

Memorandum

To: Files

Date: September 6, 2006

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 22 and 23, 2006. The upper South Fork (sections A-G) was surveyed on August 22; Hayfork Creek and the lower South Fork (sections X-Z and H-N) were surveyed on August 23. Water clarity (visibility) was excellent on the entire river, ranging from 20-30 feet. This year, crews were also asked to enumerate Pacific lamprey carcasses. A total of 93 Pacific lamprey carcasses were counted; the majority of which were seen upstream of Hyampom in the South Fork and Hayfork Creek.

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, Trinity River Restoration Program, Humboldt State University 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)	0	0	0	0
D (Red Mountain Creek to Silver Creek)	28	1	4	3
E (Silver Creek to Scott's Flat)	12	2	7	18
F (Scott's Flat to Hidden Valley Ranch)	21	1	22	4
G (Hidden Valley Ranch to River Spirit)	44	2	12	46
H (River Spirit to Hitchcock Creek)	0	0	1	1
I (Hitchcock Creek to Lover's Leap) ₂	1	0	5	7
J (Lover's Leap to Big Slide campground)	1	1	3	9
K (Big Slide campground to old Gates weir)	2	0	3	0
L (Old Gates weir to Surprise Creek)	21	0	23	0
M (Surprise Creek to Low Bridge)	0	0	0	0
N (Low Bridge to Sandy Bar)	0	0	1	0
Total South Fork Trinity	130	7	81	88

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	11	11
Y (Miner’s Creek to Bar 717 Ranch)	8	0	13	5
Z (Bar 717 Ranch to Mouth)	0	1	0	5
Total Hayfork Creek	8	1	24	21

This year’s Chinook salmon count fell below the ten year average (235) for the fourth straight year, while the adult steelhead count exceeded the ten year average (61). Adult steelhead numbers (105) were the highest ever recorded during the summer South Fork survey, exceeding the previous high of 95 fish seen in 1997.

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
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
2006	146	105

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