

Summary of field data collection efforts for fall-run Chinook Salmon in the Oregon portion of the Mainstem Klamath River during the 2024 Season

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Klamath Anadromous Restoration Program,
Klamath Falls, Oregon January 23rd, 2025

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife staff began weekly floating and foot-based spawning ground surveys for fall-run Chinook Salmon on the mainstem of the Klamath River on October 8, 2024, and ended surveys on December 26th, 2024 following multiple weeks of zero new live fish and zero new redds. Surveys consisted of floating multiple reaches of the river using at least one cataraft and one inflatable kayak so that both sides of the river could be surveyed. The surveys covered three segments including 3.65km of the former JC Boyle reservoir footprint, the 1.71km stretch from Klamath River Campground to Turtle Campground, and the 2.93km stretch from Turtle Campground to above the Caldera Rapids (fig 6). Data collected included counts of live fish, counts of new redds, and all new carcasses encountered were sampled for sex, length, fin clips, and scales were collected on all carcasses for aging if the preferred collection area on body was present. Heads were removed from all ad-clipped carcasses encountered for CWT recovery. Due to safety concerns and physical access, much of the Klamath River was not surveyed. Reaches not surveyed are in steep canyons where the river consists of high gradient, large boulder sections that contain little to no suitable spawning habitat. However, where it is known that *O.mykiss* (resident Rainbow Trout) spawn in these difficult to access reaches, periodic foot-based surveys were conducted, such as the bypass reach upstream of the former JC Boyle powerhouse.

Live Fish Summary

During weekly surveys of reaches in the mainstem Klamath River all live fall-run Chinook Salmon were counted. Live fish were first observed in the JC Boyle reach above the former JC Boyle Dam on October 23rd, 2024, and peaked at 88 live fish on October 30th. The Campground and Frain Ranch reaches were surveyed weekly on the same day throughout the survey period and were combined with a peak count on November 6th of 93 fall-run Chinook Salmon (fig 1). On a foot-based survey in the Bypass Reach on Oct 29th 5 fall-run Chinook Salmon were observed at one location. **The summation of all reaches maximum daily live fish counts (186) plus total sampled carcasses up to that date (9) resulted in an estimated run size based on live fish observations of 195 fall-run Chinook Salmon (table 1).**

**Note that while an estimate of run size was determined using live fish observations, ODFW does not recommend this method in determining the run size of fall-run Chinook Salmon in the Oregon portion of the Klamath River due to the difficulties of observing fish in such a large river with turbid or off-color water. Instead, ODFW recommends using the redd count data and jack fraction to estimate run size, which is calculated in the subsequent section.*

