# PALLANT CREEK STEELHEAD 

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1985-86
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By
A.D. de Leeuw
B.C. Ministry of Environment and Parks

Fisheries Branch Smithers, B.C.

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#### Abstract

From November 1, 1985 to May 26, 1986, 148 adult steelhead were captured by study participants in Pallant Creek on the Queen Charlotte Islands. One hundred and forty three were tagged with anchor tags. Of these, 38 were recaptured once, and 3 were recaptured twice. Five fish were recaptured from the previous year's study. Of the total fish tagged, 67 (47\%) were taken in March, with lesser numbers in December (13, or 9\%), January (21, or 15\%), and in February and April (5\%). Sixty fish (42\%) were taken in Zone 6, or the downstream reach of the river. Two-thirds of the recaptures were taken within the original tagging zone. Twenty seven of the 41 recaptures (66\%) were taken within 20 days of their original tagging date. The time lag between first capture and first recapture ranged from 0 to 163 days. The five fish which were recaptured from the former season were all taken close to their original tagging date. Sex ratio favoured females slightly over males. The dominant age groups were 3.2 (33.3\%), 3.3 (26.7\%), 4.2S1 ( $20 \%$ ) , 4.3 ( $13.3 \%$ ) and $4.2 \mathrm{SS1}$ ( $6.7 \%$ ). Average fork length was 71.6 cm and ranged from 43.2 to 91.4 cm . Two-and-three-ocean males averaged 66.0 and 76.9 cm respectively, while females of similar ages averaged 69.6 and 75.7 cm respectively. Three different multiple sample population estimation techniques calculated 374,365 and 435 adults steelhead in Pallant Creek during the study. Results and the fishery are discussed.


## INTRODUCTION

Steelhead trout contribute substantially to non-tidal angling of the Queen Charlotte Islands. The Pallant Creek fishery is no exception. During the winter season of 1981-82, a steelhead tagging study was initiated on this stream (de Leeuw, 1985a), repeated in 1983-84 (de Leeuw, 1985b), and 1984-85 (de Leeuw, 1985c), and again in 1985-86. This report covers the latter season.

It is hoped the work will continue annually, establishing Pallant Creek as an adult steelhead index stream for the Queen Charlotte Islands. The continued commitment to this project by the Queen Charlotte Island Chapter of the British Columbia Steelhead Society and the Pallant Creek hatchery staff, combined with the small size and accessibility of the stream, make Pallant Creek a favourable location for this type of long term study.

Like the previous years, the objectives of the 1985-86 Pallant Creek steelhead tagging study were to:

1. Describe steelhead run timing and migration behaviour.
2. Describe life history characteristics.
3. Estimate population size.

## THE FISHERY

Except for the study season, steelhead fishing effort as reported annually in the Steelhead Harvest Analysis has increased steadily from the early seventies to the present (Table 1). A drop in angler use expressed as days fished and number of anglers is evident in the 198586 period. The total catch was also considerably less during this time while success or catch/day for all recorded Charlotte streams was highest in the $85-86$ season, higher in fact than the success rate of Pallant Creek. Excepting $1978-79$ and the study season, the catch/day for Pallant Creek has consistently been higher than the Charlottes as a whole. This may explain the reduced effort on the Pallant during the 85-86 steelheading period since anglers who were successful in other Charlotte Streams had no need to fish Pallant Creek.

The apparent rise in angler use during the late seventies was likely the result of hatchery staff participation. The hatchery was constructed in 1978. Initiation of the steelhead tagging program during the 1980-81 season possibly also contributed to elevated angler effort.

Table 1. Pallant Creek Steelhead Harvest Analysis ${ }^{1}$ data 1970-71 -1985-86

| Season | $\begin{gathered} \text { Days } \\ \text { Fished } \end{gathered}$ | No. <br> Anglers | Steelhead Kept | Steelhead Released | Kept <br> Day | Catch Day | Charlottes Catch/Day |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 70-71 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 20 | 1.00 | 3.50 | . 36 |
| 71-72 | 10 | 3 | 21 | 25 | 2.00 | 4.60 | . 52 |
| 72-73 | 89 | 12 | 45 | 86 | . 50 | 1.47 | . 31 |
| 73-74 | 26 | 3 | 26 | 34 | 1.00 | 2.22 | . 33 |
| 74-75 | 10 | 3 | 7 | 0 | . 67 | . 67 | . 27 |
| 75-76 | 73 | 30 | 23 | 40 | . 32 | . 86 | . 47 |
| 76-77 | 107 | 46 | 47 | 20 | . 45 | . 65 | . 37 |
| 77-78 | 74 | 30 | 48 | 92 | . 64 | 1.86 | . 48 |
| 78-79 | 177 | 42 | 35 | 26 | . 21 | . 38 | . 41 |
| 79-80 | 236 | 50 | 36 | 86 | . 16 | . 53 | . 48 |
| 80-81 | 382 | 53 | 59 | 709 | . 16 | 1.96 | . 79 |
| 81-82 | 227 | 66 | 41 | 190 | . 22 | 1.05 | . 93 |
| 82-83 | 293 | 50 | 17 | 511 | . 06 | 1.80 | 1.23 |
| 83-84 | 235 | 37 | 39 | 330 | . 17 | 1.57 | . 57 |
| 84-85 | 359 | 58 | 66 | 620 | . 18 | 1.92 | 1.32 |
| 85-86 | $\underline{137}$ | $\underline{41}$ | $\underline{14}$ | $\underline{185}$ | . 10 | 1.44 | $\underline{1.65}$ |
| Mean: | 153 | 33 | 34 | 184 | . 48 | 1.66 | . 63 |

${ }^{1}$ Steelhead Harvest Analysis B.C. Fish and Wildlife Branch annual reports.

## METHODS

The river was partitioned into seven zones (Fig. 1). Adult steelhead were angled on conventional gear and tagged with orange, numbered anchor (7.62 cm spaghetti) tags. Weights were generally estimated while fork lengths were measured. Sex, date of capture, tag number and colour as well as zone of capture were also recorded. After the removal of a few scales between the dorsal fin and lateral line, fish were released at the capture site. In-stream migration distance of recaptured fish were estimated by calculating the zone length between the mid points of original and recapture zones.

