

## CHUM SALMON OBSERVATIONS IN FOUR NORTH COAST STREAMS

The reported occurrence of chum salmon, *Oncorhynchus keta* (Walbaum), in California waters is uncommon. They have been taken from the San Lorenzo River, Santa Cruz County (Scofield, 1916), and are occasionally seen in the Klamath River (Snyder, 1931). A minor run has been reported in the Sacramento River (Hallock and Fry, 1967). A single chum was caught in the ocean off Del Mar in 1955 by the purse seiner *Saint Louis* (Messersmith, 1965) and a troll caught specimen was landed at Bodega Bay in 1966 (Wild, 1967).

On September 13, 1973, a 69.9 cm (27.5 inch) FL gravid female chum salmon was captured during salmon trapping operations in Freshwater Creek, A Humboldt Bay tributary. This fish was taken to the California Department of Fish and Game's Eureka field office and positively identified by L. B. Boydston and John B. Robinson of the Department's Anadromous Fisheries Branch.

The capture of this fish prompted inquiries regarding the occurrence of chum salmon in other north coast streams. As a result, unpublished reports of their presence in three more streams were brought to light.

In December of 1951, loan chum salmon were observed on two occasions in the Mad River drainage, Humboldt County (Elton D. Bailey and Leroy T. Mongold, pers. comm.). The first was seen December 13 in Canyon Creek 91 m (100 yards) above its confluence with Mad River and 26.5 km (16.5 miles) from the ocean. The second was observed December 19 in the North Fork Mad River 3.2 km (2 miles) above its confluence with the main stem and 20.9 km (13 miles) from the ocean. This fish was captured and found to be a nearly spent female 70.5 cm (27.75 inches) long, FL.

In late November 1970, an unidentified angler caught a male chum salmon in spawning condition about 11.2 km (7 miles) above tidewater in the Smith River. A photograph of this fish is on file in the Department's Eureka field office. The photograph was taken by Larry Lambers, Route 1, Box 420, Crescent City, in the presence of Warden Albert L. Clinton, at Saxton's Tackle Shop. Mr. Saxton, the proprietor of the shop, said, "Two other chum salmon were caught in the Smith River that year but the anglers were never identified".

### REFERENCES

- Hallock, Richard J., and Donald H. Fry, Jr. 1967. Five species of salmon, *Oncorhynchus*, in the Sacramento River, California. Calif. Fish Game 53(1): 5-22.
- Messersmith, J. D. 1965. Southern range extensions for chum and silver salmon. Calif. Fish Game 51(3):220.
- Scofield, N. B. 1916. The humpback and dog salmon taken in San Lorenzo River. Calif. Fish Game 2(1):41.
- Snyder, John O. 1931. Salmon of the Klamath River. California. Calif. Div. Fish and Game, Fish Bull. (34):1-130.
- Wild, Paul W. 1967. An occurrence of a chum salmon, *Oncorhynchus keta* (Walbaum), in the California troll fishery. Calif. Fish Game 53(4):299-300.
- David W. Rogers, Region 1, Inland Fisheries, Department of Fish and Game. Accepted January 1974.

## RANGE EXTENSION OF THE CHINA ROCKFISH

On 24 September 1972 Vucci found a China rockfish, *Sebastes nebulosus*, 289 mm SL, in a trash can of filleted rockfish carcasses aboard the party boat *China Clipper*. Skipper Jon Ward stated that the specimen was caught by hook and line near Castle Rock, San Miguel Island (lat. 34°03'N, long. 120°26'W) in 20 fm of water. Mr. Ward remembered having seen about 10 China rockfish caught in the same area. Because the fish had been filleted, we could not determine its weight. However, except for the lateral musculature, most of the fish was intact. This allowed us to make a positive identification and length measurements.

Previously, the southernmost China rockfish reported came from Diablo Cove, where five were taken (Burge and Schultz 1973). The San Miguel specimen represents a range extension of about 70 miles. It was deposited at the California Academy of Sciences.

### REFERENCES

- Burge, Richard T. and S. A. Schultz (1973) Marine environment in the vicinity of Diablo Cove with special reference to abalones and bony fishes. Calif. Dep. Fish and Game, Mar. Res. Tech. Rept. 19: 1-433.
- Milton S. Love, Department of Biology, University of California, Santa Barbara and John Vucci, Santa Barbara Underseas Foundation, Santa Barbara, California 93017. Accepted January 1974.

ROGERS 1974 : Rogers  
Rudder-1973  
Faunce

Redwood Creek, Humboldt County

(Field Note)

Tributary to: Pacific Ocean

Date of Survey: April 23, 24, 25, 1973

Purpose of Survey: Obtain needed information on candlefish Thaleichthys pacificus from mouth to upstream end of Redwood National Park boundary.

Method of Survey: Observations and photography.

Equipment Used: Camera

Surveyors: Don La Faunce, Dave Rogers, Len Rudder

Observations: On April 19, 1973 word reached Fish and Game, Eureka that candlefish were running in Redwood Creek and that a commercial fisherman had made a 2500 lb. delivery to one of the local fish processors. On April 23, La Faunce and Rogers observed the fishery and took pictures in the vicinity of Orick and downstream to the mouth. The fish were running in such numbers that can only be described as "millions".

On April 24 and 25 the run was slowing down and great numbers of fish were seen drifting downstream.

An attempt was made to determine the upstream limits of their migration. They were found to be passing Tom McDonald Creek, a tributary 12.5 miles above the mouth, in greatly reduced numbers. They were not observed 4.0 miles farther upstream and it was assumed that they probably got as far as Bridge Creek, 15 miles from the ocean.

The bulk of the sport fishery was occurring immediately below the mouth of Prairie Creek, along the levee. Anglers reported a male to female ratio on the order of 100:1 and all of the fish were at least partially spent. Fish caught near the mouth of Redwood Creek comprised about  $\frac{1}{2}$  females and were all ripe.

None of the fish were observed in the tributaries.

The last large run of candlefish in Redwood Creek occurred in 1967.

Written by: Dave Rogers

DR:vmc  
5-1-73

Field Note - Redwood Creek, Humboldt County (Orick)

Seining operations were conducted on Redwood Creek on October 29th and 30th, 1963. The objective of these operations was to net king salmon for the Humboldt County Hatchery (Prairie Creek Hatchery). The netted fish (KS) were then taken to the hatchery and held for spawning. All netting was conducted by use of a 300 ft. beach seine. In addition, an Ad marked (Mad River) silver salmon male was observed in the catch of two fishermen.

First Haul

Species	Number	Est. Length or Weight	Remarks
King Salmon	2	10 - 14 lbs.	unmarked male & female
Silver Salmon	5	8 - 15 lbs.	3 unmarked 2 marked Ad - Mad River Fish
Coast Cutthroat	1	12"	
Steelhead	1	12"	
Sucker	19	10 - 14 in.	

Second Haul

King Salmon	1	18"	unmarked "jack"
Silver Salmon	3	8 - 15 lbs.	1 marked Ad 2 unmarked
Steelhead	5	12" - 14"	
Sucker	6	10" - 12"	