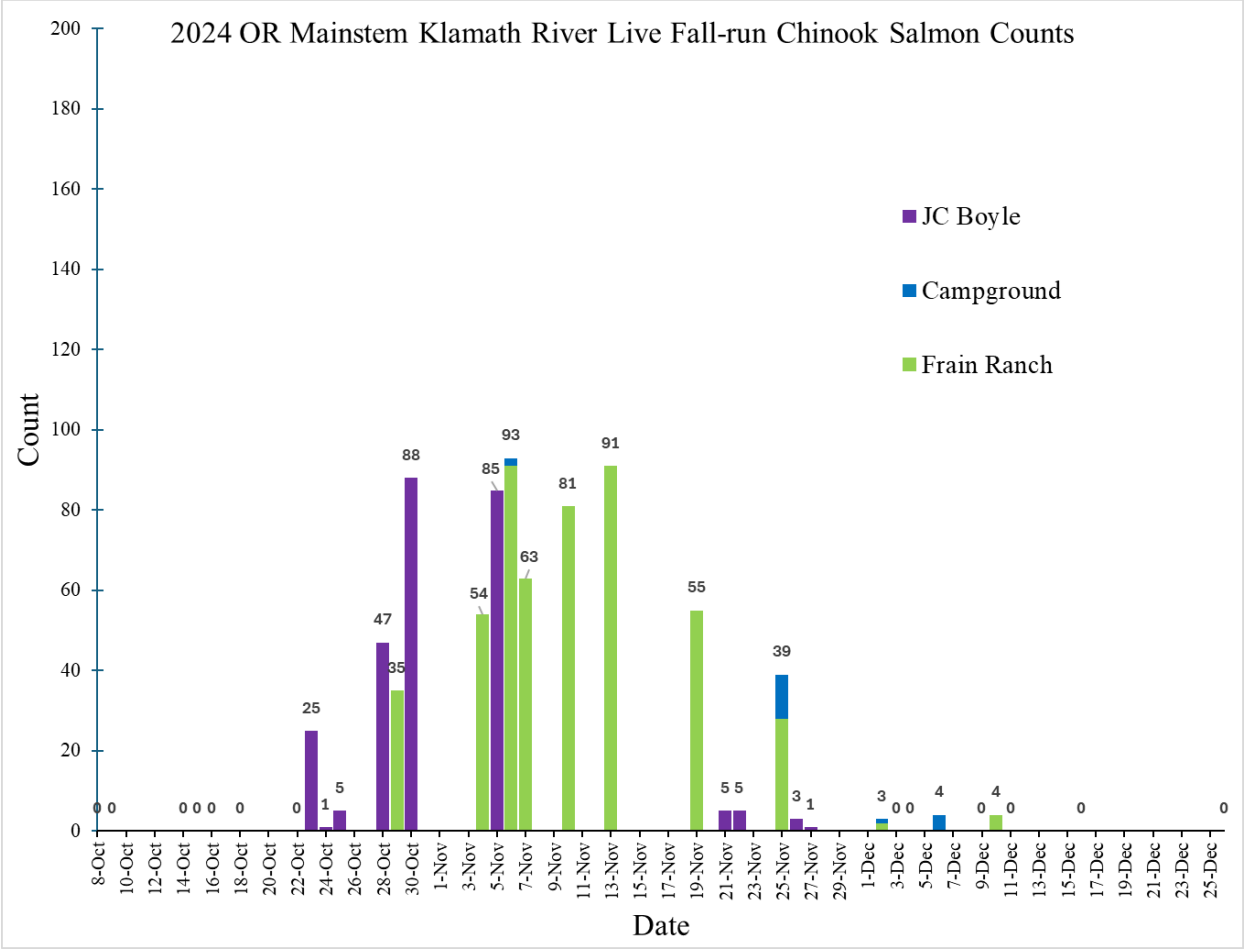


Figure 1. Counts of live fall-run Chinook Salmon in the Oregon Mainstem Klamath River during the 2024 survey. Zeros denote a survey took place on that day, but no live fish were observed.

Table 1. Maximum daily counts of live fall-run Chinook Salmon in the Oregon Mainstem Klamath River during the 2024 survey.

2024 Oregon Mainstem Klamath River Estimated fall-run Chinook Salmon based on live fish counts				
Reach	Date	Daily maximum count	# Carcasses up to max count date	Estimated run size (Daily max count plus carcasses to date)
JC Boyle Reach	10/30/2024	88	7	95
Frain Ranch and campground Reaches	11/6/2024	93	2	95
Bypass Reach	10/29/2024	5	0	5
Total		186	9	195

Redd Count Summary and Run Size Estimate

During weekly surveys of the mainstem Klamath River, all new fall-run Chinook Salmon redds were enumerated and marked with flagging to prevent duplicate counting in subsequent surveys. A total of 151 redds were observed (fig 2). Mean daily discharge in the mainstem Klamath River downstream of the former JC Boyle powerhouse fluctuated between 940 cfs and 1,010 cfs during the survey period. Mean daily turbidity (measured in FNU) fluctuated between 5 and 11 FNUs (fig 3).

Assuming each redd represents one adult female and one adult male fall-run Chinook Salmon, redd counts were multiplied by two to estimate adult escapement. An estimated 302 adult fall-run Chinook Salmon spawned in the mainstem Klamath River in Oregon downstream of Keno Dam.

From examination of length frequency distributions of carcasses and known-age fall-run Chinook Salmon that were determined from CWT analysis, a preliminary jack cut off of ≤ 59 cm was established for the mainstem Klamath River in Oregon. Based on this determination **ODFW estimates that the 2024 fall-run Chinook Salmon run in the Oregon portion of the Klamath River was comprised of 53 jacks (14.9%) and 302 (85.1%) adults for a total run size estimate of 355 (table 2).**

Table 2. Estimated fall-run Chinook Salmon run size in 2024 in the Oregon portion of the Klamath River based on redd count and estimated jack fraction.

2024 Oregon Mainstem Klamath River Estimated fall-run Chinook Salmon based on redd counts						
Total Redds counted	Redd Multiplier	Estimated adult run size (total redds*multiplier)	Jacks (≤ 59 FL cm)	Estimated jack fraction (Pjack) (jack carcasses measured/total male carcasses measured)	Estimated Total run size including jacks (Est. adult run size/(1-Pjack))	Estimated number of jacks (Est. total run - Est. adult run)
151	2	302	7	0.15	355	53