Scales were viewed using a dissecting microscope. The two best examples from the sample were cleaned and mounted on gummed cards. Impressions of the scales were made on acetate cards by applying heat ( 85 to $95^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) and pressure ( 100 ft lbs) for 60 seconds. A Leitz Prado projector was then used to examine each scale for freshwater and ocean age (Narver and Withler, 1984).

Population size was determined using the Schnabel, Schumacher and Schnabel-Chapman adjusted multiple census techniques (Ricker, 1975). The formulae were:

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text { Schnabel: } & N=\frac{\text { sum (Ct Mt })}{R} \\
\text { Schumacher: } & \frac{1}{N}=\frac{\text { sum (Mt Rt) }}{\text { Sum (Ct Mt } \left.{ }^{2}\right)} \\
\text { Schnabel, Chapman revised: } & N=\frac{\text { sum (Ct Mt) }}{R+1}
\end{array}
$$

```
where: t = 5-day time period
    Ct = total catch during time t
    Mt = total fish tagged and released during time t
    M = sum of Mt
    Rt = total recapture during time t
    R = sum of Rt
```


## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

During the 1985/86 study period, 143 steelhead were tagged in Pallant Creek. Of these, 38 were recaptured once, and 3 were recaptured twice. An additional 5 fish were recaptured from the previous season's tagging study when 123 were tagged.


Fig. 1 Pallant Creek Angling Zones During The 1985-86 Steelhead Tagging Study

Spatial distribution of the catch during the $85-86$ season was markedly different from the previous study (Table 2). A large portion of steelhead in the present study were taken from the lower area or Zone 6 (42\%), where as only $14 \%$ came from this location the previous season. In the $84-85$ season, the majority of fish came from the upper river (Zones 2 and 4). This distribution was reversed during the present study. Since the river is short and readily accessible it is likely these differences were a reflection of actual steelhead distribution rather than the distribution of angler effort. On Pallant Creek, adult steelhead appear to spatially distribute themselves differently from one year to the next.

Table 2. Pallant Creek steelhead tagged during the 1985-86 and 198485 winter seasons by zone.

|  | Steelhead Tagged (\%) <br> (\%) <br> Zone |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | ---: | :---: |
|  | $1985-86$ |  |  |

Since the stream was partitioned differently during the seasons prior to 84-85 (less reaches), these catches were not included in the above table.

Largest catches occurred during late December/early January, and throughout March (Table 3). It was likely this distribution reflected two separate runs rather than a bimodal distribution of angler effort, since study participants fished consistently throughout the season. This apparent pattern of two separate times of river entry implicated from the catch was not observed during the $84-85$ and $83-84$ study years, but was to some degree in the $81-82$ season. It appears therefore that run timing of Pallant Creek winter steelhead varied between years, possibly as a function of stream discharge. Fish may also have been in the river, but not caught during some periods due to low flows, temperature or other unfavourable angling conditions.

Table 3. Number of steelhead tagged during the 1985-86 study on Pallant Creek (catch grouped by 10-day periods).

| Date | Males | Females | Not Recorded | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 12/01-10 |  |  |  |  |
| 12/11-20 | 5 | 5 |  | 10 |
| 12/21-30 | 6 | 7 |  | 13 |
| 01/01/10 | 5 | 8 |  | 13 |
| 01/11-20 | 2 | 2 |  | 4 |
| 01/21-30 | 3 | 1 |  | 4 |
| 02/01-10 | 1 | 3 |  | 4 |
| 02/11-20 | 4 | 3 |  | 7 |
| 02/21-30 | 3 | 3 |  | 6 |
| 03/01-10 | 9 | 9 |  | 18 |
| 03/11-20 | 12 | 11 |  | 23 |
| 03/21-30 | 13 | 11 | 2 | 26 |
| 04/01-10 | 2 | 5 |  | 7 |
| 04/11-20 | 3 | 4 |  | 7 |
| 04/21-30 |  | 1 |  | $\underline{1}$ |
| Total | 68 (47.5\%) | 73 (51.1\%) | 2 (1.4\%) | 143 |

Of the 143 fish tagged, 38 fish were recaptured once, and 3 were recaptured twice, for a total recapture of 41 (18.7\%). Twenty-five or $66 \%$ of the first recaptures were taken in the zone of original capture (Table 4). The remaining 13 (34\%) had migrated both upstream (8 fish) and downstream (5 fish). Distance travelled varied from . 5 to almost 2 km . Increases in migration distance were not reflected in a larger time period between captures. Migration is limited however since the total accessible mainstem stream length is only 4.12 km (Fig. 1).

Time duration between original capture and recapture varied from 0 (i.e. fish recaptured on day of capture) to 163 days. Twenty-seven (66\%) of the 41 recaptures were taken within 20 days of first capture, of which 2 fish were captured twice on the same day. The remaining 13 fish averaged 76 days between captures with a range of 30 to 163 days. The overall average time between captures of all recaptured fish was 32.6 days. If the recapture information is indicative of stream residency in general, then it would appear the majority of adult Pallant Creek steelhead spend only a short time (less than 1 month) in the stream, while some spend considerably longer. A short adult stream residency was also alluded to in the previous Pallant Creek study (de Leeuw, 1985).

Females were slightly more dominant in both the original capture (51\%) and recapture (57\%) populations regardless of apparent stream residency duration. Of the 13 long time residents (i.e. longer than 20 days between captures) 7 were females, and the two longest residents were both a male ( 163 days) and a female (102 days).

