U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Northern California Fish & Wildlife Office, Fish & Aquatic Conservation Program

Klamath River Spawning Ground Surveys Update
November 20, 2026

Synopsis: Annual fall-run Chinook Salmon carcass and redd surveys on the mainstem Klamath River are conducted jointly by the USFWS Northern California Fish and Wildlife Office (AFWO), Karuk Tribe Fisheries Department (KTFD), and Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program (YTFP). Surveys in 2026 began the week of October 12 (calendar week 42) and will conclude after spawning activity has ended, which is typically around late November or early December. Three areas in the mainstem Klamath River are scheduled for weekly surveys using appropriate methods for those areas:

1) California–Oregon state line to Iron Gate (31.5 km): Carcass and redd surveys are conducted by KTFD, YTFP, and AFWO,
2) Iron Gate to the Shasta River confluence (21.2 km): Carcass and redd surveys are conducted by KTFD, YTFP, and AFWO, and
3) Shasta River confluence to Wingate Bar (125.7 km): Redd surveys are conducted by KTFD and AFWO.

California–Oregon State Line to Iron Gate and Iron Gate to the Shasta River Confluence

Surveys began October 14 and 2026 is the third year for salmon spawning ground surveys upstream of Iron Gate following dam removal. The upper area is divided into four reaches: CA-OR state line to the Shovel Creek confluence (4.3 km), Shovel Creek to Kutarawaxu (12.1 km), Kikaceki Canyon (4.7 km), and Fall Creek to Iron Gate (10.4 km). Kikaceki Canyon has abundant whitewater, including Class IV rapids, and is not surveyed. Redd counts and fresh carcasses in these upper reaches as well as between Iron Gate and the Shasta River confluence are reported in Table 1. At the end of the survey season, redd counts or carcass mark-recapture data may be used to estimate escapement in these reaches.

Table 1. Weekly counts of Chinook Salmon redds and fresh carcasses in the mainstem Klamath River in 2026 as of October 30. *These data are preliminary and subject to revision*.

	Reach							
	State Line - Shovel Creek		Shovel Creek - Kutarawaxu		Fall Creek - Iron Gate		Iron Gate - Shasta River	
Survey dates	Redds	Carcasses	Redds	Carcasses	Redds	Carcasses	Redds	Carcasses
Oct 14 - Oct 15 [a]	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Oct 20 - Oct 22	0	0	16	6	0	0	0	2
Oct 27 - Oct 29	0	0	13	6	0	2	2	11
Nov 3 - Nov 5	0	0	11	11	1	2	0	4
Nov 10 - Nov 12	0	0	5	11	0	1	0	4
Nov 17 - Nov 19	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	4
Nov 24 - Nov 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dec 1 - Dec 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	0	0	51	39	1	5	2	25

[a] survey stopped at Klamathon (rkm) this week (i.e., Klamathon to Shasta River not surveyed)

Shasta River Confluence to Wingate Bar

Redd surveys in this section began the week of October 19 this season. Cumulative counts to date of fall Chinook Salmon redds compared with 1993–2025 data are provided in Figure 1. After the season has concluded, 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.

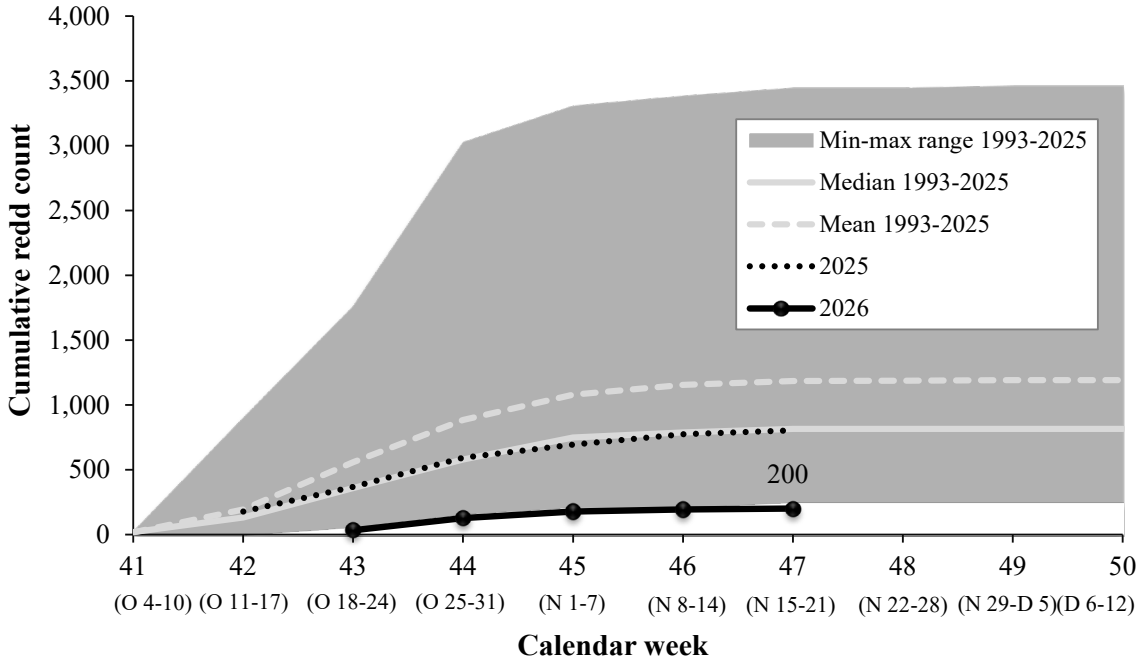


Figure 1. Cumulative count to date of Chinook Salmon redds in the mainstem Klamath River from Shasta River to Indian Creek in 2026 compared with 1993–2025. An additional four redds have also been counted between Indian Creek and Wingate Bar.

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

If you have any questions regarding these surveys, please contact Steve Gough (steve_gough@fws.gov).