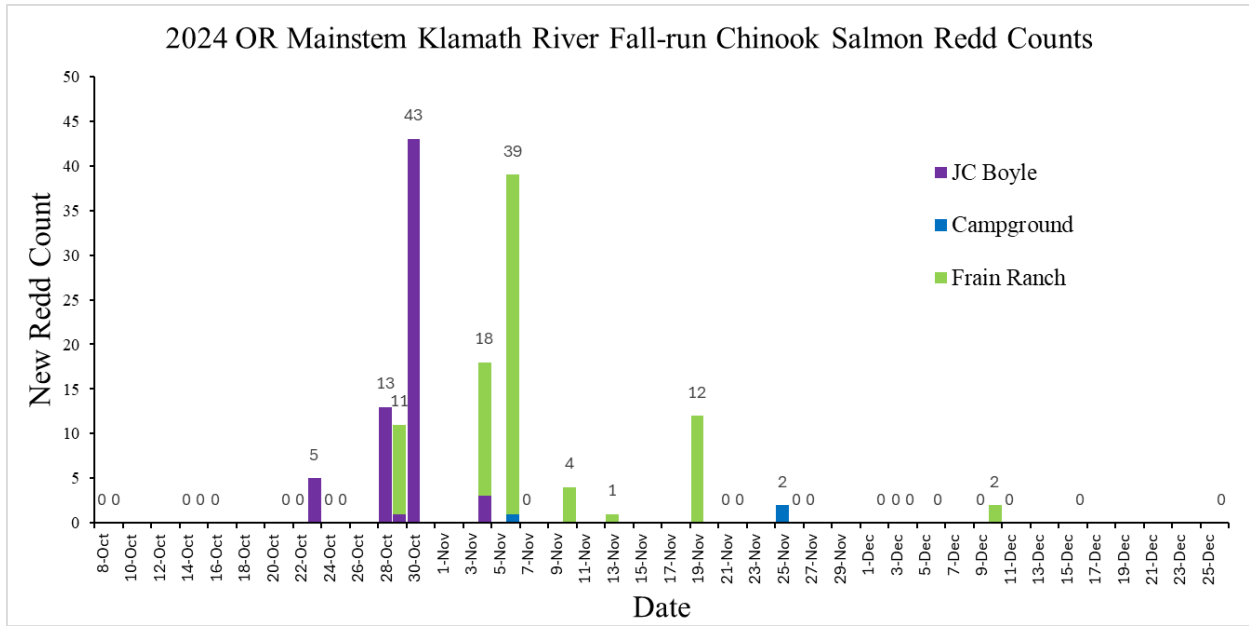


Figure 2. Counts of new fall-run Chinook Salmon redds in the Oregon portion of the mainstem Klamath River during the 2024 survey. Zeros denote a survey took place on that day, but no new redds were observed.

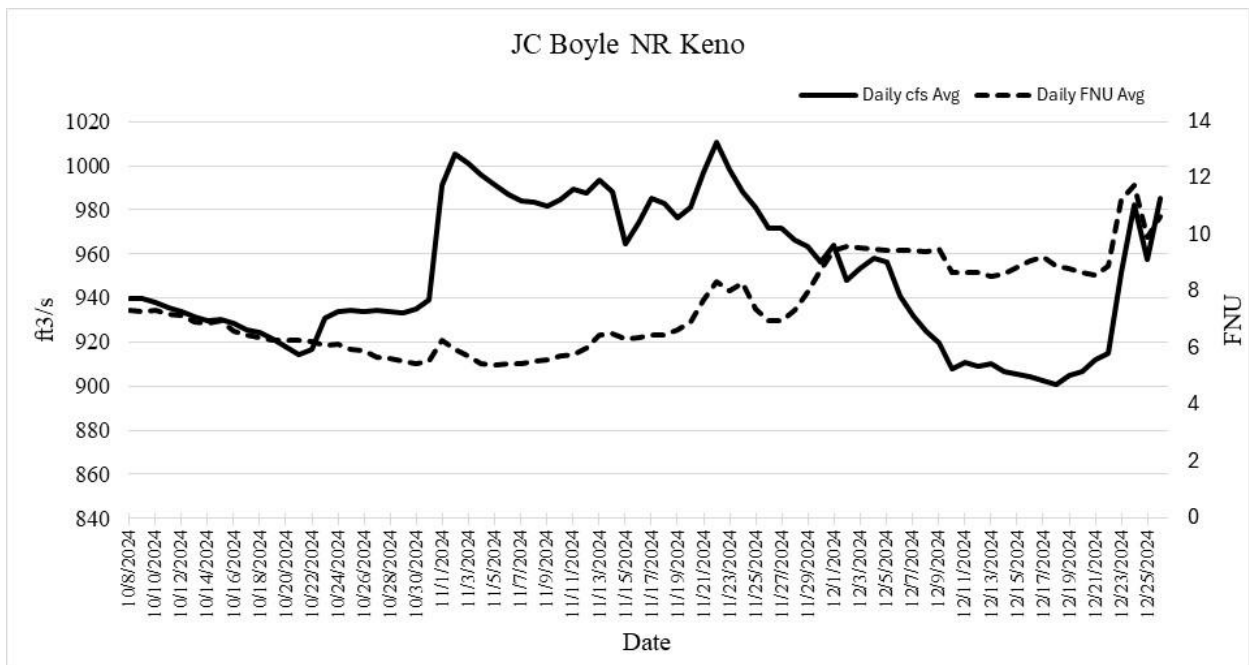
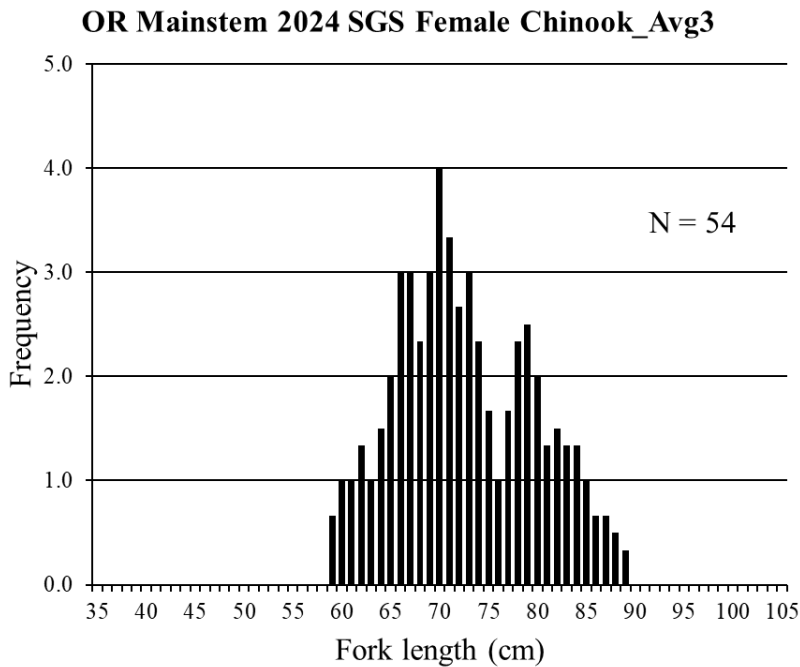
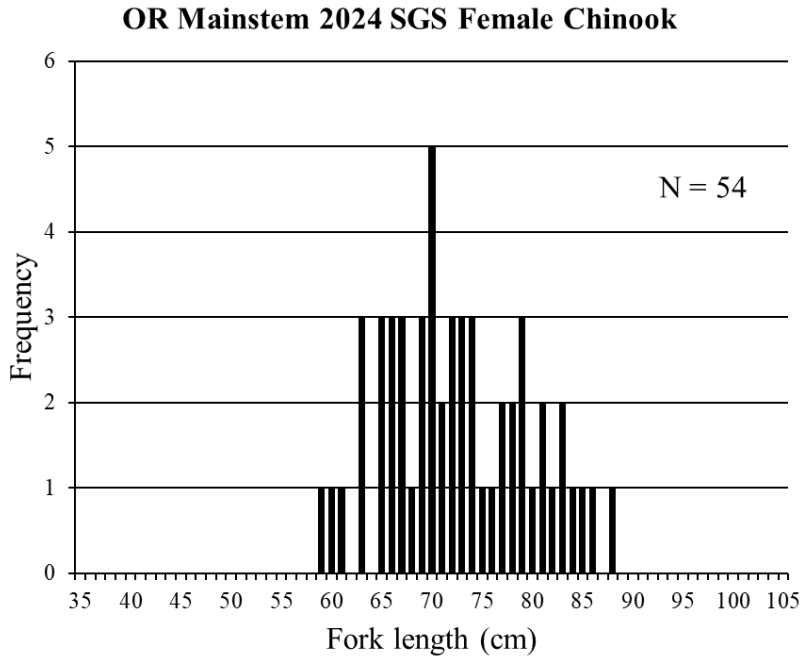