Table 4. Movement and residency of recaptured steelhead in Pallant Creek, 1985-86.

|  | Original Capture |  |  | First Recapture |  | Second Recapture |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Tag No. | Sex | Zone | Date | zone | Date | zone | Date | Total km. | Total Days (1st recap) |


| 02813 | M | 6 | Dec 12 | 6 | Dec 21 |  |  | 0 |  | 9 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 02817 | F | 2 | Dec 21 | 2 | Dec 22 |  |  | 0 |  | 1 |
| 03932 | M | 6 | Dec 21 | 6 | Dec 23 |  |  | 0 |  | 2 |
| 02812 | M | 6 | Dec 21 | 6 | Dec 24 |  |  | 0 |  | 3 |
| 03945 | F | 6 | Dec 12 | 3 | Dec 26 | 3 | Apr 10 (kelt) | +1.89 | (14) | 105 |
| 03941 | F | 6 | Dec 15 | 6 | Jan 01 |  |  | 0 |  | 17 |
| 03937 | M | 3 | Dec 27 | 3 | Jan 04 |  |  | 0 |  | 8 |
| 02901 | F | 6 | Dec 31 | 6 | Jan 01 | 5 | Mar 19 | +..658 | (1) | 78 |
| 02814 | F | 6 | Jan 02 | 6 | Jan 05 |  |  | 0 |  | 3 |
| 03939 | M | 6 | Jan 01 | 6 | Jan 08 |  |  | 0 |  | 7 |
| 03942 | M | 3 | Jan 04 | 3 | Jan 09 |  |  | 0 |  | 5 |
| 03943 | F | 3 | Dec 22 | 3 | Jan 25 |  |  | 0 |  | 34 |
| 03940 | F | 6 | Jan 01 | 7 | Feb 23 |  |  | -. 508 |  | 53 |
| 03874 | F | 6 | Fab 18 | 7 | Feb 27 |  |  | 0 |  | 9 |
| 03896 | F | 5 | Mar 05 | 5 | Mar 05 |  |  | 0 |  | 0 |
| 03867 | F | 6 | Mar 01 | 6 | Mar 07 |  |  | 0 |  | 6 |
| 03929 | M | 3 | Jan 09 | 4 | Mar 13 |  |  | -. . 558 |  | 63 |
| 02631 | F | 6 | Mar 12 | 6 | Mar 15 |  |  | 0 |  | 3 |
| 02907 | M | 2 | Mar 08 | 2 | Mar 15 |  |  | 0 |  | 7 |
| 03856 | F | 7 | Feb 23 | 3 | Mar 15 |  |  | +2.398 |  | 20 |
| 02823 | M | 2 | Dec 16 | 2 | Mar 18 |  |  | 0 |  | 92 |
| 03854 | M | 6 | Feb 18 | 2 | Mar 20 |  |  | +1.899 |  | 30 |
| 02263 | F | 6 | Mar 12 | 6 | Mar 21 |  |  | 0 |  | 9 |
| 02268 | F | 5 | Mar 20 | 5 | Mar 21 |  |  | 0 |  | 1 |
| 02904 | F | 3 | Jan 17 | 6 | Mar 21 |  |  | -1.694 |  | 63 |
| 02646 | F | 3 | Mar 13 | 4 | Mar 22 |  |  | +. 558 |  | 9 |
| 02282 | M | 2 | Mar 23 | 2 | Mar 23 |  |  | 0 |  | 0 |
| 02908 | M | 2 | Mar 08 | 2 | Mar 23 |  |  | 0 |  | 15 |
| 02915 | F | 2 | Mar 15 | 2 | Mar 25 |  |  | 0 |  | 10 |
| 03938 | F | 3 | Jan 09 | 3 | Mar 27 |  |  | 0 |  | 77 |
| 02264 | F | 6 | Mar 26 | 6 | Mar 28 |  |  | 0 |  | 2 |
| 02913 | M | 5 | Mar 15 | 3 | Mar 28 |  |  | +1.35 |  | 13 |
| 02278 | F | 6 | Mar 23 | 6 | Mar 28 |  |  | 0 |  | 5 |
| 03942 | F | 3 | Jan 04 | 4 | Mar 30 |  |  | -. 558 |  | 85 |
| 02910 | M | 6 | Mar 15 | 2 | Mar 31 |  |  | +1.899 |  | 16 |
| 03865 | M | 3 | Feb 20 | 5 | Apr 04 |  |  | -1.233 |  | 43 |
| 03885 | M | 3 | Jan 04 | 3 | Apr 11 |  |  | 0 |  | 97 |
| 02824 | M | 3 | Dec 14 | 2 | May 21 | 2 | May 26 | +. 540 | (158) | 163 |

Steelhead which were tagged early in the season had a considerably better chance of being recaptured than late captured fish. Those originally tagged during the following months: December, January, February, March and April were recaptured at rates of 61, 43, 24, 21 and 0\% respectively (Table 5). Recaptures of early tagged fish (Dec and Jan) were furthermore distributed throughout the season, while all late fish (March) were recaptured within the months of original capture. During a steelhead tagging study on the Campbell-Quinsam river system, Vancouver Island, a similar trend was alluded to, with early migrants residing longer than late arrivals (Hooton and Carswell, 1981).

Table 5. Pallant Creek steelhead original capture and recapture dates grouped by months within the 1985-86 winter season.

| Original Capture |  |  | Recapture (\%) ${ }^{1}$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Date | Total | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | Total |
| Dec | 23 | 5 (22) | 4 (17) |  | 2 (9) | 1 (4) | 2 (9) | 14(61) |
| Jan | 21 |  | 3 (14) | 1 (5) | 4 (19) | 1 (5) |  | 9 (43) |
| Feb | 17 |  |  | 1 (6) | 2 (12) | 1 (6) |  | 4 (24) |
| Mar | 67 |  |  |  | 14(21) |  |  | 14(21) |
| Apr | 15 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total | 143 | $5(3)$ * | $7(5)$ * | $2(1)$ * | 22 (15)* | $3(2)$ * | $2(1)$ * | 41 (29) |

${ }^{1}$ percent recapture of monthly fish tagged.

* percent of total tagged.

In addition to the recaptures tagged during the $85-86$ study, 5 fish (4\%) were recaptured from the previous season when 123 were tagged (Table 6).

