



Trinity River Mainstem Redd Survey Update December 13, 2024

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 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 sizes of natural- and [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 update provides preliminary data on this season’s redd observations as of December 13 (Table 1). Figure 2 compares preliminary 2024 cumulative redd counts in Reaches 1–10 with the previous 22 years (2002–2023). 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.

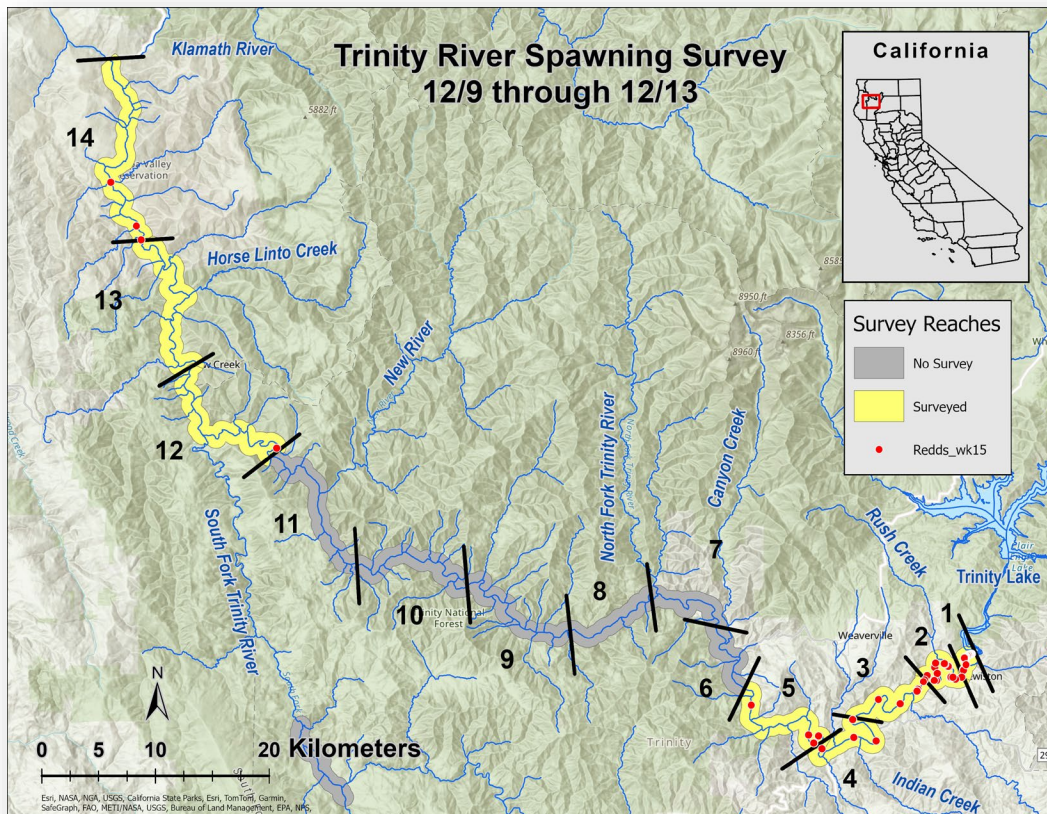


Figure 1. Mainstem Trinity River salmon redds mapped during the December 9–13 surveys.





Table 1. Preliminary count of redds by reach from the fall 2024 mainstem Trinity River redd survey as of December 13. Reach 8 (Pigeon Point Run) and Reach 11 (Burnt Ranch Gorge) are not surveyed due to abundant whitewater.

