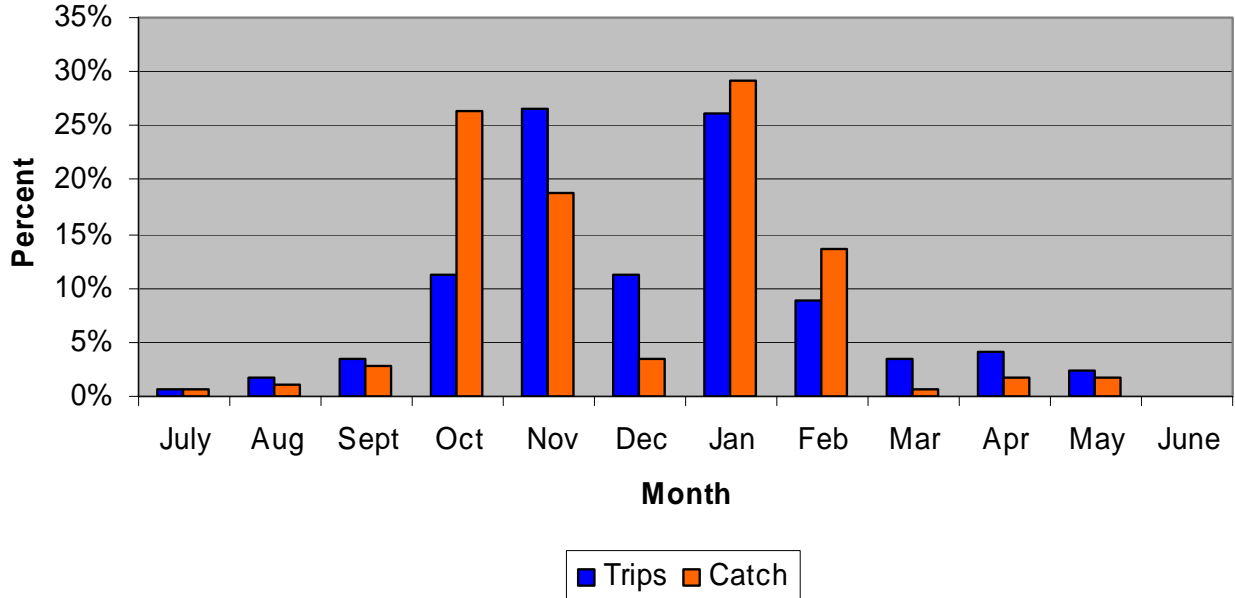
Mid-Upper Sacramento River (Red Bluff to Meridian, "26b") Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Catch Percentages, 1993-1998



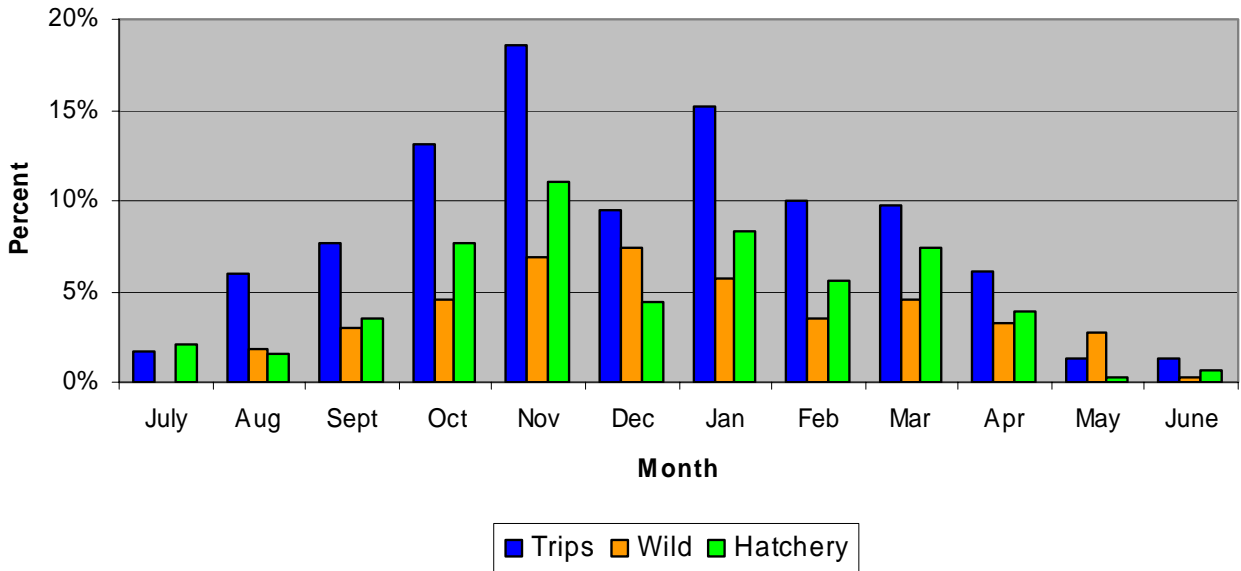
Mid-Upper Sacramento River (Red Bluff to Meridian, "26b") Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Wild & Hatchery Catch Percentages, 1999-2005



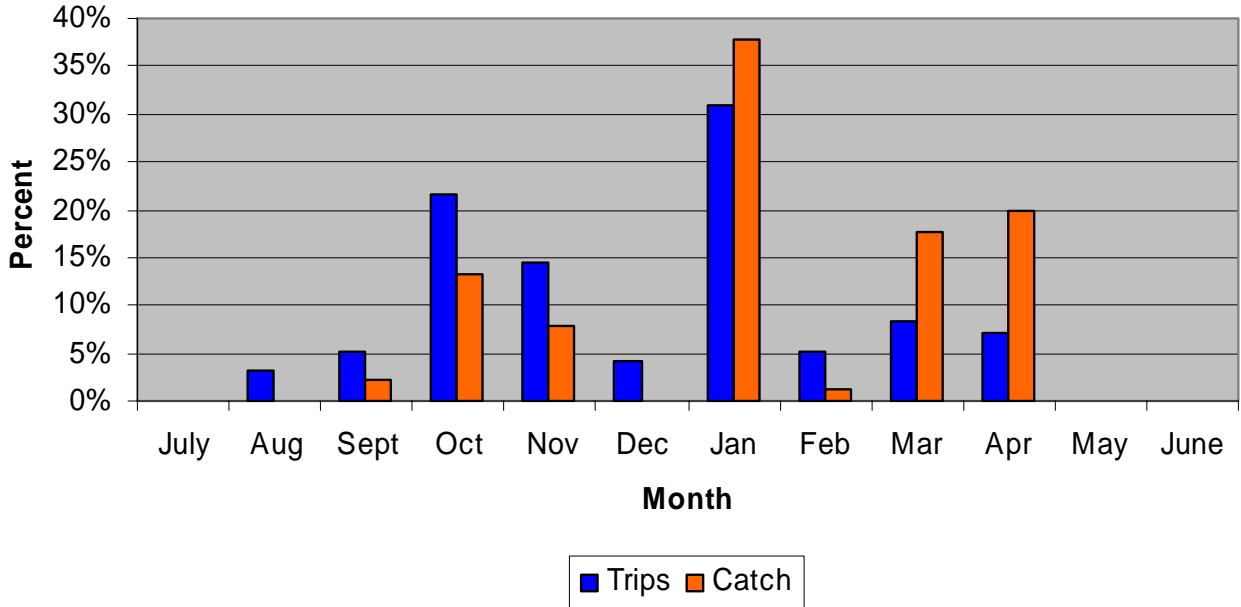
Mid-Lower Sacramento River (Meridian to Bus. 80, "26c") Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Catch Percentages, 1993-1998



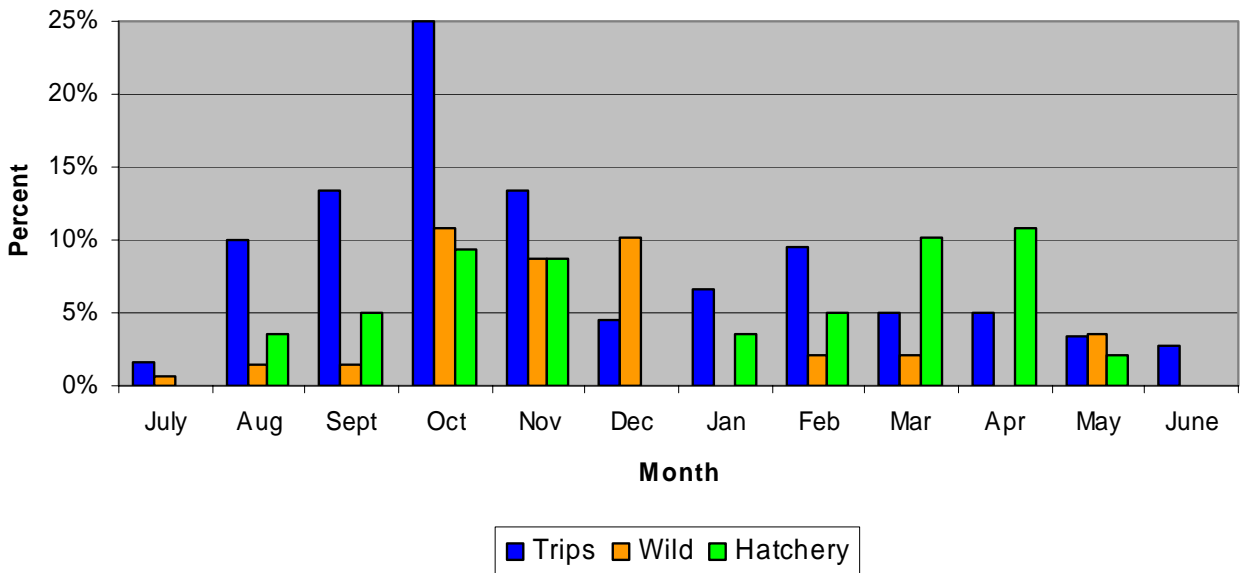
Mid-Lower Sacramento River (Meridian to Bus. 80, "26c") Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Wild & Hatchery Catch Percentages, 1999-2005