Table 6. Pallant Creek steelhead originally tagged in 1984-85 and recaptured in 1985-86.

| Tag \# | Sex | Zone | Date | (cm) | Zone | Date | (cm) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 03124 | F | 3 | Jan 28/85 | 81.3 | 7 | Nov 1/85 | - |
| 02751 | F | 4 | Mar 14/85 | 63.5 | 6 | Mar 7/86 | 73.7 |
| 02763 | F | 3 | Mar 13/85 | 76.2 | 6 | Mar 9/86 | 81.2 |
| 03641 | F | 4 | Apr 9/85 | - | 5 | Mar 12/86 | 76.2 |
| $\begin{array}{r}03643 \\ \times \quad \text { reta } \\ \hline\end{array}$ | M ${ }_{\text {M }}$ | $\begin{gathered} 4 \\ \# 02253 \end{gathered}$ | Apr 9/85 | - | 6 | Mar 31/86 | 66.0* |

Although the recaptures from 1984-85 were not taken in the original zone of tagging during this study, there was close date overlap. A fish tagged on January 28, 1985 (an early fish for the Pallant) was recaptured at the fence (the following season) on November 1, 1985. The other four fish were recaptured during this season within

4 to 28 days of their original tagging date a year earlier.

## AGE AND SIZE

Only 23 sets of scales were collected from 143 tagged fish. The most prevalent age class in this small sample was three years of fresh water followed by 2 years of ocean growth (3.2), and made up 33.3\% of the readable sample (Table 7). Other age classes included 3.3 (26.7\%), 4.2 S 1 (20\%), 4.3 (13.3\%) and 4.2SS1 at 6.7\%.

Sixty percent of all scale sampled fish had spent 3 years in the stream prior to ocean migration. The remaining $40 \%$ migrated to the ocean after 4 years of fresh water growth (Table 8). Three years of fresh water growth prior to ocean migration is typical of Queen Charlotte Island Steelhead (Chudyk, 1982; de Leeuw and Whately, 1983; de Leeuw, 1986).

The dominant ocean age was . 2 (56.5\%) followed by . 3 (43.5\%, Table 9). Of the 23 fish sampled, 4 (17\%) had spawned previously, and of these one was in its third spawning migration (Table 7).

Table 7. Steelhead trout age groups from Pallant Creek, 1985-86. N=15.

|  | Males | Females | Total | $\%$ of Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Age Group |  |  |  |  |
| 3.2 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 33.3 |
| 3.3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 26.7 |
| 4.3 | 2 | - | 2 | 13.3 |
| 4.2 SS1 | - | 1 | 1 | 6.7 |
| 4.2 S1 | - | $\frac{3}{8}$ | $1 \frac{3}{5}$ | $\frac{20.0}{100.00}$ |
| Total | 7 |  |  |  |
| R*.2 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| R.3 | 1 |  | 4 |  |

R* Central area of scale is resorbed, fresh water age not readable.

Table 8. Number and percentage of male and female Pallant Creek steelhead of different fresh water ages, 1985-86, $\mathrm{N}=15$.

| Freshwater <br> Age | Males | Females | Total | $\%$ of Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 3 | 5 | 4 | 9 |  |
| 4 | $\frac{2}{7}$ | $\frac{4}{8}$ | $-\frac{6}{15}$ | $\overline{40}$ |
| Total |  |  | $\overline{100}$ |  |

Table 9. Number and percentage of male and female Pallant Creek steelhead of different ocean ages, 1985-86; $N=23$.

| Ocean Age | Males | Females | Total | \% of Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| .3 | 5 | 8 | 13 | 56.5 |
| Total | $\frac{5}{10}$ | $\frac{5}{13}$ | $\frac{10}{23}$ | 10.5 |

The most abundant ocean age group in all previous Pallant Creek studies however was . 3 and ranged from 81 to $38 \%$.

The percentage of repeat spawners in Pallant Creek has varied considerably from year to year. During the $1981-82$ season, multiple spawners comprised 19\% ( $\mathrm{N}=5$ ) of the sampled population, while in 198384 and $84-85$ it was $10 \%(N=5)$ and $24 \% \quad(N=9)$ respectively. In the present sample, $27 \%(N=6)$ were repeat spawners. Variability in the percentage of multiple spawner during any given year is dependent on previous years' populations, and post-spawning survival. Since the magnitude of the run varied from year to year, the number of multiple spawners was also expected to vary.

Like the earlier Pallant Creek studies, steelhead size was determined by pre-spawning ocean residency. After two years of ocean growth, Pallant Creek steelhead averaged 67.8 cm , while with an additional year fish were almost 10 cm longer (Table 10). Two year ocean females were marginally longer ( 69.6 cm ) than males of the same age ( 66.0 cm ) while at the end of 3 years this size difference was reversed ( $\mathrm{F}=75.7 \mathrm{~cm}, \mathrm{M}=76.9 \mathrm{~cm}$ ) . These results were inconclusive however due to the small (n9) sample size.

In the previous three studies, male steelhead were larger than females in all ocean age classes. The overall average fork length of steelhead tagged and measured during this study was 71.6 cm , and ranged from 43.2 to 91.4 cm .

Table 10. Fork lengths (cm) of male and female Pallant Creek Steelhead of different ocean ages, 1985-86.

| Ocean <br> Age | N | X | Males <br> Range | N | X | Females <br> Range | N | X | Total <br> Range |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| .2 | 5 | 66.0 | $61.0-71.1$ | 5 | 69.6 | $63.5-81.3$ | 10 | 67.8 | $61.0-81.3$ |
| .3 | $\frac{4}{9}$ | $\frac{76.9}{70.8}$ | $\frac{71.1-81.3}{61.0-81.3}$ | $\overline{-5}$ | $\frac{75.7}{10}$ | $\frac{66.0-86.4}{72.7}$ | $\frac{-9}{63.5-86.4}$ | $\frac{76.2}{19}$ | $\frac{66.0-86.4}{71.8}$ |
| $61.0-86.4$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $2+.3$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## POPULATION ESTIMATION

The three multiple capture population estimates calculated populations of 374 , 365, and 435 adult steelhead in Pallant Creek during the 1985-86 season (Table 10). Of the 143 fish tagged, 38 were recaptured once and 3 twice, consequently the confidence limits were fairly narrow. Other than the potential of tag loss which tends to inflate results, the estimates likely closely approximated the actual population. Recaptures in the previous studies, were far fewer, and ranged from 7.3 to 10.3\%. According to the questionnaire generated catch results (Table 1) only 14 steelhead were harvested in Pallant Creek in 1985-86. The fishery was therefore not considered a conservation concern.

