

2024/2025 URFC Fisheries Monitoring Report

Usal Creek Watershed

Spawning Surveys: During the winter of 2024/2025, spawning surveys were conducted on 5 reaches. :

- 1) Upper North Fork Usal (25)
- 2) Bear Creek (64)
- 3) Lower South Fork Usal (55)
- 4) Upper South Fork Usal (17)
- 5) Main stem Usal (3)

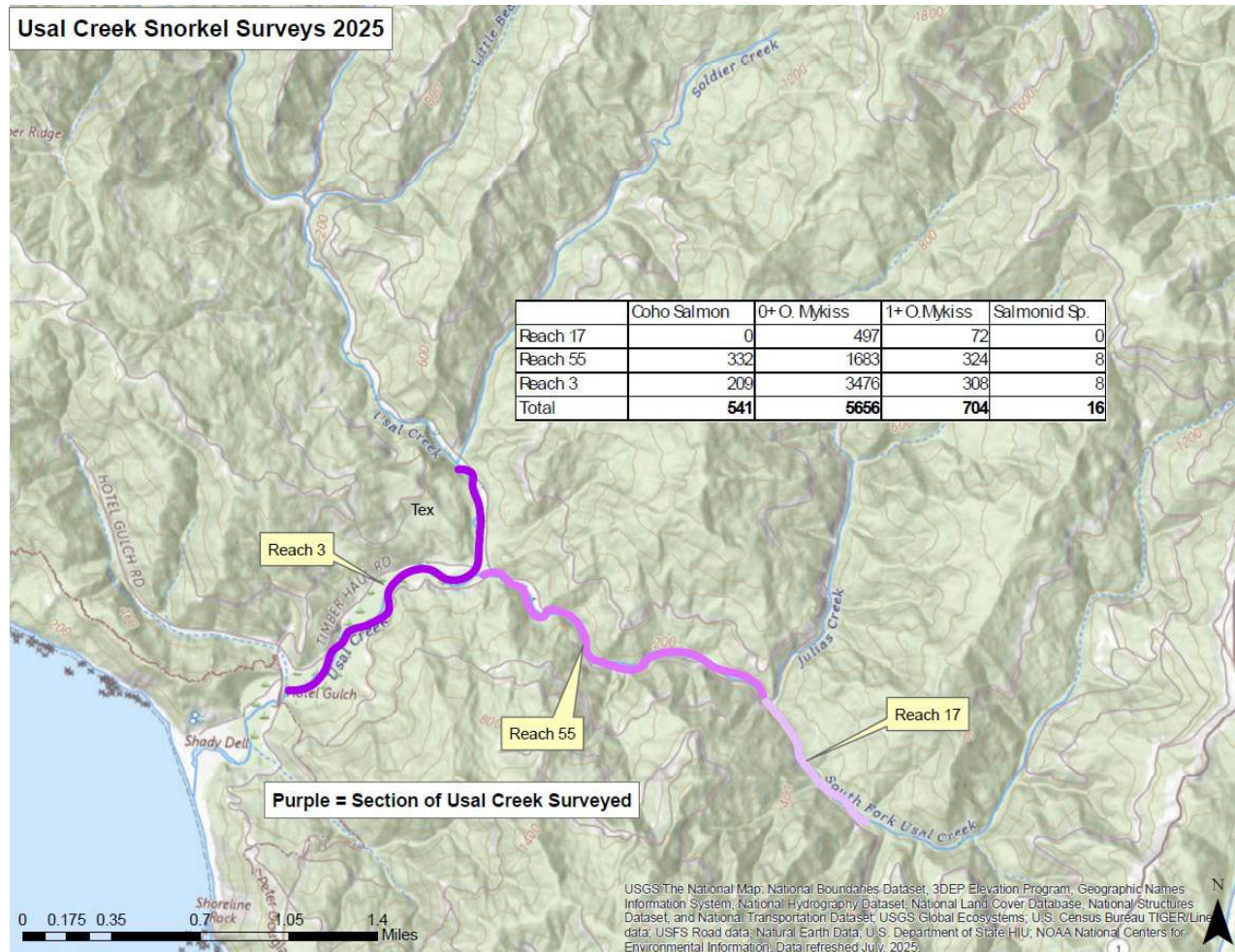
Spawning Survey Results are shown in the table below. Note that one Coho redd was observed. This is the first Coho observed in over 10 years in the Usal Creek watershed.

Reach	Coho redds	Steelhead Redds	Chinook Redds	Lamprey Redds	Coho Live	Steelhead Live	Chinook Live	Chum Live	Lamprey Live
3	0	3	0	8	0	3	0	0	0
17	0	14	0	3	0	1	0	0	0
25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55	1	20	0	1	0	4	0	0	0
64	0	8	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

Figure 1. Table of raw data collected on the Usal Creek watershed of redds and live salmonids during salmon and steelhead spawning ground surveys, November 2024 through June 2025 Mendocino County, CA.