Figure 3. Mean daily discharge (solid line; cfs) and turbidity (dashed line; FNU) in the Klamath River Below John C. Boyle Powerplant, near Keno, OR (USGS Gaging Station 11510700) during the 2024 fall-run Chinook Salmon redd surveys (<https://waterdata.usgs.gov>; January 16, 2025)

Carcass Survey Summary

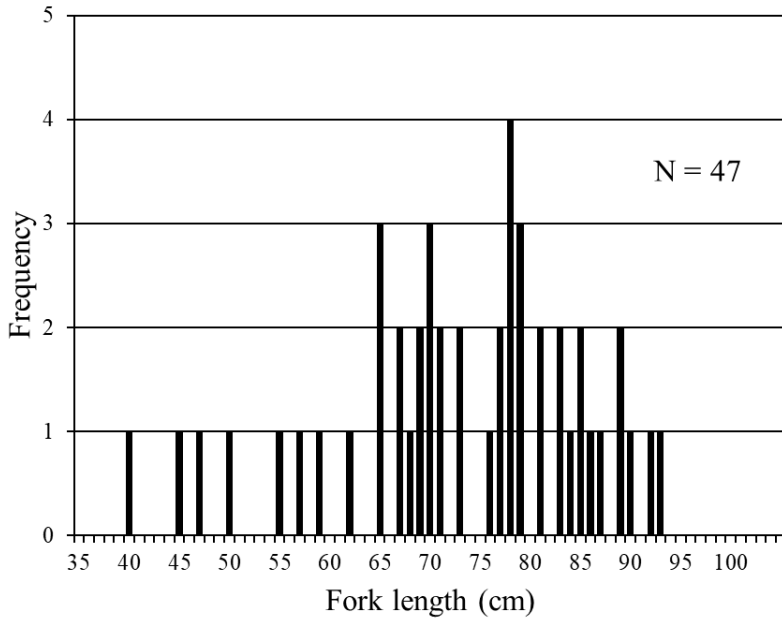
During weekly surveys of reaches in the mainstem Klamath River all carcasses encountered were counted and sampled. Depending on the condition of the carcass, length, sex, and fin clips were recorded. If they could be obtained, scales were collected from carcasses. Heads were collected from ad-clipped fish for detection of CWTs. A total of 143 carcasses were counted in all sampled reaches of the mainstem Klamath River in Oregon during the spawning ground surveys. Of the carcasses that were able to be identified by sex and could be measured (FL, cm) 47 were male (46.53%) and 54 were female (53.47%) (fig 4). Thirty-two carcasses of the total counted could not be identified by sex, usually due to scavenging from wildlife prior to encountering them. Scales were collected from 132 fall-run Chinook Salmon carcasses.