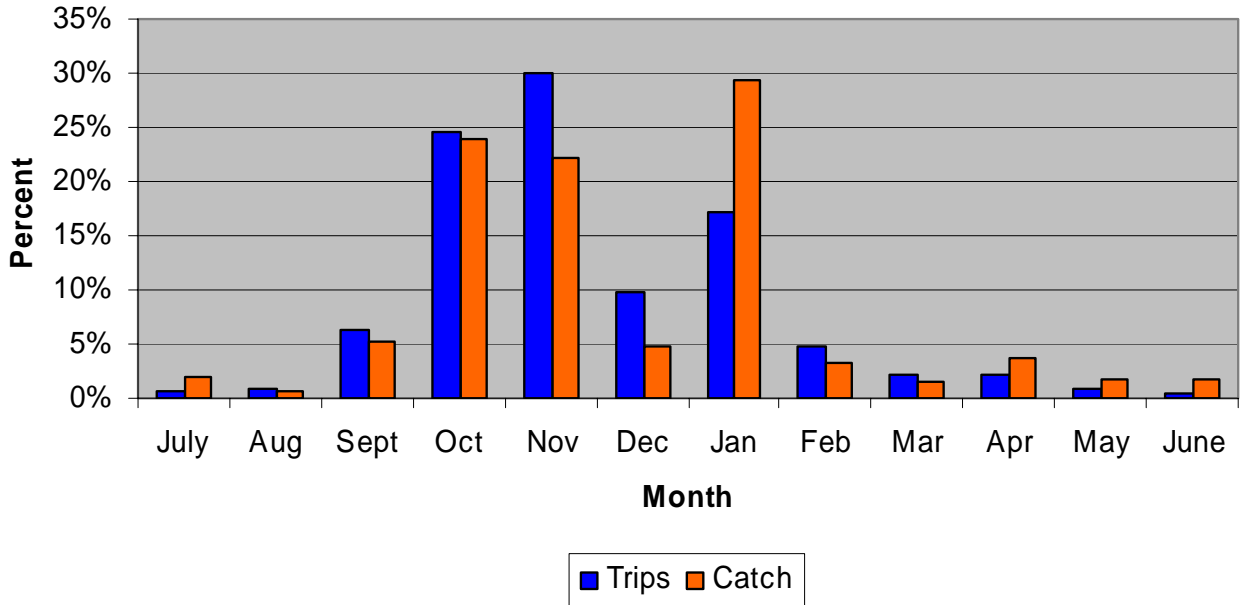
Lower Sacramento River (Bus. 80 to Carquinez, "26d") Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Catch Percentages, 1993-1998



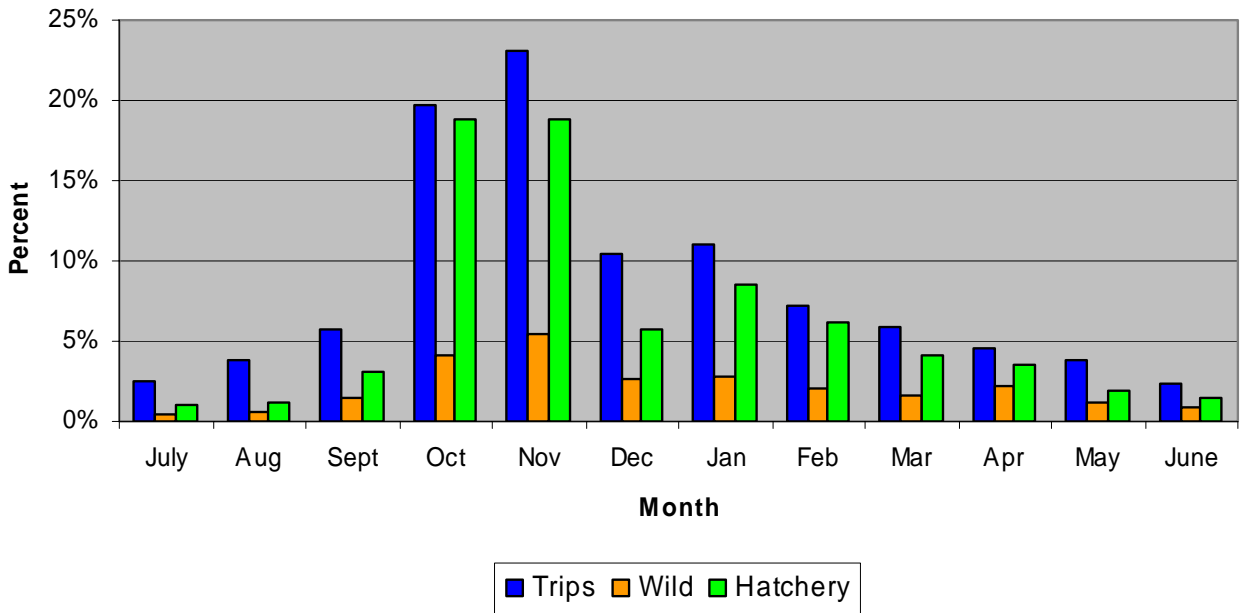
Lower Sacramento River (Bus. 80 to Carquinez, "26d") Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Wild & Hatchery Catch Percentages, 1999-2005



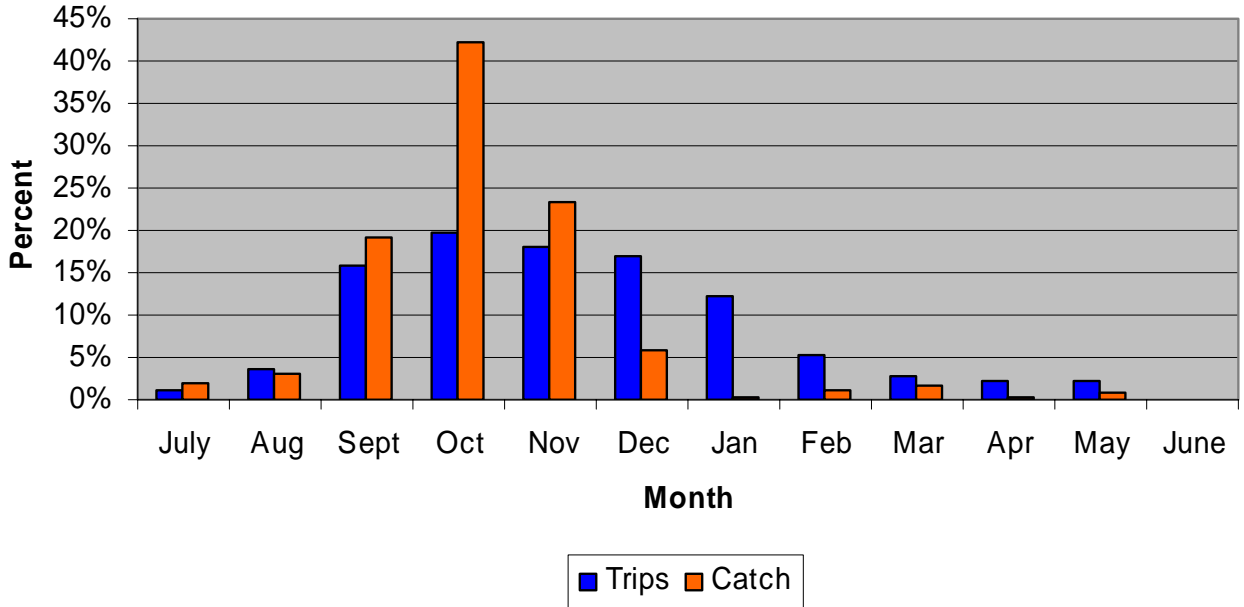
Feather River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Catch Percentages, 1993-1998



