

Memorandum

To : D. Hallock

Date : June 19, 2001

From : **Colleen Harvey Arrison**
Department of Fish and Game

Subject : Accounts of Winter-run Chinook Salmon in Battle and Mill Creeks

I was able to find reference to winter-run spawning in Battle and Mill creeks in 1962. Although reference is made to earlier sightings in the 1957-58 spawning period, I could find no mention of winter-run salmon in the April-June reports for those years, nor in the Spawner Escapement Records for those years. This information came from Department's Central Valley Salmon/Steelhead Program Monthly Reports.

CDFG Interoffice correspondence from R.J. Halleck to E.J. Hughes, Monthly Report for April 1962, C.V. Salmon/Steelhead Project.

"Mill Creek Counting Station

During the month, 19 steelhead and 231 salmon passed through the counting station at Clough Dam on Mill Creek. The salmon included 207 spring-run and 24 winter-run fish. The occurrence of winter-run salmon in Mill Creek is not unusual, and is most noticeable during years when there is a large run in the Sacramento."

CDFG, Interoffice Correspondence from R.J. Hallock to E.J. Hughes, Monthly Report for May 1962, C.V. Salmon/Steelhead Project.

"Mill Creek Counting Station

On May 22nd observations were made of winter-run king salmon spawning activities in Battle and Mill Creeks.

Battle Creek was run by boat between Coleman Hatchery and one mile below the county road bridge. A total of 457 salmon was counted on the spawning beds including 266 live and 191 dead fish. The dead fish consisted of 106 spawned out males and 84 spawned out females.

Mill Creek was covered between Clough and Ward Dams. A total of 52 salmon was counted on the redds including 47 live and 5 dead fish. Sex of the dead fish was not determined.

Spawning in the tributaries by winter-run fish is not unusual, but the large numbers are. This is the greatest number of fish noted spawning in the tributaries; at least during the past 15 years.

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During the winter of 1957-1958, "spring spawners" were also noted in tributaries in unusual numbers.

The tremendous sport catch in the upper Sacramento River in recent years plus the spreading out of spawning activity into the tributaries, indicate a substantial increase in winter-run salmon."

CDFG, Interoffice Correspondence from R. J. Hallock to E. J. Hughes, Monthly Report for June 1962, C.V. Salmon/Steelhead Project.

"Mill Creek Counting Station

The numbers of salmon and steelhead examined [through the counting station at Clough Dam] during the season ...includes 121 winter-run king salmon."