Positive CWT codes were obtained from the 18 heads collected from ad-clipped carcasses. Known age fish along with their lengths are summarized in figure 5. Due to the sampling regime applied and the frequency of sampling we assume that 100% of the carcasses that were present in the reaches surveyed were recovered and no sample expansion was applied. CWT recoveries were expanded by their production multiplier (estimated at the time of juvenile release, obtained from hatchery records). **The estimated number of hatchery fall-run Chinook Salmon in the mainstem Klamath River was 68 fish (19.2% of total estimated run; table 3) (updated on 1/22/2026; previous reports were 27 hatchery fish and 7.6% due to not expanding the sample).**

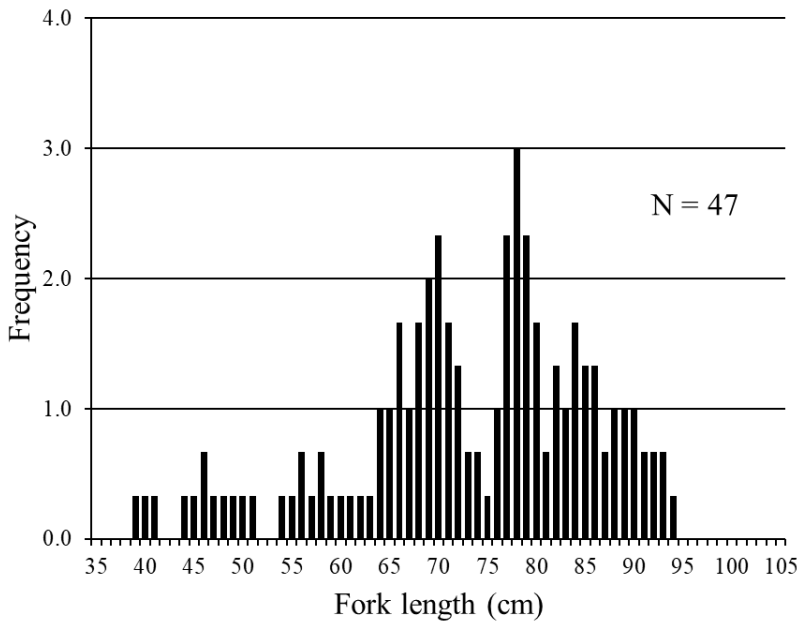


2024 Oregon Mainstem SGS Female Chinook				
Length	Frequency	Avg 3	% at FL	% ≤FL
35	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
36	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
37	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
38	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
39	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
40	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
41	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
42	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
43	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
44	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
45	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
46	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
47	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
48	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
49	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
50	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
51	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
52	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
53	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
54	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
55	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
56	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
57	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
58	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
59	1	0.6667	0.0185	0.0185
60	1	1.0000	0.0185	0.0370
61	1	1.0000	0.0185	0.0556
62	0	1.3333	0.0000	0.0556
63	3	1.0000	0.0556	0.1111
64	0	1.5000	0.0000	0.1111
65	3	2.0000	0.0556	0.1667
66	3	3.0000	0.0556	0.2222
67	3	3.0000	0.0556	0.2778
68	1	2.3333	0.0185	0.2963
69	3	3.0000	0.0556	0.3519
70	5	4.0000	0.0926	0.4444
71	2	3.3333	0.0370	0.4815
72	3	2.6667	0.0556	0.5370
73	3	3.0000	0.0556	0.5926
74	3	2.3333	0.0556	0.6481
75	1	1.6667	0.0185	0.6667
76	1	1.0000	0.0185	0.6852
77	2	1.6667	0.0370	0.7222
78	2	2.3333	0.0370	0.7593
79	3	2.5000	0.0556	0.8148
80	1	2.0000	0.0185	0.8333
81	2	1.3333	0.0370	0.8704
82	1	1.5000	0.0185	0.8889
83	2	1.3333	0.0370	0.9259
84	1	1.3333	0.0185	0.9444
85	1	1.0000	0.0185	0.9630
86	1	0.6667	0.0185	0.9815
87	0	0.6667	0.0000	0.9815
88	1	0.5000	0.0185	1.0000
89	0	0.3333	0.0000	1.0000
90	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
91	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
92	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
93	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
94	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
95	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
96	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
97	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
98	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
99	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
100	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
101	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
102	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
103	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
104	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
105	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
N	54			
Avg FL	72.56			
%f	53.47			

