



Trinity River Mainstem Redd Survey – 2020 Summary

The [Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office](#) along with the [California Department of Fish and Wildlife](#), [Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program](#), [Hoopa Valley Tribal Fisheries Department](#), and [Shasta-Trinity National Forest](#) survey the mainstem Trinity River to recover adult salmonid carcasses and count and map Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) redds. The distribution of Chinook Salmon spawning is expected to change in response to rehabilitation efforts of the [Trinity River Restoration Program](#) and to the relative run size of natural- vs. [Trinity River Hatchery](#)-origin fish. Spawning surveys are attempted weekly between [Lewiston Dam](#) and the North Fork Trinity River (Reaches 1–7) and every other week on the survey reaches downstream of the North Fork Trinity River (Figure 1, Table 1).

This summary provides preliminary data on this season’s redd observations, which concluded on December 10 (Table 1). Surveys this season ended 1–2 weeks earlier than scheduled due to increased concerns over the Covid-19 pandemic. Figure 2 compares preliminary 2020 cumulative redd counts in Reaches 1–10 with the previous 18 years (2002–2019). Redds constructed by Chinook and Coho salmon are not differentiated until the end of the season when they are apportioned by species (Chinook or Coho salmon) and origin (hatchery or natural) using carcass data.

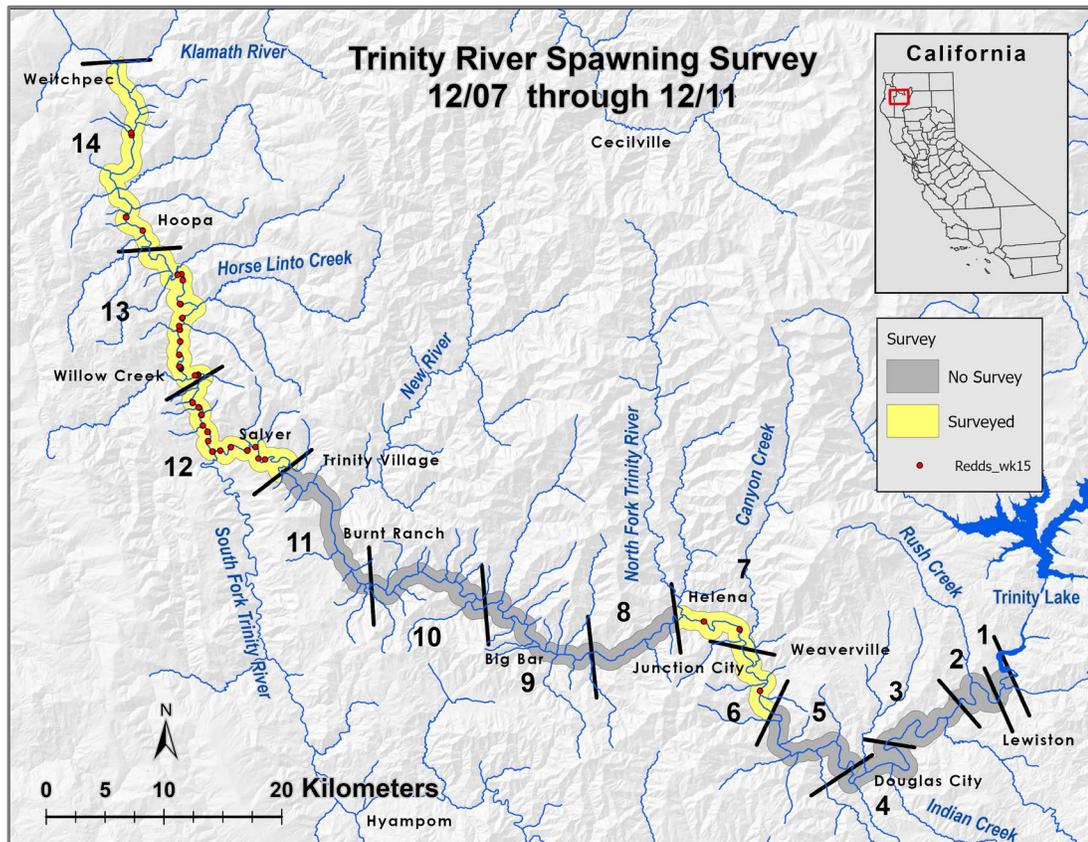


Figure 1. Mainstem Trinity River salmon spawn survey area with redds observed during the final survey week.



Table 1. Preliminary count of redds by reach from the fall 2020 mainstem Trinity River redd survey. Reach 8 (Pigeon Point Run) and Reach 11 (Burnt Ranch Gorge) are not surveyed due to abundant whitewater.

