

November 15, 2009

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EL DORADO COUNTY

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Mark Stopher
California Department of Fish and Game
Regional Headquarters
601 Locust Street Redding, CA 96001

Dear Mr. Stopher:

The following paragraph, about the great salmon fishing on the Trinity river, was submitted to the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors on Oct. 6, 2009 concerning the obviously discriminatory and illegal ban on suction dredge mining. The EDC Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution containing many statements backed by facts and peer reviewed studies concluding that Suction Dredge mining has minimal, if any, deleterious effects on fisheries or aquatic habitat. In fact, the economic contributions as well as the environmental clean up of toxic lead and mercury and other user trash from our waterways are well established facts. The suction dredge mining community should be encouraged in their endeavors to create real wealth within our economies and as an incidental by-product, remediate the in stream negative environmental effects caused by other past and present user groups.

So, apparently the salmon fishing is great on the Trinity River in spite of it being one of the most heavily gold dredged rivers in Northern California. So, why has suction dredging been banned in the entire state under the guise of protecting salmon when, in fact, salmon runs don't exist on many rivers draining the Sierra Nevada Range and in fact on rivers where salmon runs are still healthy, the salmon seem to co-exist just fine alongside the gold dredging community. Something smells very fishy with this state-wide ban on suction dredging. Incidentally, this article on the great salmon fishing on the Trinity River was published exactly one week after the suction dredge ban was signed into law. The whole thing stinks. NOTE: See accompanying articles from the Sacramento Bee. Also, the Klamath River has been a heavily dredged river and with the Trinity, they are the only two north coast rivers with salmon runs healthy enough to permit fishing, which obviously does kill fish. It doesn't take a very large amount of common sense to conclude that suction dredge mining should be encouraged to help maintain a healthy fisheries. The evidence is staring us in the face! Thank you for considering the facts.

Sincerely,



Steve Tyler
5601 Bumper Road
El Dorado, Calif. 95634

Enclosures

Cc: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

COPY SENT TO BOARD MEMBERS
FOR THEIR INFORMATION

DATE 11-16-09

Aug. 13, 2009 | The Sacramento Bee | sacbee.com/livinghere

LIVING HERE: OUTBOUND

SACRAMENTO RIVER SALMON POPULATIONS HAVE COLLAPSED, BUT WAY UP NORTH THE TRINITY IS A GREAT PLACE TO ...

Fish on!

SALMON SEASON



THURSDAY: Salmon fishing is banned almost everywhere in California except on the Trinity and Klamath rivers, but local anglers will have a limited opportunity to land a salmon on a stretch of the Sacramento River between Red Bluff and Knights Landing, beginning Monday. **LIVING HERE: OUTBOUND**

A14 The Sacramento Bee | Tuesday, November 10, 2009





HOLLY A. HEYSER

Guide Jon Harrison rows and Hank Shaw anticipates the next action in the Trinity River during a salmon trip last month. Also aboard is Harrison's dog, also named Trinity.

By **HOLLY A. HEYSER**
Special to *The Bee*

Our guide uttered the magic words on the drive home from a jackaluster striped-bass fishing trip on the Sacramento River.

For my boyfriend, Hank Shaw – who is obsessed with cooking – the abbreviated moment came with a description of the fish: “They’re so fat it’s like they come with their own butter.”

I was hypnotized by a description of the river: “The water is so clear you can see 20 feet down. Sometimes you can see the fish coming in to take your bait. And some days you don’t see anyone else on the water.”

“We’re in,” we told Jon Harrison of Five Rivers Guide Service in Orangevale. We were going salmon fishing on the Trinity River.

Salmon fishing was becoming a distant memory for us with the unexpected collapse of the Sacramento River Chinook salmon run in fall 2007. The fish count inexplicably plunged to barely half of what was expected for a sustainable population. State and federal agencies responded by drastically curbing salmon fishing in 2008, and again this year.

But salmon runs on the Klamath River and its tributary, the Rogue, are in better shape, so riches await anyone willing to make the 3½-hour trip north. And for Harrison, nothing compares to the Trinity.

“It’s my favorite of the rivers I fish,” he said, naming waterways: Sacramento, American, Feather, Yuba and Trinity.

“You can get away from people. It reminds me of my childhood fishing in the Sierras, but the fish are much larger.”

When we fished the Trinity with Harrison a few weeks ago, we targeted the spring run, the first of two Chinook runs on the river.

The fall salmon run, which is projected to be quite robust this year, is what brings anglers out in droves in September and October.

But the spring run is unusual: Instead of heading upriver and spawning fairly quickly as the fall fish do, spring-run Chinook sprint up the Trinity as early as April and spend the summer loitering in deep holes until they reach

sexual maturity. Then they move into spawning beds.

(The spring run begins in mid-June, when water flows drop to manageable levels, and continues through August.

Fishers can catch and keep two salmon a day, starting in January. Possession is also limited to no more than two.)

Because salmon don’t feed after they enter fresh water, these fish must pack on the fat before leaving the ocean for the last act of their lives. That’s what Harrison meant when he said they come with their own butter: “They’re as good as, or better than, ocean-caught salmon.”

That was appealing to me because I’d caught one salmon in my life – a 32-pound monster, just south of downtown Sacramento – and father than

SALMON | Page D7



HOLLY A. HEYSER

It’s hard to tell who’s more excited about a 29-inch salmon hauled in by Holly Heyser – guide Jon Harrison or his dog Trinity.

Salmon: Barless hooks help throw-back and escaped fish stay alive