

Memorandum

To: Files

Date: August 29, 2005

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 15-19, 2005. The upper South Fork (sections A-G) was surveyed on August 15 and 16; Hayfork Creek and the lower South Fork (sections H-N and X-Z) were surveyed on August 17. Section M was finished up on August 19. 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, Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program, South Fork Land Conservancy, Americorp 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
A (East Fork South Fork, Dark Canyon to confluence)	0	0	0	0
B (Raspberry Creek to East Fork confluence)	0	0	0	0
C (East Fork confluence to Red Mountain Creek)	1	0	10	0
D (Red Mountain Creek to Silver Creek)	8	0	5	1
E (Silver Creek to Scott's Flat)	5	0	2	0
F (Scott's Flat to Hidden Valley Ranch)	33	9	5	0
G (Hidden Valley Ranch to River Spirit)	4	1	10	11
H (River Spirit to Hitchcock Creek)	0	0	1	3
I (Hitchcock Creek to Lover's Leap) ₂	0	0	2	1
J (Lover's Leap to Big Slide campground)	2 ₁	0	0	0
K (Big Slide campground to old Gates weir)	3	0	2	2
L (Old Gates weir to Surprise Creek)	0	1	2	0
M (Surprise Creek to Low Bridge)	0	0	0	1
N (Low Bridge to Sandy Bar)	0	0	0	1
Total South Fork Trinity	56	11	39	20

₁ Adult Chinook count includes one filleted fish found at Big Slide campground.

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

Section	Adult Chinook	Jacks	Adult Steelhead	½ Iber Steelhead
X (Little Creek to Miners Creek)	0	0	25	2
Y (Miner's Creek to Bar 717 Ranch)	4	0	8	0
Z (Bar 717 Ranch to Mouth)	1	0	1	0
Total Hayfork Creek	5	0	34	2

This year's Chinook salmon count fell far below the ten year average (330) while the adult steelhead count exceed the ten year average (51).

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.

Year	Total Chinook (including jacks)	Total Adult Steelhead
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
2005	72	73

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