



Klamath River Carcass and Redd Surveys Update – November 4, 2014

Synopsis: Annual fall-run Chinook salmon carcass and redd surveys on the mainstem Klamath River are conducted jointly by the USFWS Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office (AFWO), Karuk Tribe of California, and Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program (YTFP). Surveys in 2014 began the week of October 6. Weekly mark-recapture carcass surveys are conducted by AFWO and YTFP crews from Iron Gate Dam to the Shasta River confluence. Weekly redd surveys are conducted by AFWO and Karuk Tribe crews from the Shasta River confluence to the Indian Creek confluence at Happy Camp.

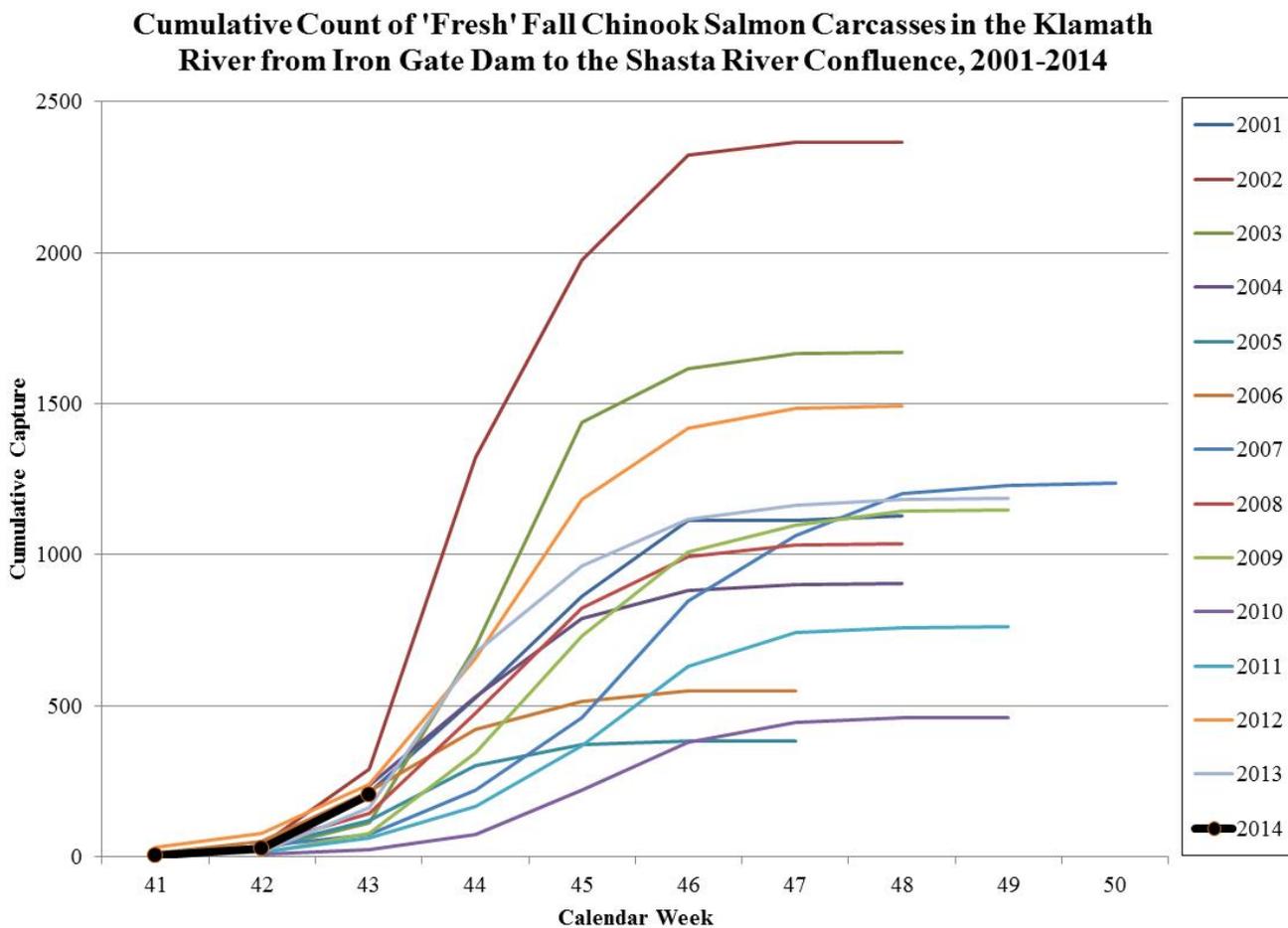
Pre-spawn mortalities observed in the fourth survey week dropped down to about 7% after the carcass survey crews observed a relatively high rate (45% of 'fresh' female Chinook salmon carcasses) of pre-spawn mortality in the third survey week. In comparison, pre-spawn mortality ranged from 6.9% to 56.6% (mean = 20.9%) when sample sizes were greater than 30 during the third week in past surveys from 2001 to 2013.

While this is of interest, there are large numbers of Chinook salmon that have already constructed redds and are currently spawning so this higher level of pre-spawning mortality has not greatly affected the numbers of fish successfully spawning. After the third survey week, the 1,130 redds counted is the fourth highest count for this time of year since surveys started in 1993.

Captures of fresh carcasses only and redd counts are compared to previous years' surveys in the following charts. Note that the numbers presented in the figures are actual cumulative counts that have not yet been expanded into escapement estimates. At the end of the survey season the carcass mark-recapture data is used to estimate escapement above the Shasta River using an area-under-the-curve methodology. Redd counts will be doubled (i.e., one redd represents one adult female and one adult male spawner) to estimate escapement below the Shasta River confluence.

The data presented here are preliminary in nature and subject to revision.

If you have any questions regarding this summary, please contact Steve Gough at (707) 825-5197.



Cumulative Fall Chinook Salmon Redd Counts on the Mainstem Klamath River from Shasta River to Indian Creek

