

**From:** Mike Aughney <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2015 7:21 AM  
**To:** FGC  
**Subject:** Closure of Klamath river at Blue Creek

**To: California Fish and Game Commission**

**Subject: Closure of Blue Creek to sport fishing**

**Date: February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

I am asking the California Fish and Game Commission to not close the waters of the Klamath river around the mouth of Blue Creek to sport fishing.

The Yurok tribe claims that sport anglers are taking advantage of a so called "thermal refuge" at the mouth of Blue Creek. While both salmon and steelhead do concentrate here in low water / high temperature years closing this area to sport fishing does nothing to protect the fishery.

There are many tribal members who under the cover of darkness power drift gillnets through areas where salmon and steelhead hold. These nets take far more fish in a single night than sport anglers take in a month.

Sport anglers, like the Yurok tribe also wish to see this fishery protected. Closing the waters around Blue Creek to sport fishing does NOTHING to protect the fishery in low water years unless they were also closed to all netting.

On August 22, 2014 a Federal court ruled that water releases from Trinity Lake must be increased to benefit salmon. I would suggest that in the true interest of this once great fishery that the Commission directs the Department of Fish and Wildlife to work with Bureau of Reclamation and Yurok tribal biologists to ensure that adequate water is being released from the Trinity. This would reduce the number of fish holding in these thermal refuges and allow for flows that truly benefit salmon.

The Yuroks claim that sport anglers are unfairly targeting salmon is without merit when one considers their ongoing practice of gillnets being fished in these same areas.

Sincerely

Mike Aughney  
Sebastopol, CA