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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Division of Fish and Game

THIRTIETH BIENNIAL REPORT

For the Years 1926-1928



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STATION

being carried on at the Santa Coldbrook Camp on the San St of Los Angeles, where ten talled. Both the San Gabriel ed on National Forest Reserve rary material with cabins for uthern California until funds cheries. Then the tanks and furnish trout for the streams

HATCHERY

This station has been carried on has been generally repaired was built across Fort Seward ick purchased so that the sup- ovisions, etc., for the superin- a small truck. Several years oint to the hatchery and the and the railroad were carried as installed with a gas engine s and supplies to the hatchery. ficient funds available at the , purchasing of a truck, and stem was a slow and tedious al of patience and hard work a the hatchery to the railroad. on the skip and lowered down rferred to a car and conveyed on an old four-wheel truck to et where they were placed on

Due to the many difficult and ardu- make a success of their work. ly carry out the work neces- The Fort Seward Hatchery is he only stream along the line itable for hatchery purposes. ut the condition of the water i this hatchery always make a tion when planted. During ts low in the two streams that of the fish have to be planted as conditions for the develop- ing trout are large enough for planted.

During the eggs and fish handled shed and distributed 3,253,600

PRAIRIE CREEK

During the summer and fall of 1927, a survey was made to find a stream on the northwest coast from which cut-throat trout eggs could be obtained. After a close study and from data gathered in former years, we decided to establish a temporary hatchery and traps on Prairie Creek, Humboldt County. Prairie Creek is a tributary of Redwood Creek, one of the large streams of northern Humboldt County. Racks and traps were installed by an experienced crew, but the heavy rainfall in that section made the work difficult. The men, working in mud and water in the dense redwoods where there is very little if any sunshine during the winter months, and where even in the summer there is a heavy shade nearly all day from the giant redwood trees, caused the ground to be soft and muddy all winter. The tent hatchery was established under trying conditions, but by the middle of November the racks were in place and the crew was ready to collect cut-throat trout eggs as well as steelhead eggs in the spring. The station is located on Prairie Creek below its junction with Lost Man Creek. Eight eyeing troughs were installed at first and later the number increased to thirty. The water for the eyeing troughs was taken from Lost Man Creek and carried to the troughs through about 2500 feet of twelve-inch flume.

Two cabins were also built to accommodate the employees. The material was not on the ground soon enough to have the racks finished for the run of Chinook salmon and the high water allowed the cut-throat run to pass over the top of the racks. During the run of the silver salmon, 208,000 eggs were taken and the fry hatched at the station, excepting 60,000 which were taken to Fort Seward Hatchery to be liberated in Eel River.

During the steelhead run about 1,400,000 eggs were taken. 762,000 were shipped to Fort Seward Hatchery and the balance hatched, reared and are to be distributed from Prairie Creek Station.

Judging from the first season's showing, we think the establishing of the station was justifiable and the station is a decided asset. There is ample water for hatchery purposes, even if the capacity is increased and the water seems to be good.

Several log jams and other obstructions in Prairie Creek below the racks made it hard for the fish to ascend the creek. These have been partially removed and all of those which are in the way will be taken out before the salmon run this fall.

There are four varieties of fish that run in the creek—Chinook salmon, silver salmon, cut-throat trout, and steelhead trout. The Chinooks and steelhead are desirable for general distribution and the silver salmon and cut-throat trout are of value for distribution in Humboldt County.

BROOKDALE HATCHERY

After being in operation since 1905, we had the first epidemic of any consequence among the fish at this hatchery during the spring of 1927. An epidemic broke out among the fish in the hatchery that would not respond to any treatment that usually gives results. Dr. George A. Coleman made a pathological study and discovered a protozoan parasite affecting the fish that was deadly in its ravages. The source of this parasite was not discovered, but the condition of the fish was such that they were not resistant to any infectious disease as the water had been