Table 11. Pallant Creek steelhead population estimates during the 198586 winter season.

95\% Confidence Limits

| Method | Estimate | Poisson distribution | Normal distribution |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |
| Schnabel | 374 | $276-522$ | $283-551$ |
| Schumacher | 365 | $336-617$ | $279-529$ |
| Chapman | $\underline{435}$ | $270-506$ |  |
| Mean | $\underline{391}$ |  |  |

SUMMARY

1. One hundred and forty-eight steelhead were captured by study participants in Pallant Creek from November 1, 1985 to May 26, 1986. Of these, 143 were tagged, and an additional 3 were recaptured twice.
2. The majority of the fish were taken in March, and late December/- early January in the upstream sections of the river. Twothirds of all recaptures were taken in the zone of original capture with the remaining one third having migrated both up-and-downstream. Twenty-seven of the 41 recaptures were taken within 20 days of their original tagging date. Total days between original and repeat capture ranged from 0 to 163. Only 2 fish were captured twice on the same day.
3. Sex ratio favoured females (51.1\%) over males (47.5\%) while 2
fish (1.4\%) were not sexed.
4. Scale samples were taken from only 23 fish of which 4 (17.4\%) were multiple spawners. The dominant age class was 3.2 (33.3\%) followed by 3.3 ( $26.7 \%$ ), $4.2 S 1(20 \%), 4.3$ ( $13.3 \%$ ) and 4.2 SS 1 ( $6.7 \%$ ).
5. The overall average fork length of Pallant Creek steelhead during the $1985-86$ study was 71.6 cm and ranged from 43.2 to 91.4 cm . Where both fork length and ocean age were determined, males with 2 or 3 years of marine growth were 61.0 and 71.1 cm respectively while females of similar ages were 67.8 and 76.2 cm respectively.
6. Population estimates for the1985-86 study calculated 374 (Schnabel), 365 (Schumacher) and 435 (Chapman) steelhead in Pallant Creek. Since almost $1 / 3$ of all tagged fish were recaptured confidence limits were narrow and these estimates are therefore considered fairly accurate.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## APPENDICES

I. Original steelhead captures from Pallant Creek, 1985-86 winter season.
II. Steelhead recaptures from Pallant Creek, 1985-86 winter season.

APPENDIX I. Original steelhead captures from Pallant Creek, 1985-86 winter season.

| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Fish } \\ & \text { No. } \end{aligned}$ | Date | Sex | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Length } \\ & \mathrm{cm} \end{aligned}$ | Weight (est)kg | Tag No. and Color |  | Area | Remarks Age |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Dec 12 | M | 838 | 4.1 | 02813 | Orange | 6 | Bright, fresh |
| 2 | Dec 12 | F | 686 | 3.2 | 03945 | Orange | 6 | Bright, fresh |
| 3 | Dec 14 | F | 686 | 3.2 | 02818 | Orange | 3 | Bright, fresh |
| 4 | Dec 14 | M | 635 | 2.3 | 02824 | Orange | 3 | Colored, close to spawning |
| 5 | Dec 15 | F | 787 | 3.9 | 02811 | Orange | 6 | Bright, strong |
| 6 | Dec 15 | F | 660 | 2.9 | 03935 | Orange | 6 | Bright, cheeks colored |
| 7 | Dec 15 | F | 787 | 3.9 | 03941 | Orange | 6 | Bright, blemish left side |
| 8 | Dec 16 | M | 813 | 4.5 | 02823 | Orange | 2 | Red stripe, old scar right side |
| 9 | Dec 17 | M | 660 | 2.3 | 02820 | Orange | 6 | Bright |
| 10 | Dec 19 | M | 457 | 1.6 | 03946 | Orange | 2 | Colored |
| 11 | Dec 21 | F | 787 | 3.9 | 02817 | Orange | 2 | Bright |
| 12 | Dec 21 | F | 711 | - | 02819 | Orange | 4 | Bright |
| 13 | Dec 21 | M | 660 | 1.8 | 02812 | Orange | 6 |  |
| 14 | Dec 21 | M | 711 | 2.7 | 02821 | Orange | 6 |  |
| 15 | Dec 22 | F | 660 | 2.3 | 03943 | Orange | 3 | Bright |
| 16 | Dec 22 | M | 787 | 4.1 | 03932 | Orange | 6 | Bright, sea lice |
| 17 | Dec 25 | F | 737 | 4.1 | 03933 | Orange | 3 | Bright |
| 18 | Dec 25 | M | 813 | 4.5 | 03934 | Orange | 3 | Bright, cheeks colored, strong |
| 19 | Dec 25 | F | 686 | 3.2 | 03949 | Orange | 3 | Bright, strong |
| 20 | Dec 26 | F | 635 | 2.7 | 02797 | Orange | 6 | Bright |
| 21 | Dec 26 | M | 889 | 5.4 | 03936 | Orange | 2 | Dark, left eye damaged |
| 22 | Dec 27 | M | 711 | 3.6 | 03937 | Orange | 3 | Bright, strong |
| 23 | Dec 31 | F | 711 | 3.6 | 02901 | Orange | 6 | Bright, scars left side |
| 24 | Jan 01 | M | 686 | 2.7 | 03939 | Orange | 6 | Bright |
| 25 | Jan 01 | F | 610 | 1.8 | 03940 | Orange | 6 | Bright |
| 26 | Jan 02 | F | 711 | 3.4 | 02814 | Orange | 6 | Bright, old scars both sides |
| 27 | Jan 02 | M | 610 | 1.4 | 03928 | Orange | 3 | Vigorous, red stripe |
| 28 | Jan 02 | F | 635 | 1.8 | 03930 | Orange | 3 | Bright |
| 29 | Jan 04 | M | 646 | 2.3 | 03885 | Orange | 3 | Bright, thin |
| 30 | Jan 04 | M | 559 | 1.4 | 03942 | Orange | 3 | Red stripe and cheeks |
| 31 | Jan 05 | F | 610 | 2.3 | 03878 | Orange | 6 | Bright, real jumper |
| 32 | Jan 05 | F | 686 | 3.2 | 03879 | Orange | 6 | Bright, strong |
| 33 | Jan 07 | F | 838 | 5.0 | 03880 | Orange | 6 | Bright, wild |
| 34 | Jan 09 | F | 813 | 4.5 | 03938 | Orange | 3 | Bright 4.2SS1 |
| 35 | Jan 09 | M | 787 | 4.1 | 03929 | Orange | 3 | Red stripe, darkening a bit |
| 36 | Jan 10 | F | 686 | 3.2 | 03948 | Orange | 3 | Just a tinge of color starting |


