

Memorandum

To : Region 3

Date: March 1, 1968

From : Department of Fish and Game - Region 3

Subject: Report of 1967-68 Season - Ft. Bragg Area Creel Censuses -
General Information.

The largest single factor determining angler use is water conditions. For example, during the latter part of December and early January water flows were close to summer levels with the water very clear. At this time fish previously in the river had long since been upstream and the few stragglers in the tidewater are difficult to catch. These factors keep almost all local anglers at home. During the second week in January after slightly over a month the rains came again. Depending on the amount of rain these rivers, especially the Navarro, are unfishable for a week and sometimes longer.

The most favored method of angling is bait fishing with fresh and cured salmon and steelhead roe. At least 95% of the anglers use roe with the other 5% using solely flies and lures. Of the bait fishermen about 10-15% will use lures and flies as conditions permit. Lure and fly fishing is at its best in low clear water.

It is hard to get a good picture of hours spent and fish caught for several reasons.

1. Not being able to check the streams more frequently due to the number of streams and other jobs requiring time spent elsewhere.
2. Many of the local fishermen fish only on weekdays and know the rivers well enough to get their fish in a short period of time when the fish are in. Several of these fishermen get 20-30 steelhead during the season.

With exception of the Navarro, the Noyo, Ten Mile, Big and Albion Rivers are fished almost exclusively by Mendocino County residents. Of these, most are from Fort Bragg and Mendocino. After the rivers have dropped and become "fishable" fishing pressure is heavy for 2-5 days and then tapers off as waters drop and clear.

TEN MILE RIVER

Including Clark's Fork and South Fork

	Days cen- sused	Esti- mated total anglers	Esti- mated total hours fished	Average angler use		Total fish caught	
				In hours by Day		S.S.	S.H.
				A.M.	P.M.		
12/17 to 12/23	2½	60	240	40	53.2	6	4
12/31 to 1/6	½	3	15	5	-	-	-
1/14 to 1/20	½	3	12	-	4	-	-
1/21 to 1/27	½	0	0	-	-	-	-

The Ten Mile River in its entirety runs through Union Lumber Company land or land under individual private ownership. The only access is through locked gates with exception of a county road leading to the South Fork which leads to private property. Therefore, fishing is usually limited to local residents and employees of Union Lumber Company. Normally the general public can fish tidewater by skiff and about one mile above tidewater along the bank. Above this, access is controlled by a local rancher and Union Lumber Company. The South Fork, although on private property, is open to fishing about one mile above tidewater to closure. Only two miles of stream is accessible by car as a locked gate restricts travel.

NAVARRO RIVER
Mouth to Dimmick State Park

Date	Days Censused	Estimated total anglers	Estimated total hours fished	Average angler use In hours by Day		Total fish caught	
				A.M.	P.M.	S.S.	S.H.
12/17 to 12/23	½	18	63.0	63	-	1	2
12/24 to 12/30	½	21	1 94.5	-	94.5	-	-
12/31 to 1/6	½	7	21	21		-	-
1/21 to 1/27	1	66		180.0	117.0	6	

The Navarro River is readily accessible by road from the mouth to Dimmick State Park. Between Dimmick State Park and Philo (approximate upstream closure) access is limited to foot travel or by floating in a rubber raft from Philo down to Dimmick. Masonite Company has a road leading to the river but locked gates keep the general public out.

Of the streams censused the Navarro has by far the largest percent of out of county fishermen. This percentage has varied from 15-35%.

Noyo River
Mouth to South Fork

Date	Days Censused	Estimated total anglers	Estimated total hours fished	Average angler use In hours by day		Total fish caught	
				A.M.	P.M.	S.S.	S.H.
12/17 to 12/23	1½	25	75	42	33	7	4
12/31 to 1/6	½	4	20	20	-	2	0
1/7 to 1/13	½	1	4	-	4	0	0
1/14 to 1/20	1½	20	100	60	40	0	9
1/21 to 1/27	1	18	55	60	30	0	4

The Noyo River from the mouth to the junction of the South Fork is roughly paralleled by a Union Lumber Company road. Access to this road is granted by permit from Union Lumber Company although many people do not get permits. Cars are not permitted on week days when there is logging truck activity. This depends on weather and road conditions.

This river also is fished primarily by local residents due to "private logging road" signs. It is possible to fish almost the entire open fishing area by riding the "Skunk" train and getting off where desired. There are also several other access roads to the upper sections of the river but these are little known to outsiders and frequently require 4x4 vehicles.

Robert Marsh
Fish and Wildlife Assistant
Region 3