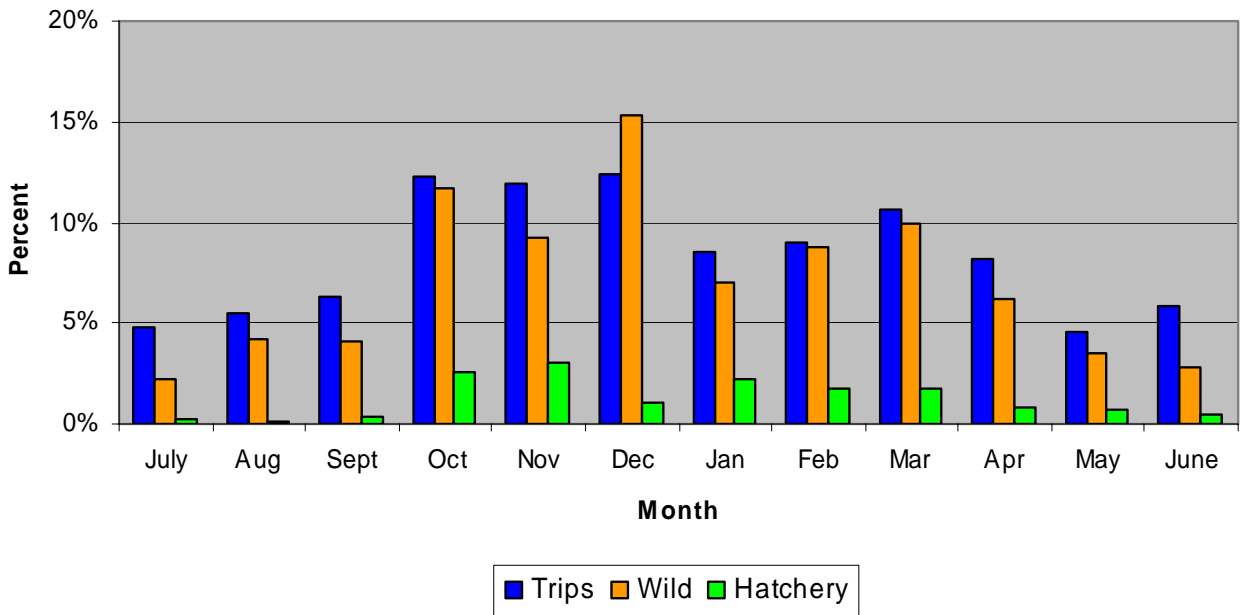
Feather River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Wild & Hatchery Catch Percentages, 1999-2005



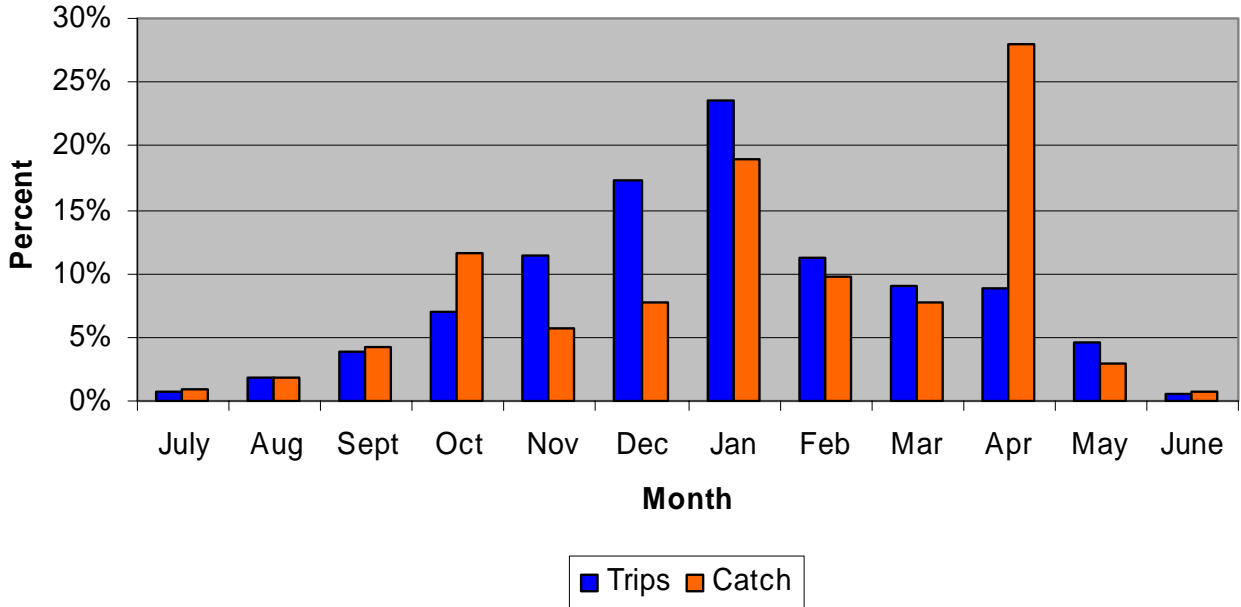
Yuba River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Catch Percentages, 1993-1998



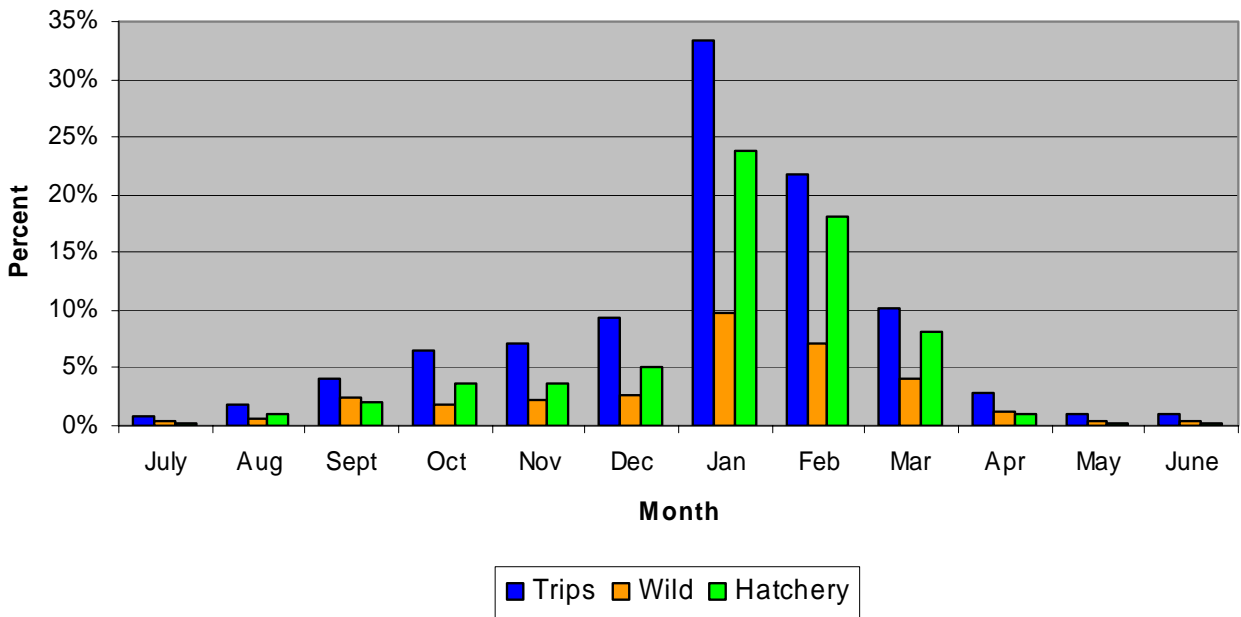
Yuba River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Wild & Hatchery Catch Percentages, 1999-2005



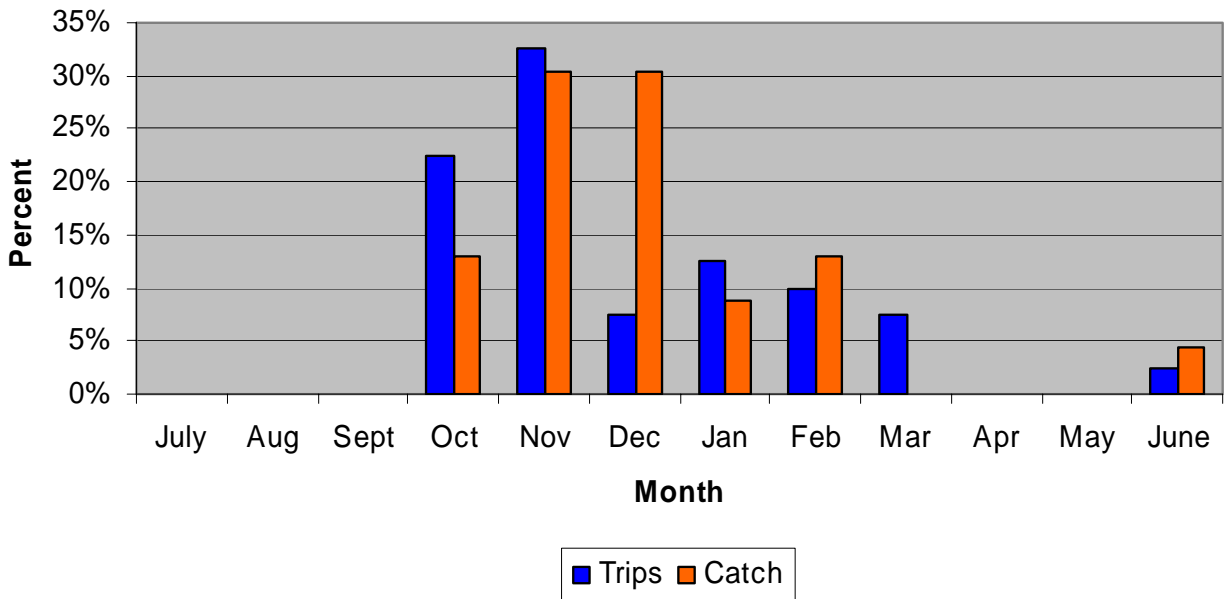
American River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Catch Percentages, 1993-1998