OR Mainstem 2024 SGS Male Chinook



OR Mainstem 2024 SGS Male Chinook_Avg 3



2024 Oregon Mainstem SGS Male Chinook				
Length	Frequency	Avg 3	% at FL	% ≤FL
35	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
36	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
37	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
38	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
39	0	0.3333	0.0000	0.0000
40	1	0.3333	0.0213	0.0213
41	0	0.3333	0.0000	0.0213
42	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0213
43	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0213
44	0	0.3333	0.0000	0.0213
45	1	0.3333	0.0213	0.0426
46	0	0.6667	0.0000	0.0426
47	1	0.3333	0.0213	0.0638
48	0	0.3333	0.0000	0.0638
49	0	0.3333	0.0000	0.0638
50	1	0.3333	0.0213	0.0851
51	0	0.3333	0.0000	0.0851
52	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0851
53	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0851
54	0	0.3333	0.0000	0.0851
55	1	0.3333	0.0213	0.1064
56	0	0.6667	0.0000	0.1064
57	1	0.3333	0.0213	0.1277
58	0	0.6667	0.0000	0.1277
59	1	0.3333	0.0213	0.1489
60	0	0.3333	0.0000	0.1489
61	0	0.3333	0.0000	0.1489
62	1	0.3333	0.0213	0.1702
63	0	0.3333	0.0000	0.1702
64	0	1.0000	0.0000	0.1702
65	3	1.0000	0.0638	0.2340
66	0	1.6667	0.0000	0.2340
67	2	1.0000	0.0426	0.2766
68	1	1.6667	0.0213	0.2979
69	2	2.0000	0.0426	0.3404
70	3	2.3333	0.0638	0.4043
71	2	1.6667	0.0426	0.4468
72	0	1.3333	0.0000	0.4468
73	2	0.6667	0.0426	0.4894
74	0	0.6667	0.0000	0.4894
75	0	0.3333	0.0000	0.4894
76	1	1.0000	0.0213	0.5106
77	2	2.3333	0.0426	0.5532
78	4	3.0000	0.0851	0.6383
79	3	2.3333	0.0638	0.7021
80	0	1.6667	0.0000	0.7021
81	2	0.6667	0.0426	0.7447
82	0	1.3333	0.0000	0.7447
83	2	1.0000	0.0426	0.7872
84	1	1.6667	0.0213	0.8085
85	2	1.3333	0.0426	0.8511
86	1	1.3333	0.0213	0.8723
87	1	0.6667	0.0213	0.8936
88	0	1.0000	0.0000	0.8936
89	2	1.0000	0.0426	0.9362
90	1	1.0000	0.0213	0.9574
91	0	0.6667	0.0000	0.9574
92	1	0.6667	0.0213	0.9787
93	1	0.6667	0.0213	1.0000
94	0	0.3333	0.0000	1.0000
95	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
96	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
97	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
98	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
99	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
100	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
101	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
102	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
103	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
104	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
105	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
N	47			
Avg FL	73.09			
%m	46.53			

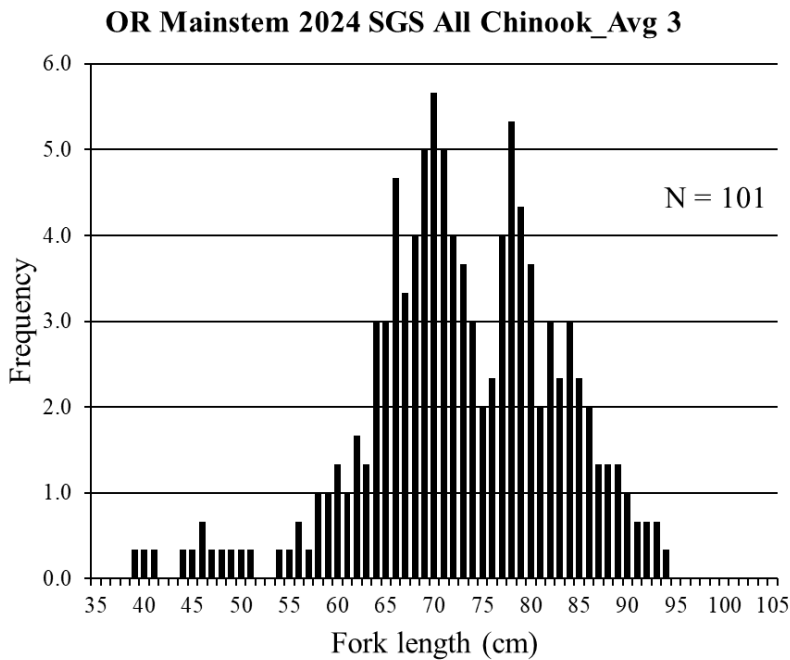
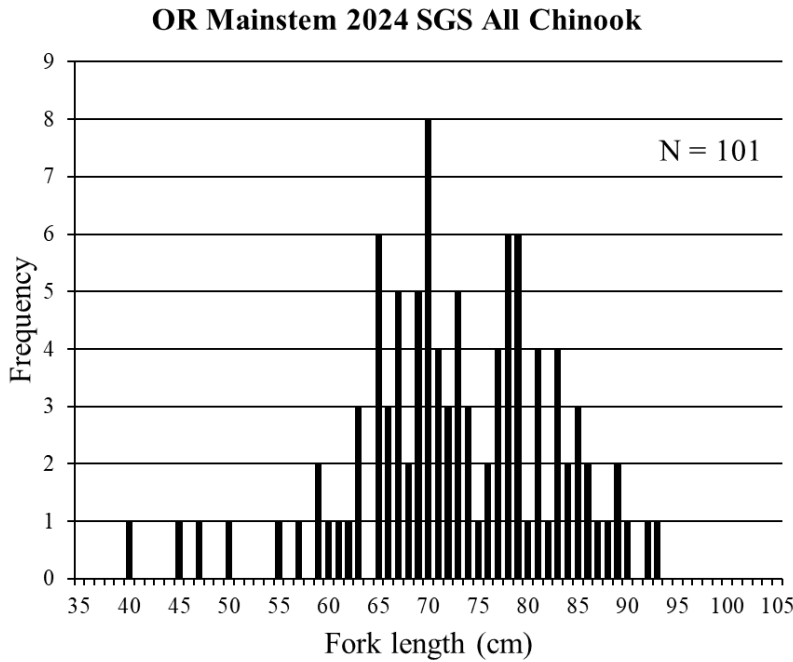