| Fish No. | Date | Sex | Length cm | Weight (est) kg | Tag No. and Color |  | Area | Remarks Age |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 37 | Jan 16 | F | 737 | 4.1 | 03944 | Orange | 3 | Silver bright |
| 38 | Jan 17 | M | 813 | 5.4 | 02902 | Orange | 6 | Fresh 4.3 |
| 39 | Jan 17 | M | 711 | 3.6 | 02903 | Orange | 3 | Colored 3.3 |
| 40 | Jan 17 | F | 711 | 3.6 | 02904 | Orange | 3 | Fresh 4.2S1 |
| 41 | Jan 22 | M | 660 | 2.7 | 02825 | Orange | 4 | Little bit of color, R. 2 |
| 42 | Jan 24 | M | 610 | 2.3 | 02822 | Orange | 3 | Bright R.2 |
| 43 | Jan 24 | M | 813 | 4.5 | 03947 | Orange | 3 | Starting to color, 4.3 |
| 44 | Jan 25 | F | 737 | 3.6 | 03883 | Orange | 3 | Colored |
| 45 | Feb 02 | M | 635 | 2.7 | 03884 | Orange | 6 | Bright, red stripe |
| 46 | Feb 02 | F | 711 | 4.1 | 03887 | Orange | 6 | Bright, bare spot by adipose |
| 47 | Feb 05 | F | 864 | 6.4 | 02905 | Orange |  | Bright R. 3 |
| 48 | Feb 06 | F | 686 | 2.7 | 02815 | Orange | 3 | ```Getting a little pink 3.3``` |
| 49 | Feb 18 | F | 610 | 2.3 | 03874 | Orange | 6 | Bright |
| 50 | Feb 18 | M | 838 | 5.4 | 03854 | Orange | 6 | Bright |
| 51 | Feb 19 | F | 686 | 3.2 | 03855 | Orange | 1 | Spawned out, dorsal missing chunk |
| 52 | Feb 20 | M | 622 | 2.3 | 03865 | Orange | 3 | Little bit of color |
| 53 | Feb 20 | F | 711 | 4.1 | 03864 | Orange | 3 | Little reddish, belly <br> little soft |
| 54 | Feb 20 | M | 864 | 6.4 | 03870 | Orange | 2 | Dark |
| 55 | Feb 20 | M | 762 | 4.5 | 03860 | Orange | 5 | Slight reddening |
| 56 | Feb 23 | F | 813 | 5.4 | 03871 | Orange | 7 | Bright |
| 57 | Feb 23 | M | 711 | 3.6 | 03863 | Orange | 7 | Slight red streak, red cheeks |
| 58 | Feb 23 | F | 762 | 4.5 | 03856 | Orange | 7 | Bright |
| 59 | Feb 27 | M | 864 | 6.4 | 03861 | Orange | 7 | Bright, piece of caudal missing |
| 60 | Feb 27 | F | 711 | 4.1 | 03869 | Orange | 6 | Bright |
| 61 | Feb 28 | M | 787 | 4.5 | 03862 | Orange | 3 | Darkening, piece of caudal missing |
| 62 | Mar 01 | F | 737 | 4.1 | 03867 | Orange | 6 | Bright |
| 63 | Mar 01 | M | 711 | 3.6 | 03892 | Orange | 6 | Bright, fresh |
| 64 | Mar 02 | M | 686 | 3.2 | 03893 | Orange | 6 | Slightly colored |
| 65 | Mar 04 | M | 813 | 5.4 | 03866 | Orange | 6 | Slightly colored |
| 66 | Mar 04 | F | 0 | 4.1 | 03859 | Orange | 6 | Bright, fresh |
| 67 | Mar 05 | F | 787 | 5.4 | 03896 | Orange | 5 | Bright, red cheeks |
| 68 | Mar 05 | M | 635 | 3.2 | 03898 | Orange | 5 | Bright, red stripe |
| 69 | Mar 05 | M | 838 | 5.9 | 03900 | Orange | 5 | Gumboot, colored, scarred, milt running |
| 70 | Mar 05 | F | 737 | 4.1 | 03872 | Orange | 6 | Bright |
| 71 | Mar 07 | F | 711 | 3.6 | 02262 | Orange | 6 | Bright, strong, hook in mouth |
| 72 | Mar 07 | F | 737 | 4.1 | 02268 | Orange | 6 | Bright |


| 73 | Mar 08 | M | 0 | 3.2 | 02907 | Orange | 2 | Dark 3.3 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 74 | Mar 08 | M | 0 | 1.8 | 02908 | Orange | 2 | - |