In addition to observing Coho in Usal watershed, CDFW (California Department of Fish & Wildlife) reported that the Coho Salmon adult population estimate for the Mendocino Coast was 30,197, nearly doubling the largest return of 15,467 from 2024 and well above average (4,926) since monitoring began. Adult returns in the Ten Mile River, Noyo River, and Pudding Creek met the recovery target set by NOAA Fisheries. While these targets must be exceeded for several generations and within multiple watersheds before consideration is given for removal from the Endangered Species list, these returns are promising.

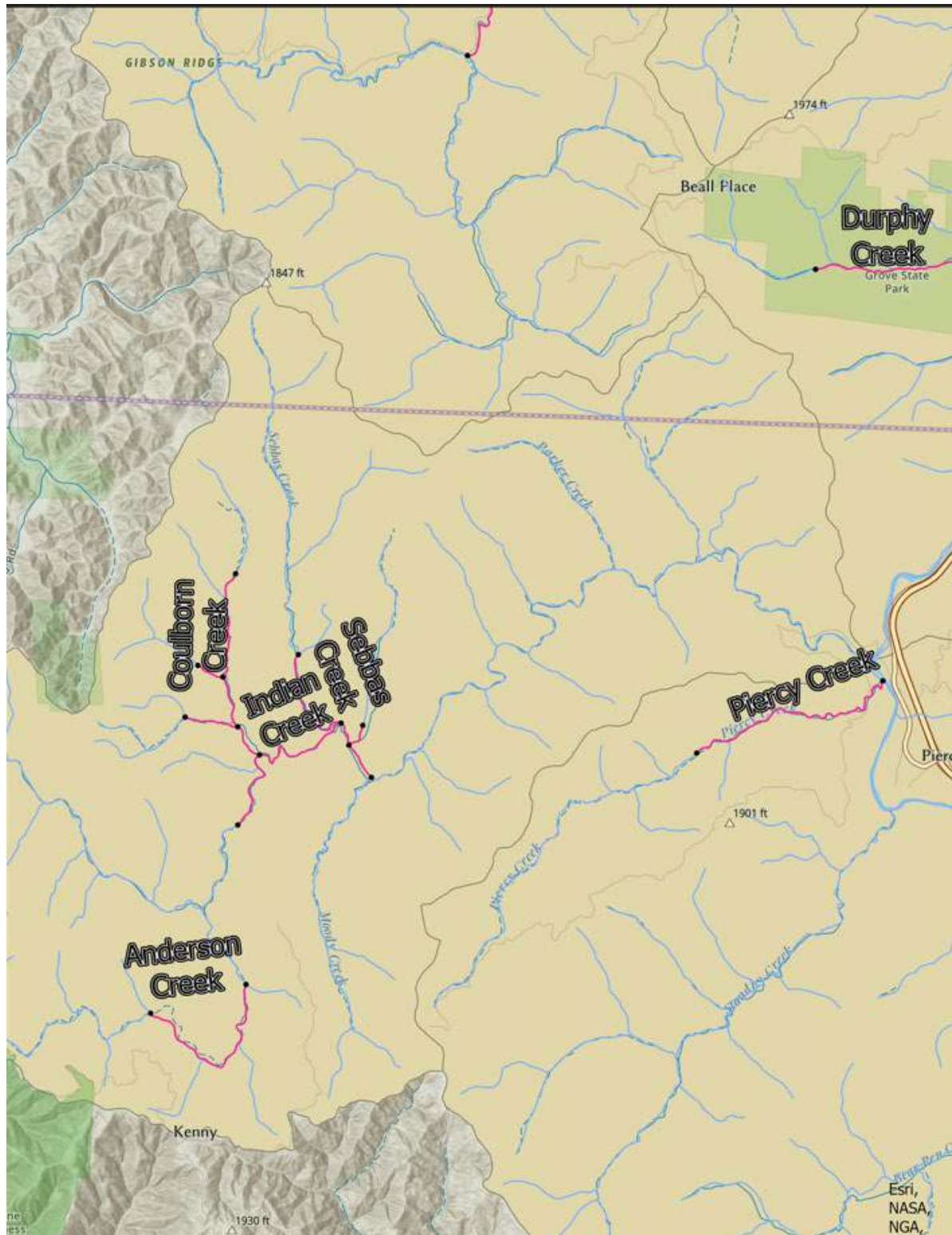
Snorkle Surveys: During the summer of 2025, California Department of Fish & Wildlife returned to Usal Creek to conduct snorkel surveys. 541 young-of-year Coho salmon were counted in the three reaches surveyed, main stem Usal Creek and South Fork Usal Creek shown in map below.



Map 1. Snorkle survey reaches in Usal Creek Watershed for summer 2025.

South Fork Eel Watershed

Five reaches were surveyed for salmonid spawning redds in 2024/2025 in the South Fork Eel Watershed on Usal Redwood Forest, upper Indian Creek, Sebbas Creek, Coulborn Creek, Piercy Creek and Anderson Creek. Spawning survey 2024/2025 results for South Fork Eel Watershed will be posted by the end of 2026.



Map 2. Spawning survey reaches in the SF Eel Watershed on Usal Redwood Forest.