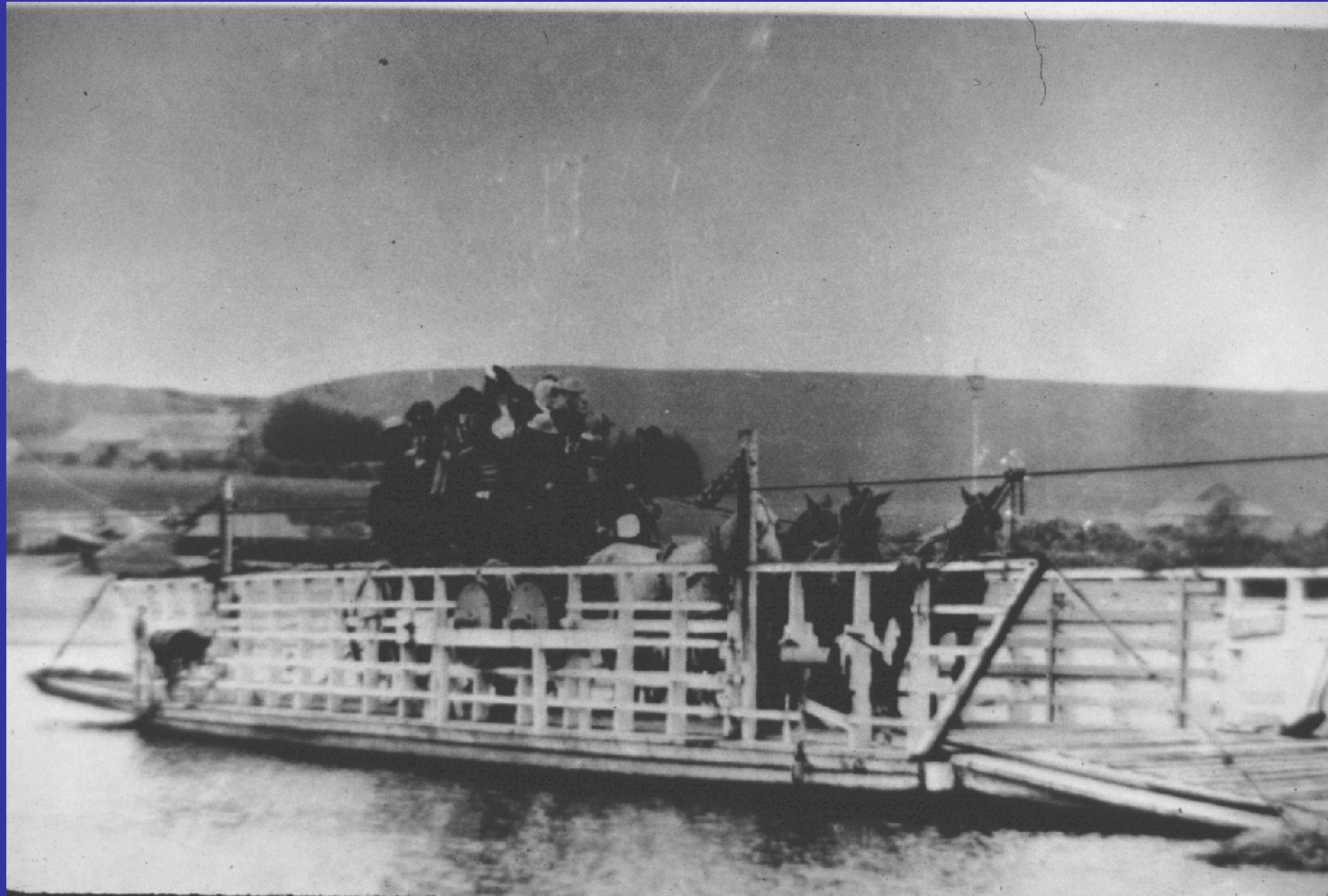




Eel River



This shot of the Eel River shows Chinook salmon caught using horse teams to haul in seine nets near Scotia. Estimates based on cannery pack indicate a run more than 600,000 adult Chinook salmon annually in the 1850s. Photo courtesy of the Humboldt Room at the HSU Library.



The ferry at the current location of Fern Bridge was needed to cross the Eel River because the channel there before watershed disturbance and flow depletion was 100-150 feet across and 40-50 feet deep. Photo courtesy of the Humboldt Room at the HSU Library.



The mainstem Eel River during the 1976-1977 drought shows a river channel simplified and made shallow by excess sediment. Decreased flows are not only a product of flow diversion to the Russian River, but also due to changes in watershed hydrology and increased surface and ground water use related to expanding rural development. Photo courtesy Dr. Terry Roelofs.



Scott Dam on the Eel River was built in 1919, produces only 12 megawatts of power and sits near an earthquake fault. The dam forms Pilsbury Reservoir that is ideal habitat for non-native predatory northern pikeminnow that have now invaded the rest of the Eel River. Although PG&E's license stipulates power production, it is really used to store water for diversion to the Russian River through Potter Valley.



Gravelly Valley on the mainstem Eel River was a perfect reach for salmon and steelhead spawning before submersion by Scott Dam in 1919. Low gradient reaches extended up the mainstem and Rice Fork and Chinook salmon and steelhead would recolonize these areas of Scott Dam were removed. Elimination of Lake Pillsbury would also be beneficial because it presently serves as a major source of north pikeminnow, which find the reservoir ideal.



**Want to help save the Eel River?
Support or get active in the Friends
of Eel River (www.eelriver.org).**