Figure 4. Fork length (cm) histograms and moving average of 3 (Avg 3) histograms of Chinook Salmon carcasses sampled in the Oregon mainstem Klamath River during spawning ground surveys (SGS) in 2024

2024 Oregon Klamath River SGS All Chinook				
Length	Frequency	Avg 3	% at FL	% ≤FL
35	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
36	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
37	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
38	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
39	0	0.3333	0.0000	0.0000
40	1	0.3333	0.0099	0.0099
41	0	0.3333	0.0000	0.0099
42	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0099
43	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0099
44	0	0.3333	0.0000	0.0099
45	1	0.3333	0.0099	0.0198
46	0	0.6667	0.0000	0.0198
47	1	0.3333	0.0099	0.0297
48	0	0.3333	0.0000	0.0297
49	0	0.3333	0.0000	0.0297
50	1	0.3333	0.0099	0.0396
51	0	0.3333	0.0000	0.0396
52	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0396
53	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0396
54	0	0.3333	0.0000	0.0396
55	1	0.3333	0.0099	0.0495
56	0	0.6667	0.0000	0.0495
57	1	0.3333	0.0099	0.0594
58	0	1.0000	0.0000	0.0594
59	2	1.0000	0.0198	0.0792
60	1	1.3333	0.0099	0.0891
61	1	1.0000	0.0099	0.0990
62	1	1.6667	0.0099	0.1089
63	3	1.3333	0.0297	0.1386
64	0	3.0000	0.0000	0.1386
65	6	3.0000	0.0594	0.1980
66	3	4.6667	0.0297	0.2277
67	5	3.3333	0.0495	0.2772
68	2	4.0000	0.0198	0.2970
69	5	5.0000	0.0495	0.3465
70	8	5.6667	0.0792	0.4257
71	4	5.0000	0.0396	0.4653
72	3	4.0000	0.0297	0.4950
73	5	3.6667	0.0495	0.5446
74	3	3.0000	0.0297	0.5743
75	1	2.0000	0.0099	0.5842
76	2	2.3333	0.0198	0.6040
77	4	4.0000	0.0396	0.6436
78	6	5.3333	0.0594	0.7030
79	6	4.3333	0.0594	0.7624
80	1	3.6667	0.0099	0.7723
81	4	2.0000	0.0396	0.8119
82	1	3.0000	0.0099	0.8218
83	4	2.3333	0.0396	0.8614
84	2	3.0000	0.0198	0.8812
85	3	2.3333	0.0297	0.9109
86	2	2.0000	0.0198	0.9307
87	1	1.3333	0.0099	0.9406
88	1	1.3333	0.0099	0.9505
89	2	1.3333	0.0198	0.9703
90	1	1.0000	0.0099	0.9802
91	0	0.6667	0.0000	0.9802
92	1	0.6667	0.0099	0.9901
93	1	0.6667	0.0099	1.0000
94	0	0.3333	0.0000	1.0000
95	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
96	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
97	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
98	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
99	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
100	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
101	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
102	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
103	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
104	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
105	0	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
N	101			
Avg FL	72.80			