| Fish No. | Date | Sex | Length cm | Weight (est) kg | Tag No. and Color |  | Area | Remarks Age |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 75 | Mar 08 | F | 0 | 2.3 | 02909 | Orange | 2 | Bright 3.2 |
| 76 | Mar 09 | F | 660 | 2.7 | 02906 | Orange | 6 | Bright 3.3 |
| 77 | Mar 09 | F | 864 | 6.4 | 03857 | Orange | 6 | Bright, good scrap |
| 78 | Mar 09 | M | 686 | 3.2 | 02267 | Orange | 4 | Bright |
| 79 | Mar 10 | M | 762 | 5.0 | 02269 | Orange | 4 | Colored |
| 80 | Mar 11 | M | 762 | 3.6 | 02266 | Orange | 5 |  |
| 81 | Mar 12 | F | 711 | 3.2 | 02631 | Orange | 6 | spawned out, a little <br> ragged |
| 82 | Mar 12 | M | 635 | 2.3 | 02258 | Orange | 6 | Bright |
| 83 | Mar 12 | F | 635 | 2.3 | 02263 | Orange | 6 | Bright |
| 84 | Mar 12 | M | 737 | 4.1 | 02634 | Orange | 5 | Bright, faint red stripe |
| 85 | Mar 12 | M | 711 | 3.6 | 02632 | Orange | 5 | Bright, bit of a red stripe |
| 86 | Mar 12 | F | 813 | 5.0 | 02633 | Orange | 4 | Bright |
| 87 | Mar 13 | M | 711 | 3.2 | 02648 | Orange | 4 | Bright |
| 88 | Mar 13 | M | 686 | 2.7 | 02647 | Orange | 3 | Darkening a bit |
| 89 | Mar 13 | F | 635 | 2.3 | 02646 | Orange | 3 | Bright R.2 |
| 90 | Mar 14 | F | 686 | 3.2 | 02645 | Orange | 5 | Bright R.2 |
| 91 | Mar 15 | M | 737 | 4.1 | 02910 | Orange | 6 | Bright, sea lice R.3 |
| 92 | Mar 15 | F | 635 | 2.3 | 02911 | Orange | 6 | Bright 3.2 |
| 93 | Mar 15 | F | 762 | 4.5 | 02912 | Orange | 5 | Bright R.3 |
| 94 | Mar 15 | F | 813 | 5.4 | 02914 | Orange | 4 | Bright R. 3 |
| 95 | Mar 15 | M | 635 | 2.3 | 02913 | Orange | 5 | Bright 3.2 |
| 96 | Mar 15 | M | 737 | 4.1 | 02276 | Orange | 3 | Bright |
| 97 | Mar 15 | F | 711 | 3.2 | 02915 | Orange | 2 | Bright |
| 98 | Mar 17 | F | 711 | 3.2 | 02254 | Orange | 3 | Bright |
| 99* | Mar 19 | M | 787 | 4.5 | 02626 | Orange | 4 | Dark, bad shape, had been tagged |
| 100 | Mar 19 | F | 762 | 4.5 | 02627 | Orange | 4 | Bright |
| 101 | Mar 20 | M | 914 | 8.2 | 02628 | Orange | 5 | Bright, red stripe, hook in mouth |
| 102 | Mar 20 | F | 762 | 4.5 | 02256 | Orange | 6 | Bright |
| 103 | Mar 21 | M | 686 | 3.2 | 02629 | Orange | 5 | Pale red stripe, showed milt 3.2 |
| 104 | Mar 22 | F | 660 | 2.7 | 02630 | Orange | 5 | Bright, good scrapper |
| 105 | Mar 23 | M | 0 | 2.3 | 02277 | Orange | 6 | Bright |
| 106 | Mar 23 | F | 0 | 3.2 | 02278 | Orange | 6 | Bright |
| 107 | Mar 23 | M | 0 | 5.0 | 02279 | Orange | 4 | Quite bright |
| 108 | Mar 23 | F | 0 | 4.1 | 02280 | Orange | 4 | Quite bright |
| 109 | Mar 23 | M | 0 | 2.7 | 02281 | Orange | 2 | Quite bright |
| 110 | Mar 23 | M | 0 | 4.1 | 02282 | Orange | 2 | Dark, kelt |
| 111 | Mar 23 | M | 0 | 4.5 | 02283 | Orange | 2 | Dark |
| 112 | Mar 23 | F | 0 | 4.5 | 02284 | Orange | 2 | Very dark |
| 113 | Mar 23 | M | 0 | 5.0 | 02285 | Orange | 2 | Dark |
| 114 | Mar 23 | F | 0 | 2.3 | 02286 | Orange | 2 | So-So |
| 115 | Mar 24 | F | 762 | 4.5 | 02275 | Orange | 6 | Bright, roller |
| 116 | Mar 26 | M | 660 | 2.3 | 02257 | Orange | 6 | Bright |


| Fish <br> No. | Date | Sex | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Length } \\ & \mathrm{cm} \end{aligned}$ | Weight (est) kg | Tag No. and Color |  | Area | Remarks Age |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 117 | Mar 26 | F | 660 | 2.7 | 02264 | Orange | 6 | Bright, feisty |
| 118 | Mar 28 | M | 635 | 2.3 | 02252 | Orange | 6 | Bright, old scars right side |
| 119 | Mar 28 | M | 762 | 4.1 | 02635 | Orange | 6 | Red stripe, sea lice, scrapper |
| 120 | Mar 28 | F | 711 | 3.2 | 02636 | Orange | 6 | Bright, scarred left flank |
| 121 | Mar 29 | F | 686 | 3.2 | 02638 | Orange | 6 | Colored |
| 122 | Mar 30 | F | 635 | 2.7 | 03894 | Orange | 6 | Bright, strong |
| 123 | Mar 30 | M | 711 | - | 02637 | Orange | 4 | Dark |
| 124 | Mar 31 | M | 737 | 4.1 | 02251 | Orange | 6 | Bright |
| 125 | Mar 31 | M | 762 | 4.5 | 02271 | Orange | 6 | Bright, strong |
| 126 | Mar 31 | F | 635 | 2.3 | 02260 | Orange | 6 | Bright, fresh |
| 127 | Mar 31 | - | 660 | 2.7 | 02287 | Orange | 2 | Dark |
| 128 | Mar 31 | - | 635 | 2.3 | 02253 | Orange | 6 | Kelt |
| 129 | Apr 03 | F | 711 | -- | 02259 | Orange | 6 | Kelt |
| 130 | Apr 03 | M | 686 | 3.2 | 02270 | Orange | 6 | Bright |
| 131 | Apr 03 | F | 711 | 3.6 | 02274 | Orange | 6 | Bright |
| 132 | Apr 03 | M | 660 | 2.7 | 02369 | Orange | 3 | Bright |
| 133 | Apr 04 | F | 737 | 4.1 | 02273 | Orange | 6 | Bright |
| 134 | Apr 05 | F | 838 | 6.4 | 02670 | Orange | 4 | Bright |
| 135 | Apr 07 | F | 432 | . 9 | 02651 | Orange | 5 | Red stripe, resident?? |
| 136 | Apr 11 | M | 711 | 3.6 | 02655 | Orange | 6 | Semi-bright, strong |
| 137 | Apr 11 | F | 787 | 5.4 | 02656 | Orange | 7 | Kelt, good shape |
| 138 | Apr 11 | M | 635 | 2.3 | 02658 | Orange | 7 | Semi-bright, strong |
| 139 | Apr 14 | F | 762 | 4.5 | 02657 | Orange | 7 | Kelt, strong, good shape |
| 140 | Apr 14 | M | 686 | 3.2 | 02652 | Orange | 7 | Reddish, fresh |
| 141 | Apr 14 | F | 686 | 3.2 | 02653 | Orange | 7 | Silver bright, strong |
| 142 | Apr 20 | F | 737 | 3.6 | 02654 | Orange | 7 | Kelt, strong, real jumper |
| 143 | Apr 27 | F | 762 | 5.4 | 02659 | Orange | 6 | Silver bright, super strong |
| -- | -- | M | 711 | 1.0 | -- | -- | - | -- |