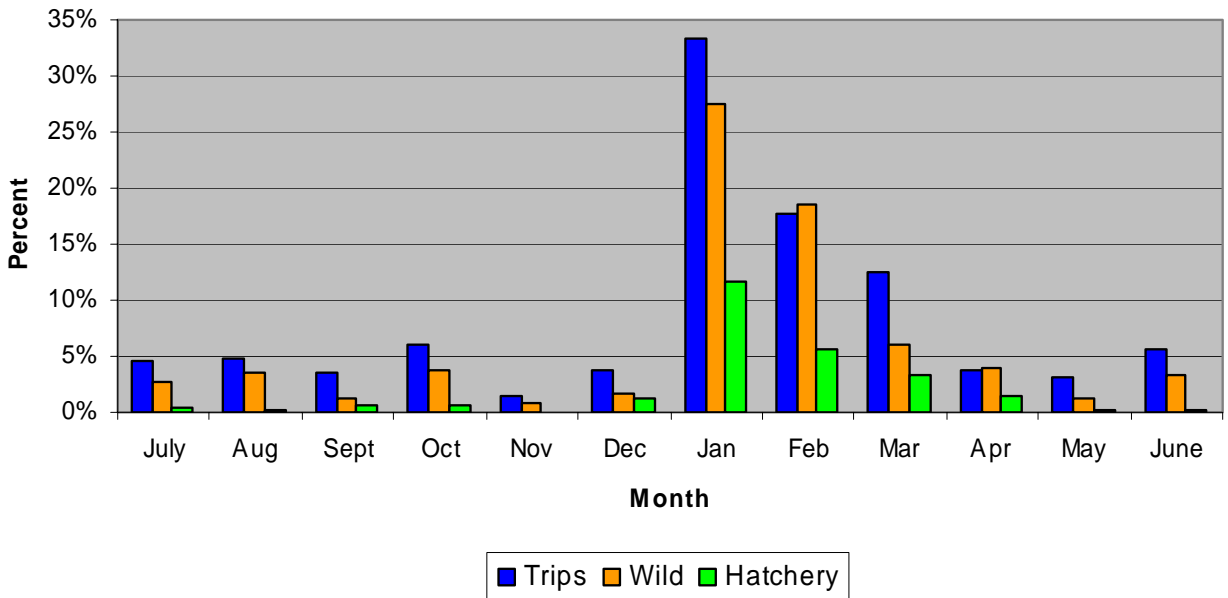
American River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Wild & Hatchery Catch Percentages, 1999-2005



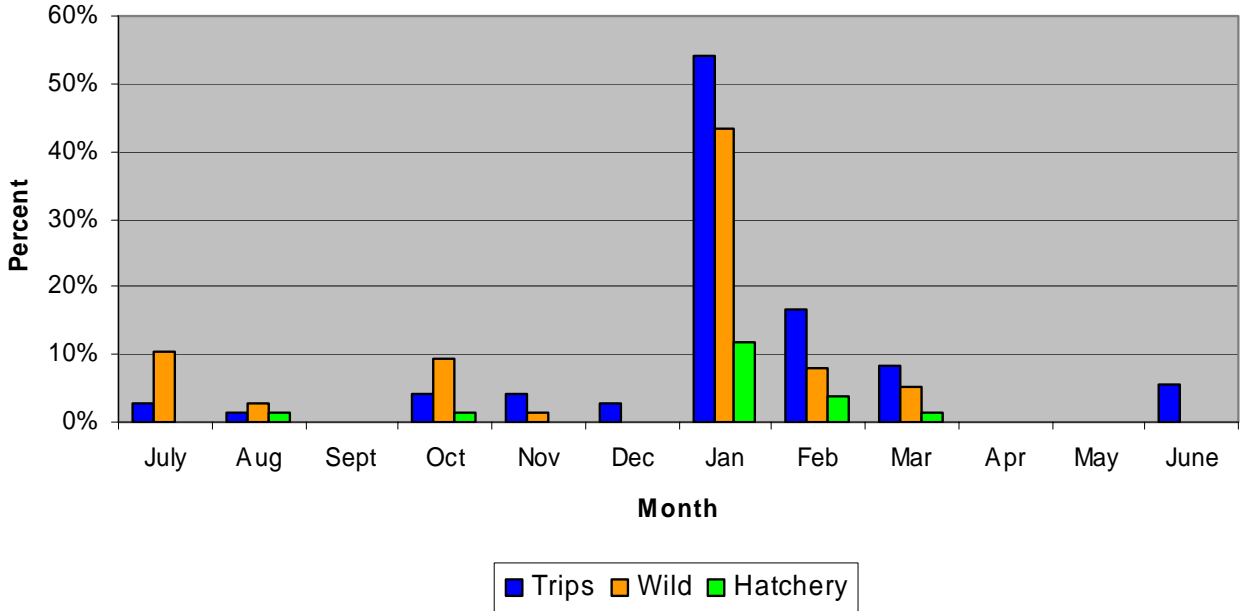
San Joaquin River Drainage Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Catch percentages, 1993-1998



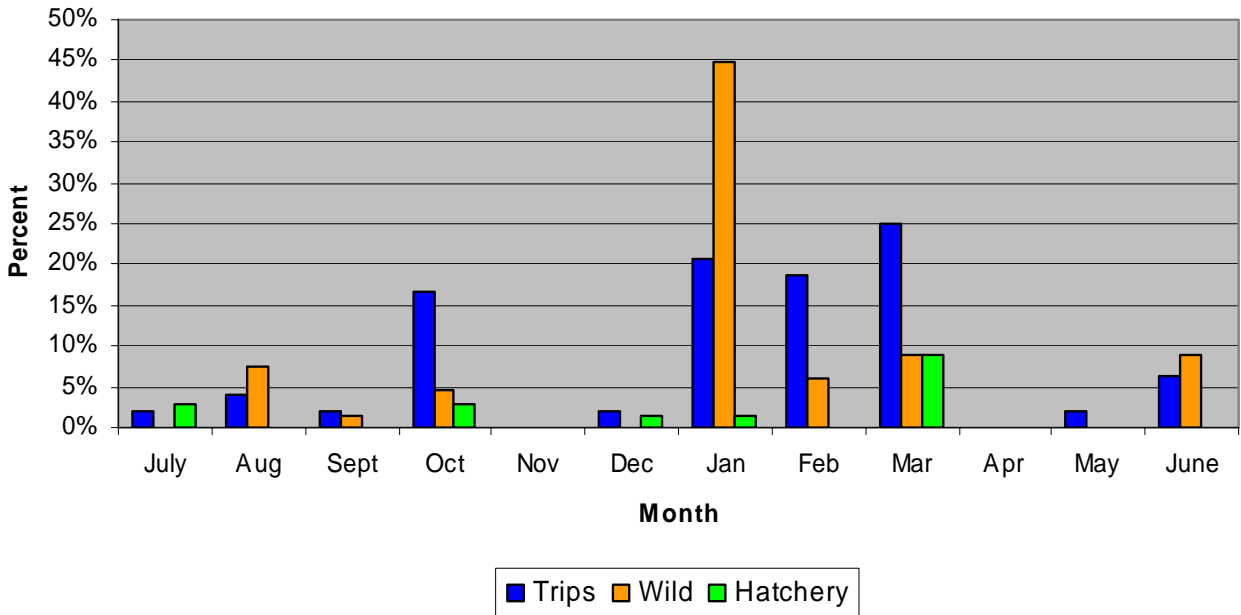
San Joaquin River Drainage Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Wild & Hatchery Catch Percentages, 1999-2005



