

State of California

M e m o r a n d u m

To: Files

Date: August 25, 2003

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 19 and 20, 2003. The upper South Fork (sections A-G) was surveyed on August 19th; Hayfork Creek and the lower South Fork (sections H-L and X-Z) were surveyed on August 20th. Water clarity (visibility) was good on the upper river, but poorer on sections of the lower river and Hayfork Creek, obscuring observations in deep pools.

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, Americorps, Yurok Tribe, South Fork Land Conservancy, 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 Trinity River)	0	0	0	1
B (Raspberry Creek to East Fork confluence)	0	0	0	0
C (East Fork confluence to Red Mountain Creek)	23	2	0	0
D (Red Mountain Creek to Silver Creek)	4	0	1	16
E (Silver Creek to Scott's Flat)	29	0	2	5
F (Scott's Flat to Hidden Valley Ranch)	58	2	3	6
G (Hidden Valley Ranch to River Spirit)	15	0	5	0
H (River Spirit to Hitchcock Creek)	32	0	12	36
I (Hitchcock Creek to Lover's Leap)	8	2	3	19
J (Lover's Leap to Big Slide campground)	0	0	0	2
K (Big Slide campground to old Gates weir)	7	0	0	0
L (Old Gates weir to Surprise Creek)	6	0	3	1
M (Surprise Creek to Low Bridge)	1	1	0	2
N (Low Bridge to Sandy Bar)	0	0	0	0
Total South Fork Trinity	168	7	24	89

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)	32	1	10	1
Y (Miner’s Creek to Bar 717 Ranch)	16	3	0	9
Z (Bar 717 Ranch to Mouth)	32	1	3	4
Total Hayfork Creek	80	5	13	14

This year’s fish totals fell below the ten year average for both chinook (398) and adult steelhead (47). Observations of adult chinook were considerably higher in Hayfork Creek than in most recent years.

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
1993	284	23
1994	243	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

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