* had been tagged before, only $1 / 2 \prime \prime$ left

```
Appendix II. Steelhead recaptures from Pallant Creek, 1985-86 winter
    season.
```

| Fish No. | Date | Sex | $\begin{array}{ll} \hline \text { Length Weight } \\ \mathrm{cm} & \mathrm{~kg} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Tag No. and Color |  | Area | Remarks Age |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Dec 21 | M |  | Orange | 02813 | 6 | Little colored |
| 2 | Dec 22 | F |  | Orange | 02817 | 2 | Bright |
| 3 | Dec 23 | M |  | Orange | 03932 | 6 | Bright |
| 4 | Dec 24 | M |  | Orange | 02812 | 6 |  |
| 5 | Dec 26 | F |  | Orange | 03945 | 3 | Bright |
| 6 | Jan 01 | F |  | Orange | 03941 | 6 | Bright, strong |
| 7 | Jan 04 | M |  | Orange | 03937 | 3 | Bright, strong |
| 8 | Jan 01 | F |  | Orange | 02901 | 6 | Caught 16 hours after tagging |
| 9 | Jan 05 | F |  | Orange | 02814 | 6 | Cut left side by tail |
| 10 | Jan 08 | M |  | Orange | 03939 | 6 | Bright |
| 11 | Jan 09 | M |  | Orange | 03942 | 3 | Red stripe, darkening |
| 12 | Jan 25 | F |  | Orange | 03943 | 3 | Darkening |
| 13 | Feb 23 | F |  | Orange | 03940 | 7 | Bright |
| 14 | Feb 27 | F |  | Orange | 03874 | 6 | Bright |
| 15 | Mar 05 | F | 787 | Orange | 03896 | 5 | Caught 15 mins. after tagging |
| 16 | Mar 07 | F | 762 | Orange | 03867 | 6 | Bright, strong |
| 17 | Mar 13 | M | 787 | Orange | 03929 | 4 | Dark, milt running |
| 18 | Mar 15 | F | 711 | Orange | 02631 | 6 | Kelt |
| 19 | Mar 15 | M |  | Orange | 02907 | 2 | Dark |
| 20 | Mar 15 | F | 762 | Orange | 03856 | 3 | A little dark |
| 21 | Mar 18 | M | 813 | Orange | 02823 | 2 | Dark |
| 22* | Mar 19 | F | 711 | Orange | 02901 | 5 | Kelt, bad shape |
| 23 | Mar 20 | M | 864 | Orange | 03854 | 2 | Dark, spawning |
| 24 | Mar 21 | F | 686 | Orange | 02263 | 6 | A little colored |
| 25 | Mar 21 | F | 737 | Orange | 02268 | 5 | Slight color |
| 26 | Mar 21 | F | 711 | Orange | 02904 | 6 | Kelt |
| 27 | Mar 22 | F | 635 | Orange | 02646 | 4 | Bright |
| 28 | Mar 23 | M |  | Orange | 02282 | 2 | Tagged today |
| 29 | Mar 23 | M |  | Orange | 02908 | 2 |  |
| 30 | Mar 25 | F |  | Orange | 02915 | 2 | Quite bright |
| 31 | Mar 27 | F |  | Orange | 03938 | 3 | Partly spawned |
| 32 | Mar 28 | F |  | Orange | 02264 | 6 | Good scrapper |
| 33 | Mar 28 | M |  | Orange | 02913 | 3 | Semi-bright |
| 34 | Mar 28 | F | 711 | Orange | 02278 | 6 | Bright |
| 35 | Mar 30 | F | 711 | Orange | 03942 | 4 | Dark |
| 36 | Mar 31 | M |  | Orange | 02910 | 2 |  |
| 37 | Apr 04 | M |  | Orange | 03865 | 5 | Dark |
| 38* | Apr 10 | F |  | Orange | 03945 | 3 | Kelt |
| 39 | Apr 11 | M |  | Orange | 03885 | 3 | Colored |
| 40 | May 21 | M |  | Orange | 02824 | 2 | Colored |
| 41* | May 26 | M |  | Orange | 02824 | 2 | Excellent shape, 7 fry in mouth |

[^0]Steelhead recaptured from 1984-85 winter season

| Fish <br> No. | Date | Sex | Length Weight <br> cm | Tag No. and <br> kg | Area | Remarks | Age |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | Nov 01 | F |  |  | Orange 03124 | Fence | Bright |

** fish retagged, original was almost out (new tag \#02253)


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ Recap. N. Males $=17$ (43\%) *2 Recap N . Males $=1$ (33\%)
    N. Females $=21$ ( $57 \%$ ) N. Females $=2$ (67\%)

    * recaptured more than once