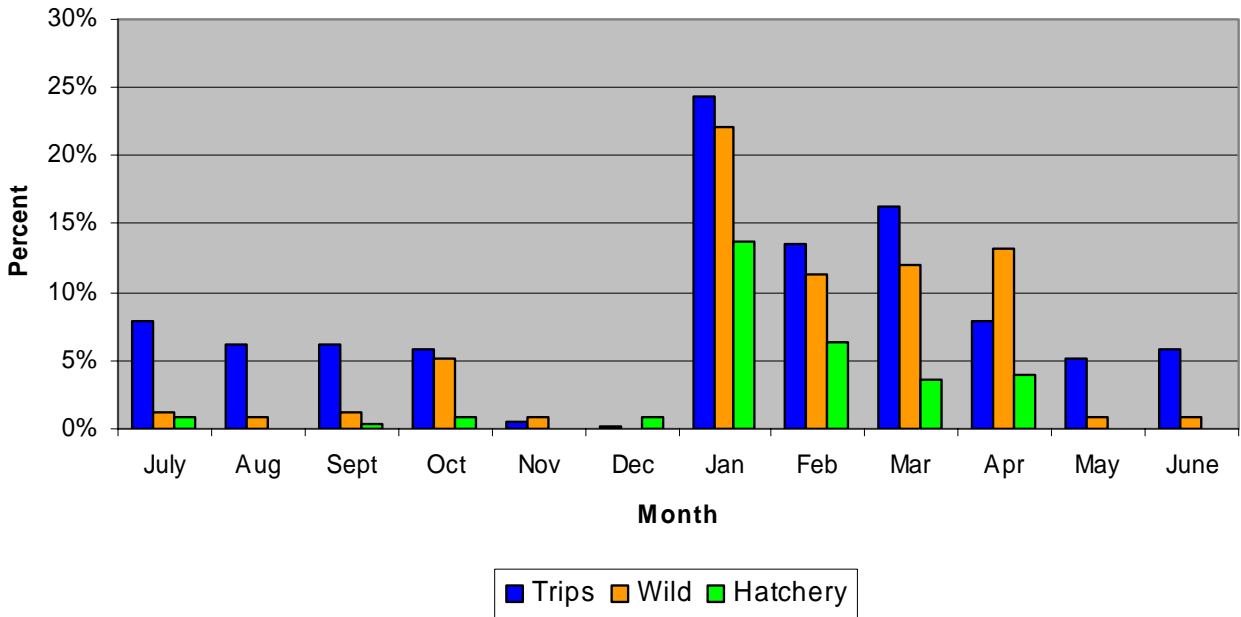
**Merced River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and
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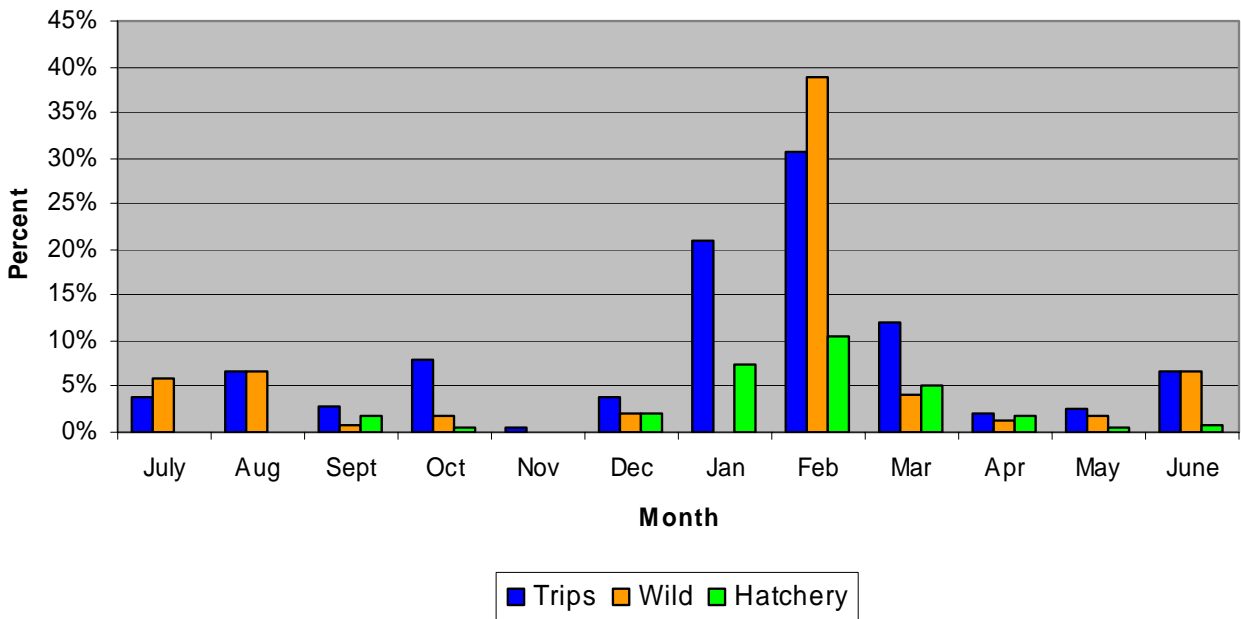
**Tuolumne River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and
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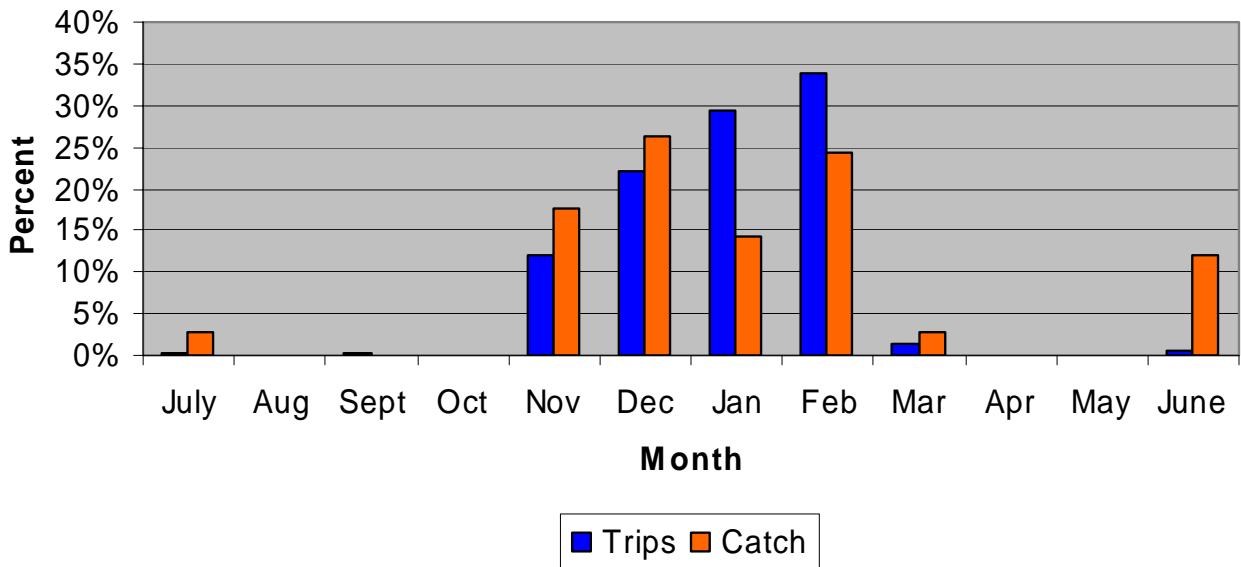
Stanislaus River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Wild & Hatchery Catch Percentages, 1999-2005



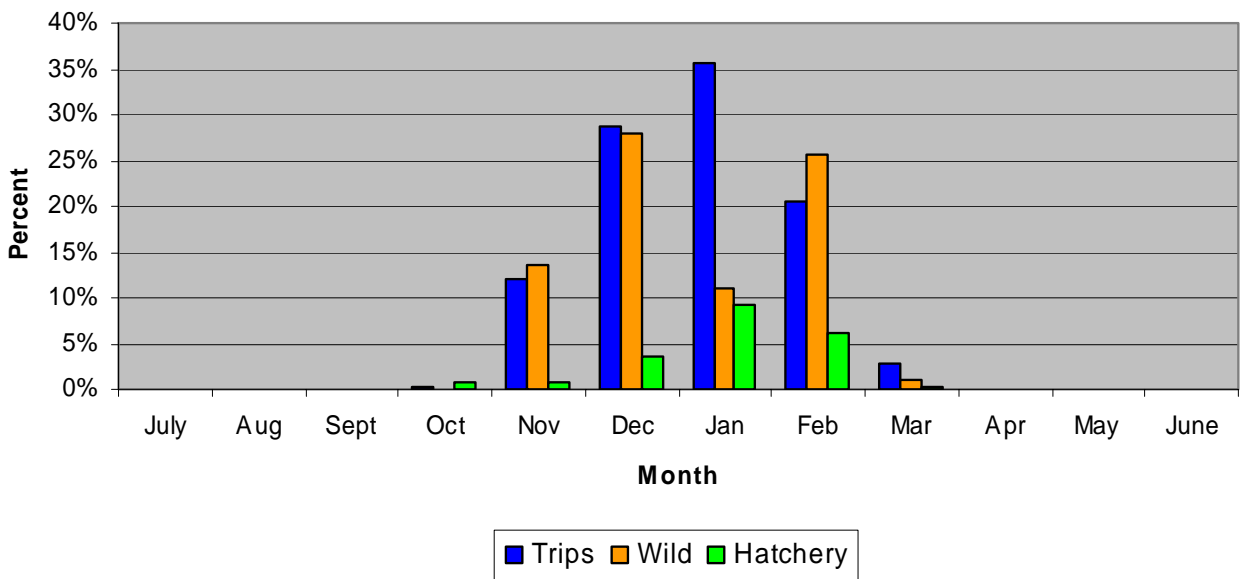
Mokelumne River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Wild & Hatchery Catch Percentages, 1999-2005



