

MEMORANDUM

To: Mark Pisano

Date: September 28, 2009

From: Mark Hampton

Subject: Chinook salmon reconnaissance survey on the Scott River

On Monday, September 28, 2009, Mark Clifford and I conducted a reconnaissance survey on the lower Scott River to determine the location and condition of adult Chinook salmon in the lower Scott River. Flows at the USGS gage near Fort Jones were 7 cfs. Large numbers of adult Chinook salmon were observed holding in two pools in the lower Scott River downstream of Scott Bar (Figure 1). We estimated that there were about $150 \pm$ adult Chinook salmon holding in the pool below the Highway 96 Bridge and about $120 \pm$ adult Chinook salmon holding in the pool at river mile 0.75 (Figure 2). No salmon were observed further upstream in pools at approximately river mile 2.4 (Midpoint) or at the Pat Ford Cabin access point upstream of Scott Bar.



Figure 1. Location where adult Chinook salmon were observed holding in the lower Scott River on September 28, 2009.

Two adult Chinook salmon, one male (102cm) and one female (78cm) were found dead downstream of the Highway 96 Bridge crossing (Figure 3). Both fish appeared to be fresh (clear eyes) and were collected for pathological examination which was conducted

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by Mark Clifford (Figure 5). The fish were retrieved at approximately 13:15 hours and the water temperature at the time of collection was 62°F (16.7°C). Both fish were infected with Columnaris bacteria and Ich trophonts. For details refer to Mark Clifford's Fish Pathologist Report. Neither of the fish had spawned, and a scale sample was collected and provided to the Klamath River Project for age determination.



Figure 2. Adult Chinook salmon holding the pool underneath the Highway 96 Bridge near the mouth of the Scott River.



Figure 3. Chinook salmon mortalities retrieved from the lower Scott River downstream of the Highway 96 Bridge crossing. The large fish is a male (102 cm) and the smaller fish is an unspawned female (78 cm).



Figure 4. Note the erosion of the gills and signs of *Columnaris* infection present on the gills.



Figure 5. Mark Clifford, Ph.D., Associate Fish Pathologist with the Department conducting a clinical examination of the two adult Chinook salmon recovered from the lower Scott River, September 28, 2009.