Week start	Reach														Total	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
Sep 2	4	2	-	-	-	0	1									7
Sep 9	4	3	3	3	1	0	0		0	0						14
Sep 16	35	19	18	8	NS	1	0					0	0	0		81
Sep 23	21	23	16	NS	35	6	5		2	0						108
Sep 30	80	55	30	67	47	21	11					0	0	0		311
Oct 7	22	45	36	84	55	61	36		72	42						453
Oct 14	21	22	31	52	NS	74	32					24	12	NS		268
Oct 21	8	24	33	61	72	40	25		121	99						483
Oct 28	45	15	15	NS	43	32	15					60	65	NS		290
Nov 4	25	13	13	14	NS	30	18		81	54						248
Nov 11	18	18	4	NS	NS	NS	NS					NS	NS	NS		40
Nov 18	29	22	2	NS	NS	2	1		NS	NS						56
Nov 25	36	18	9	NS	NS	0	0					NS	NS	NS		63
Dec 2	25	48	44	41	49	0	3		2	2						214
Dec 9	79	33	7	4	6	-	-					2	0	3		134
Dec 16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					-	-	-		-
Total	452	360	261	334	308	267	147		278	197		86	77	3		2,770

'NS' = no survey

These data are preliminary and subject to revision.

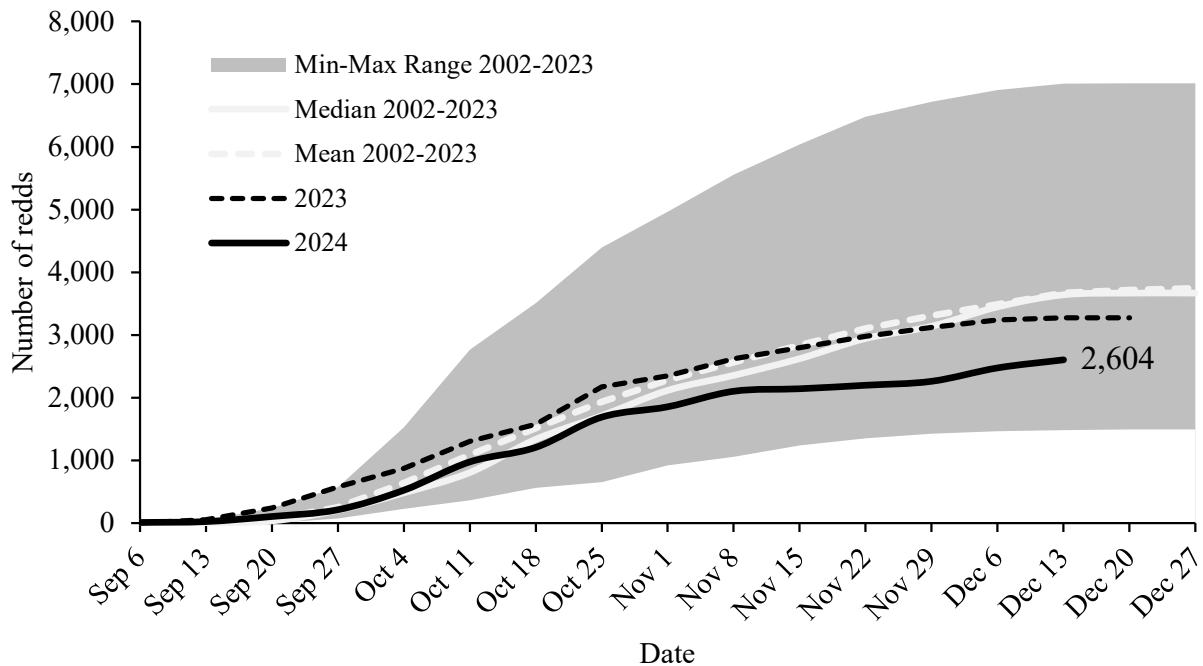


Figure 2. Cumulative redd counts in Reaches 1–10 of the mainstem Trinity River in 2024 as of December 13 compared to the range of counts from 2002 to 2023.

The spawning success (i.e., pre-spawn mortality versus partially and fully spawned) of female salmon in the Trinity River are tracked during the spawn 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. As of December 13, 436 fresh female Chinook Salmon carcasses have been observed, 8 (1.8%) of which were unspawned.

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



Photo by Jackie Bridegum