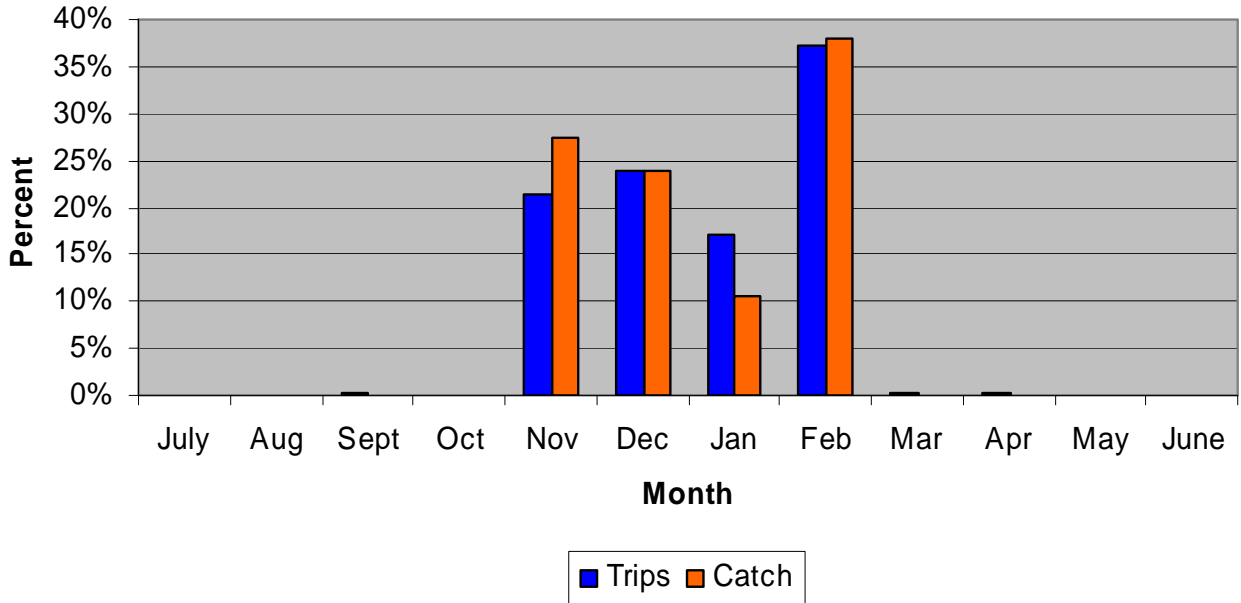
**Rivers between Golden Gate and San Lorenzo River (Loc. 28)
Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and
Monthly Catch Percentages, 1993-1998**



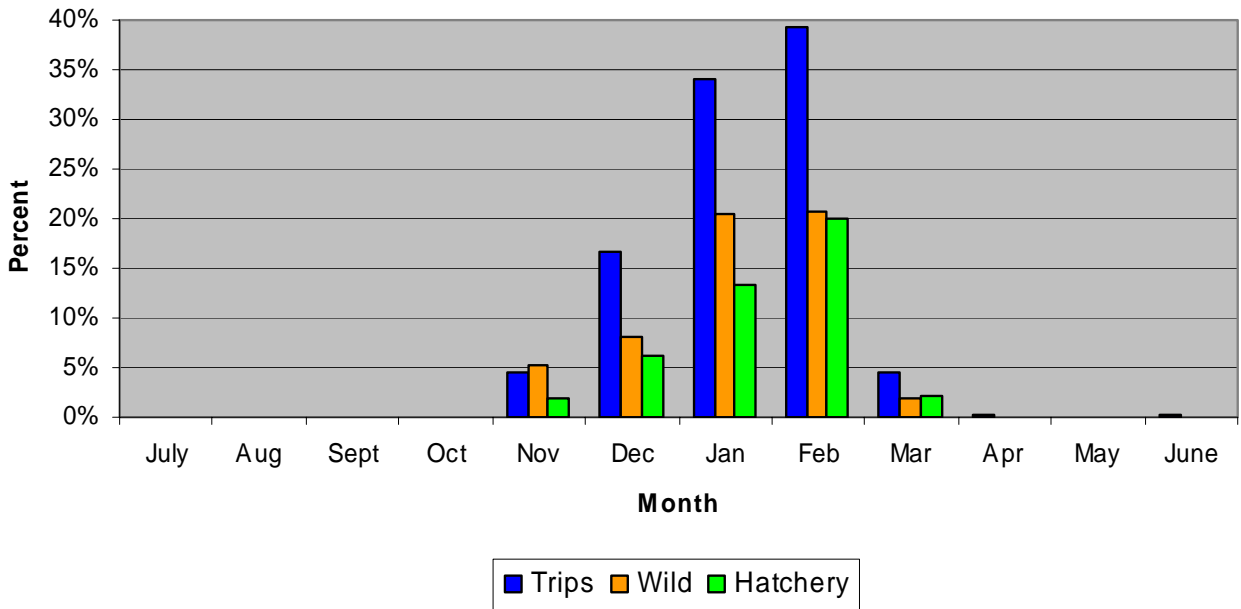
**Rivers between Golden Gate and San Lorenzo River (Loc. 28)
Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and
Monthly Wild & Hatchery Catch Percentages, 1999-2005**



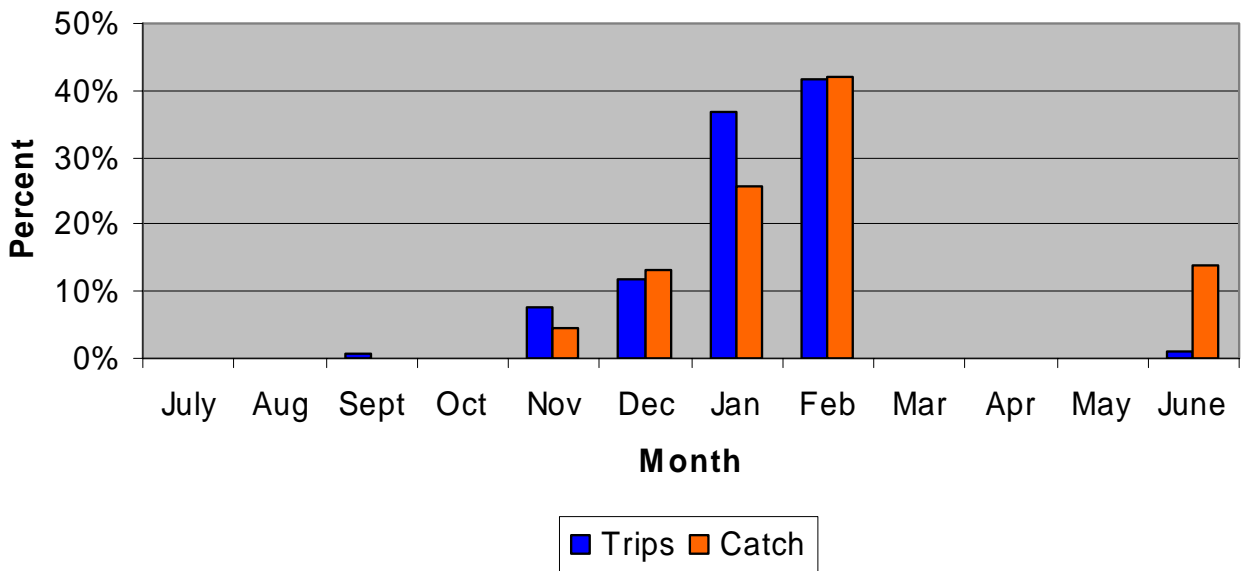
**San Lorenzo River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and
Monthly Catch Percentages, 1993-1998**



