



**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

Arcata Fish & Wildlife Office – Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program

**Klamath River Carcass and Redd Surveys Update – December 20, 2024**

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 2024 began the week of October 7 (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 Karuk Tribe and AFWO,
- 2) Iron Gate to the Shasta River confluence (21.2 km): Carcass surveys are conducted by YTFP and AFWO, and
- 3) Shasta River confluence to Wingate Bar (125.7 km): Redd surveys are conducted by Karuk Tribe and AFWO.

*California–Oregon State Line to Iron Gate*

Surveys began October 22 and 2024 is the first year for salmon spawn surveys in this area following dam removal. This area is divided into four reaches: state line to Copco Village (9.1 km), Copco (the former Copco Reservoir; 7.3 km), Ward’s Canyon (4.7 km), and Iron Gate Canyon (10.4 km). Ward’s Canyon has abundant whitewater, including Class IV rapids, and is not surveyed. Redd counts, live fish on redds, and fresh carcasses are reported in Table 1.

Table 1. Weekly counts of Chinook Salmon redds, live fish on redds, and fresh carcasses in the mainstem Klamath River in 2024 as of December 20. *These data are preliminary and subject to revision.*

Survey dates	Reach								
	State Line - Copco Village			Copco			Iron Gate Canyon		
	Redds	Live	Carcasses	Redds	Live	Carcasses	Redds	Live	Carcasses
Oct 22 - Oct 23	7	16	0	24	20	0		No survey	
Oct 29 - Oct 31	22	28	1	33	46	5	7	0	2
Nov 5 - Nov 7	12	20	3	16	34	13	4	0	9
Nov 14 - Nov 15	13	17	10		No survey		0	0	15
Nov 19		No survey		0	0	11		No survey	
Nov 26		No survey		20	20	5		No survey	
Dec 3 - Dec 5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	8
Dec 10 - Dec 12	7	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	2
Dec 17 - Dec 18	0	0	1		No survey		3	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b>

*Iron Gate to the Shasta River Confluence*

Surveys were conducted weekly in 2024 from October 8 to December 12. However, due to high turbidity associated with the dam removal project, visibility (Secchi depth range: 3–16 inches) was too low throughout the fall for effective surveys and only 13 fresh Chinook Salmon carcasses were observed.

*Shasta River Confluence to Wingate Bar*

Redd surveys in this section have been postponed this season due to high turbidity. Sediment from the dam removal project as well as the continued input of sediment from tributaries in the 2022 McKinney Fire area limited visibility to less than a few inches throughout the fall.

*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](mailto:steve_gough@fws.gov)).



Photo by A. Guerrero