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Brian,

I have fished the Big Sur River annually since 1983. Over the years I have noticed a marked decline in the number of steelhead seen and hooked. Due to this decline I stopped fishing the river three years ago. I now query my friends that still fish the river. Their reports are that things have not improved and indeed fishing continues to decline.

In the 1980's it was not uncommon to catch and release two fish per day. Now one is lucky to catch and release two fish per season. I would estimate the decline in the number of returning adult steelhead to be at least 75%,

I am sure the tourist industry has suffered as a direct result. My habit was to fish at least 10 days per year. After fishing my partner and I would enjoy lunch at our favorite Big Sur restaurant. Over the season that alone would amount to two hundred dollars or more. Multiply that by a number of fishermen and it becomes a significant impact.

One thing for certain is that addition diversions from the river will hasten the decline. I wish you well in the effort of the Carmel River Steelhead Association to prevent unwarranted diversions.

Sincerely,

  
Robert Zampatti

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