

State of California

**M e m o r a n d u m**

To: Files

Date: September 2, 2004

From: **Patrick Garrison, Biologist (Marine/Fisheries)**  
**Department of Fish and Game - NCNCR**

Subject: South Fork Trinity River Spring Chinook/Summer Steelhead Snorkel Survey Totals

Snorkel surveys were conducted on the South Fork Trinity River and Hayfork Creek on August 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004. The upper South Fork (sections B-G) was surveyed on August 24<sup>th</sup>; Hayfork Creek and the lower South Fork (sections H-L and X-Z) were surveyed on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Water clarity (visibility) was excellent on the entire river, ranging from 20-30 feet.

Thank you to all who participated; Volunteers were wrangled from a variety of federal, state and tribal agencies including, but not limited to the US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program, Hoopa Tribal Fisheries Program, South Fork Land Conservancy, Trinity River Restoration Program and the CA Dept. of Fish and Game.

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

Section	Adult Chinook	Jacks	Adult Steelhead	½ lber Steelhead
B (Raspberry Creek to East Fork confluence)	0	0	0	1
C (East Fork confluence to Red Mountain Creek)	0	0	1	4
D (Red Mountain Creek to Silver Creek)	0	0	1	4
E (Silver Creek to Scott's Flat) <sup>1</sup>	0	2	2	1
F (Scott's Flat to Hidden Valley Ranch)	13	6	8	28
G (Hidden Valley Ranch to River Spirit)	12	4	3	9
H (River Spirit to Hitchcock Creek)	8 <sub>2</sub>	2	6	21
I (Hitchcock Creek to Lover's Leap) <sup>2</sup>	1 <sub>2</sub>	0	0	0
J (Lover's Leap to Big Slide campground)	0	0	0	2
K (Big Slide campground to old Gates weir)	1	0	6	1
L (Old Gates weir to Surprise Creek)	0	0	2	0
M (Surprise Creek to Low Bridge)	2	0	0	2
N (Low Bridge to Sandy Bar)	1	0	0	0
<b>Total South Fork Trinity</b>	38	14	29	73

<sup>1</sup> The last two miles of Section E was not completed due to lack of available snorkelers; historically, this section yields less than 2 -1/2lb steelhead and rarely holds Chinook.

<sup>2</sup> Adult Chinook count includes one carcass.

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

<b>Section</b>	<b>Adult Chinook</b>	<b>Jacks</b>	<b>Adult Steelhead</b>	<b>½ Iber Steelhead</b>
X (Little Creek to Miners Creek)	3	0	2	3
Y (Miner's Creek to Bar 717 Ranch)	3	0	2	1
Z (Bar 717 Ranch to Mouth)	1	0	1	3
<b>Total Hayfork Creek</b>	7	0	5	7

This year's fish totals fell below the ten year average for both Chinook (380) and adult steelhead (48). Chinook numbers were the lowest observed since 1989, when only seven Chinook were observed.

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

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Chinook (including jacks)</b>	<b>Total Adult Steelhead</b>
1989	7	37
1990	82	66
1991	66	8
1992	166	21
1993	284	23
1994	235	22
1995	579	42
1996	1097	11
1997	655	95
1998	172	37
1999*	175	38
2000	256	76
2001	166	76
2002	386	35
2003	260	37
2004	59	34

\*1999 numbers are incomplete due to excessive turbidity caused by Hitchcock Creek slide. Five reaches were left unsurveyed