Week start	each														Total	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
Aug 31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0									0
Sep 7	5	1	0	0	1	0	0									7
Sep 14	1	2	1	1	NS	0	0		0	NS						5
Sep 21	15	16	15	6	10	0	1		0	NS						63
Sep 28	37	38	13	20	28	9	7		0	NS						152
Oct 5	28	15	17	13	15	17	33					NS	NS	NS		138
Oct 12	14	15	9	12	14	23	34		46	35						202
Oct 19	NS	NS	20	11	NS	33	27					3	4	1		99
Oct 26	10	14	13	16	30	23	32		81	43						262
Nov 2	28	20	32	10	14	18	15					18	69	NS		224
Nov 9	51	35	13	1	14	6	8		34	24						186
Nov 16	38	41	9	8	10	3	3					1	NS	NS		113
Nov 23	27	43				10	6		NS	NS			49			135
Nov 30	9	28	11	NS	13	2	4		10	7		NS	NS	NS		84
Dec 7	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	2	3		NS	NS		25	33	10		73
Dec 14	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS					NS	NS	NS		-
Total	263	278	153	98	149	146	173		171	109		47	155	11		1,743

‘NS’ = no survey

These data are preliminary and subject to revision.

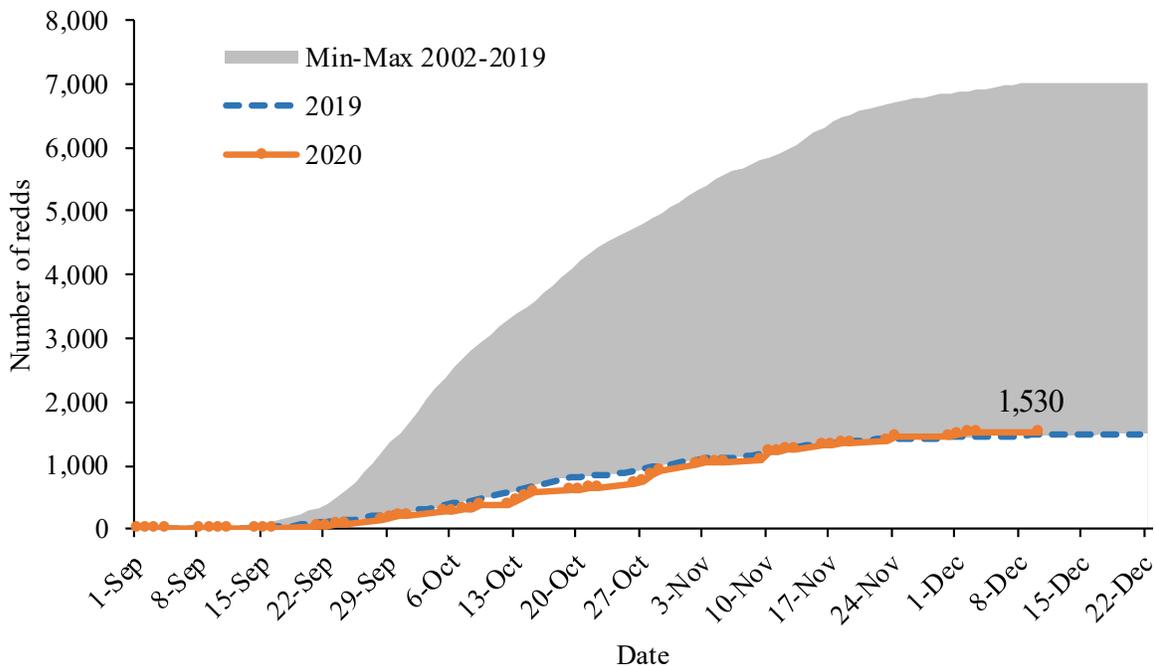


Figure 2. Cumulative redd counts in Reaches 1–10 (Reach 8 excluded) of the mainstem Trinity River in 2020 compared to 2019 and the range of counts from 2002 to 2019.

To access the latest version of this report on-line, see http://www.fws.gov/arcata/fisheries/project_updates_new.html and click on ‘Trinity River Spawning Surveys Update <date>’

We track the spawning success (i.e., pre-spawn mortality versus partially and fully spawned) of female salmon in the Trinity River during redd surveys. Only 'fresh' carcasses, those that exhibit minimal decay, are used for assessing pre-spawn mortality because carcasses with extensive decay may not retain unspawned eggs. This season, 231 fresh female Chinook Salmon carcasses were inspected, of which 2 (0.9%) were pre-spawn mortalities.

For more information regarding mainstem Trinity River redd surveys, please contact Steve Gough (steve_gough@fws.gov).



Photo of the Week: Stick a 'fork' in it. This concludes the 2020 spawning survey season.
Photo by Michael Bradford, CDFW.

To access the latest version of this report on-line, see http://www.fws.gov/arcata/fisheries/project_updates_new.html and click on 'Trinity River Spawning Surveys Update <date>'