

NOTES

PINK SALMON IN PRAIRIE CREEK, CALIFORNIA

Another of those infrequent visits to California waters has been made by at least one individual of the species *Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*, the pink or "humpback" salmon. The specimen, a male 26 inches in fork length and weighing seven pounds, was taken in Prairie Creek, tributary to Redwood Creek in Humboldt County, on October 13, 1951. The normal spawning grounds for these fish lie well north of California, usually from Washington to Alaska. Pink salmon mature and spawn at the early age of two years and thus are the smallest of the Pacific salmon. Only the males develop the grotesque hump seen in the specimen pictured.



FIGURE 1. Pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*) from Prairie Creek, California.
Photograph by J. B. Kimsey

Previous appearances of the species in California waters have been recorded at various times; indeed, fairly respectable runs apparently occurred in some Mendocino County streams during 1937. (See "Pink Salmon in California" by A. C. Taft, California Fish and Game, vol. 24, no. 2, p. 197-8, April, 1938.) These, however, do not appear to have been repeated regularly and the appearance of isolated individuals in California remains noteworthy.—S. C. Smedley, Bureau of Fish Conservation, California Department of Fish and Game, November, 1951.