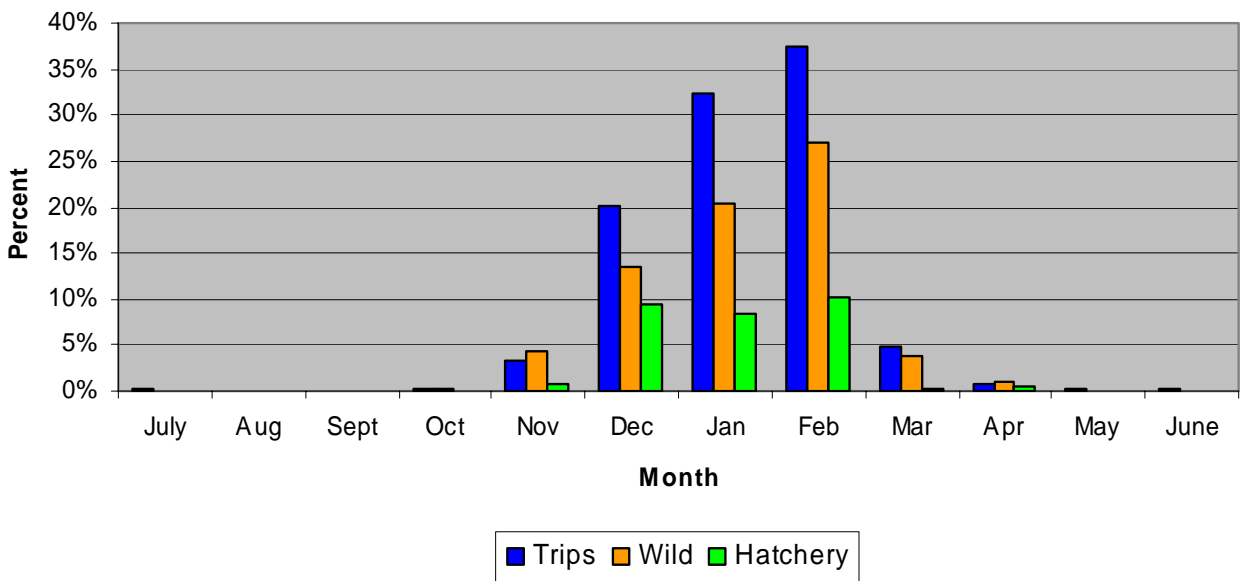
**San Lorenzo River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and
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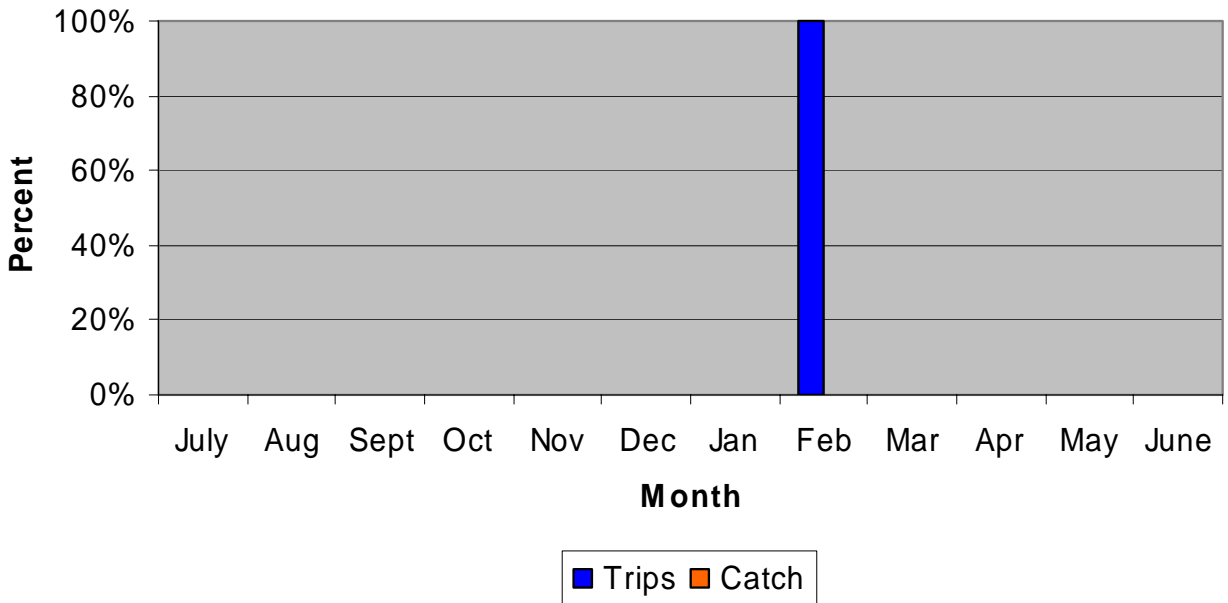
**Rivers So. of San Lorenzo R. to Salinas R., inclusive (Loc. 30)
Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and
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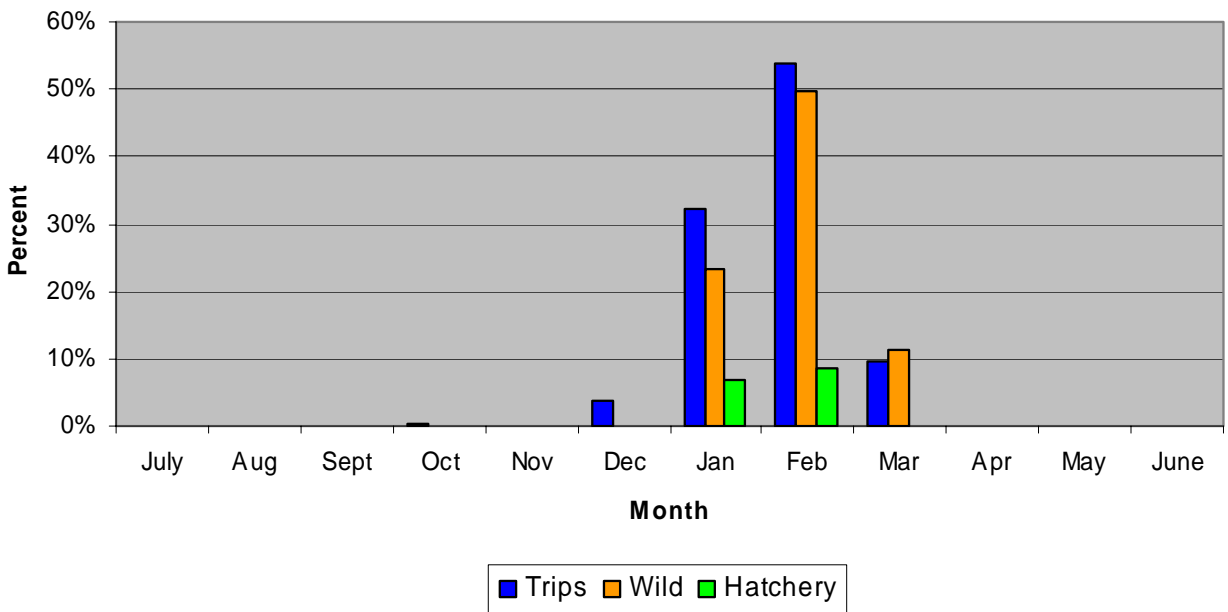
**Rivers So. of San Lorenzo River to Salinas River, inclusive (Loc. 30)
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Monthly Wild & Hatchery Catch Percentages, 1999-2005**



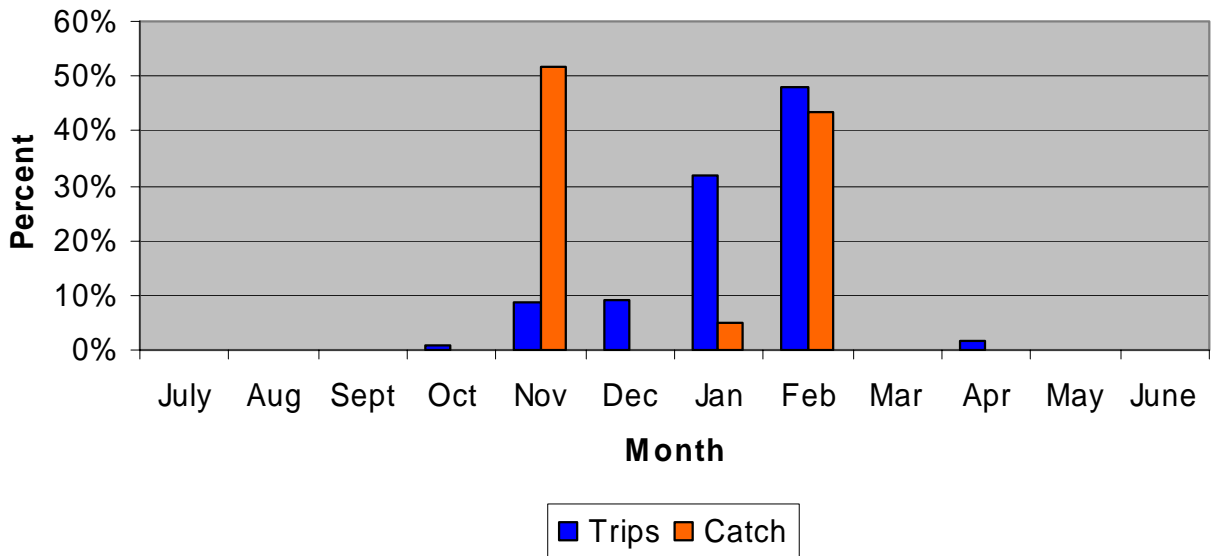
Carmel River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Catch Percentages, 1993-1998