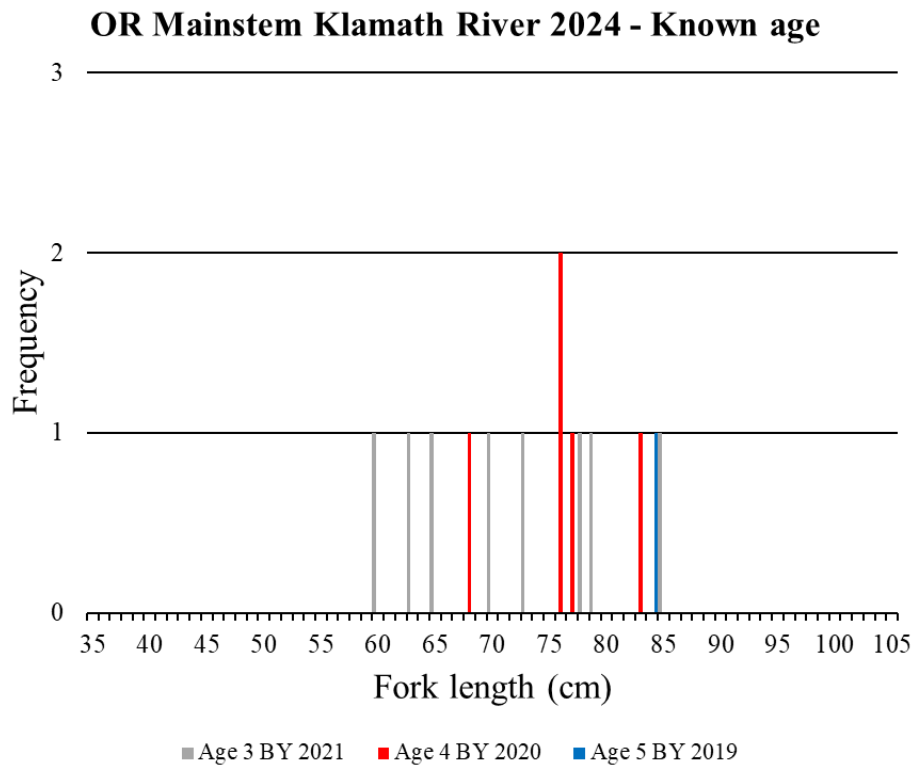


Figure 5. Fork length (cm) histogram of known age and brood year (BY) fall-run Chinook Salmon carcasses with coded-wire-tags (CWT) sampled in the Oregon mainstem Klamath River during spawning ground surveys in 2024.

Table 3. Summary of Oregon mainstem Klamath River fall-run Chinook Salmon hatchery contribution derived from CWT recovered during spawning ground surveys in 2024.

2024 ORMain - Klamath River Spawning Ground Survey								
CWT	Location	Release type a/	Brood year	Sample number	Production multiplier b/	production estimate c/	Sample Expansion d/	Expanded estimate e/
61545	IGH	F	2021	1	1.0157	1.0157	2.4825	2.5215
61546	IGH	F	2021	1	1.0146	1.0146	2.4825	2.5187
61582	IGH	Y	2020	3	1.0112	3.0336	2.4825	7.5309
61585	IGH	AF	2020	3	4.0241	12.0723	2.4825	29.9695
62078	IGH	Y	2019	1	1.0058	1.0058	2.4825	2.4969
62079	IGH	AF	2021	3	1.0181	3.0543	2.4825	7.5823
62269	IGH	F	2021	2	1.0056	2.0112	2.4825	4.9928
62270	IGH	F	2021	2	1.0079	2.0158	2.4825	5.0042
62271	IGH	AF	2021	1	1.0187	1.0187	2.4825	2.5289
62386	IGH	AF	2021	1	1.0193	1.0193	2.4825	2.5304
CWT sample subtotal =				18				
Hatchery contribution of carcasses sampled subtotal =						27		
Total of estimated hatchery contributions =								68
a/	Release type; F=fingerling, Y=yearling, AF=advanced fingerling							
b/	Production multiplier is the ratio of # of fish released/fish marked							
c/	Production estimate is the sample number multiplied by the production multiplier							
d/	Sample expansion is the ratio of the estimated total run size and the number of carcasses sampled							
e/	Expanded estimate is the production estimate multiplied by the sample expansion							

Age composition and age-specific run-size from scale analysis

Scales were collected from every carcass encountered during the survey and analyzed by the Yurok Tribe Fisheries Department. This data is incorporated in the Klamath River Technical Team (KRTT) estimate for age-specific escapement of fall-run Chinook Salmon for the entire Klamath River Basin. The age proportions for the mainstem Klamath River are shown in Table 4. **The ages from the scale analysis were used to estimate an age-specific run-size from redd count data resulting in an age-specific run size of 322 fall-run Chinook Salmon (table 4).**

Table 4. Age composition and age-specific run size estimated from scales collected from fall-run Chinook Salmon carcasses sampled in the mainstem Klamath River, Oregon in 2024.

Mainstem Klamath River, OR fall-run Chinook Salmon scale-based age analysis					
	Age				Total
	2	3	4	5	
Proportion	0.0609	0.4992	0.3902	0.0498	1.0000
Age-specific run Est.	19	163	124	16	322

Aknowledgement

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife thanks Green Diamond Resource Company, Pacific Power, Klamath River Renewal Corporation, and other private landowners for allowing access to conduct surveys. The Klamath Tribes AMBODAT program provided assistance with some surveys.