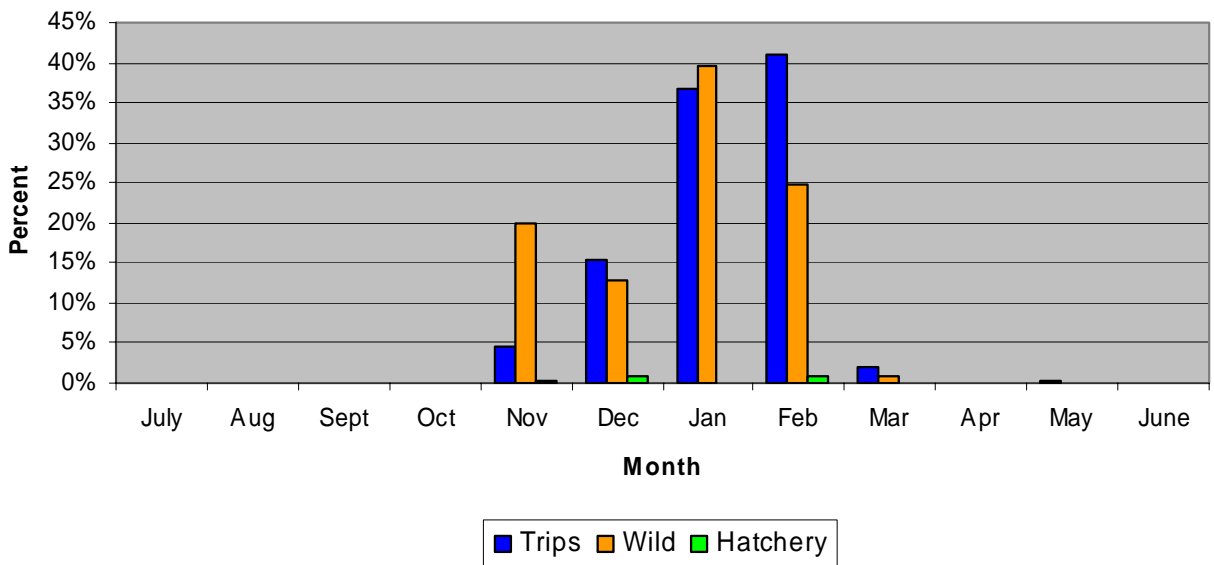
Carmel River Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and Monthly Wild & Hatchery Catch Percentages, 1999-2005



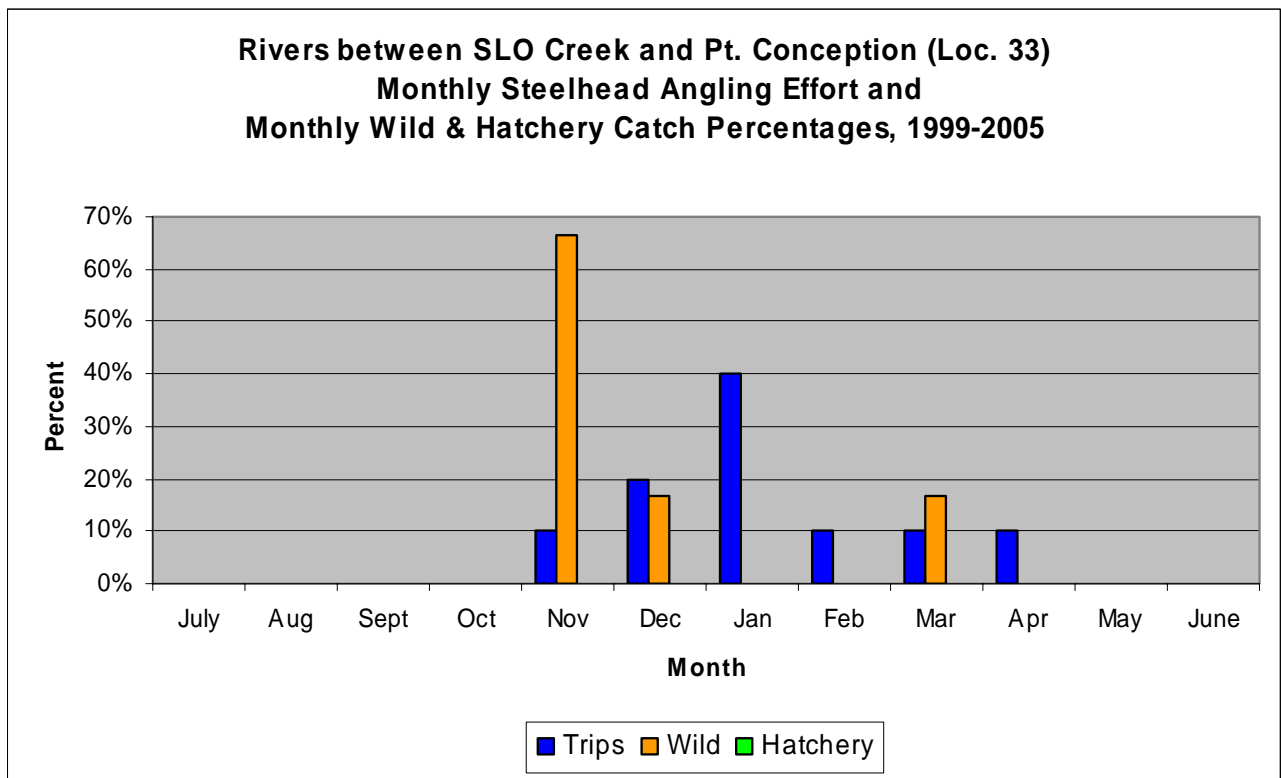
**Rivers between Carmel R. to SLO Creek, inclusive (Loc. 32)
 Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and
 Monthly Catch Percentages, 1993-1998**

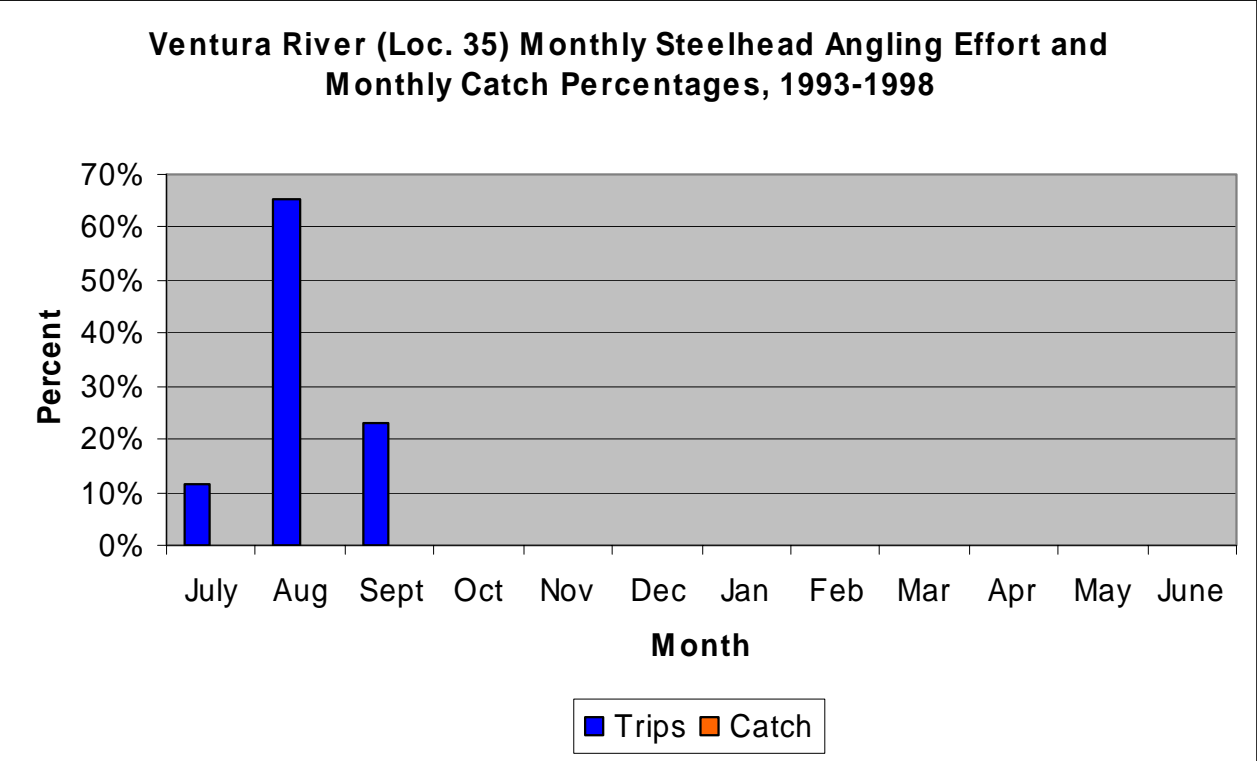


**Rivers between Carmel R. to San Luis Obispo Cr., inclusive (Loc. 32)
 Monthly Steelhead Angling Effort and
 Monthly Wild & Hatchery Catch Percentages, 1999-2005**



Only 3 trips reported from 1993-1998: 1 in September, 2 in October, zero steelhead caught





No Fishing on Ventura River 1999-2005: Southern steelhead listed Endangered under ESA