

BIG SULPHUR CREEK
Sonoma County
Trib. to Russian River
T 11 N, R 10 W, Sec. 7

Field Note: On August 8, 1973, Big Sulphur Creek was surveyed from car and on foot from the confluence with the Russian River to 1/4 mile above The Geysers Resort by B. Finlayson, Fish and Wildlife Seasonal Aid. The length surveyed was 13 miles. Observations made are as follows:

- (1) A slide area is located two miles above the mouth (T 11 N, R 9 W, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 9). This slide is 250 ft. long, 20 to 30 ft. wide and 10 - 15 ft. tall. It is a barrier to fish passage except during periods of high water. Two boulders, one on each side of the stream are slowly moving into the slide area. The north stream bank is also heavily eroded.
- (2) Only one steelhead was noted five miles up from the mouth. The predominant fish species was sucker (500/100 ft. of stream). Also noted were roach (100/100 ft. of stream) and Sacramento squawfish (100/100 ft. of stream). All were found throughout the entire stream section. A small number of smallmouth bass were observed below the River Road summer crossing (T 11 N, R 9 W, Sec. 5, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$).
- (3) A three-bay box culvert is located one-quarter mile above the Geysers Resort where the Geysers Road crosses Big Sulphur Creek. The middle bay is equipped with a wood trough, 2 ft. wide, to facilitate fish movement. It is adequate at the present time for the passage of fish. The culvert is 43 ft. long.
- (4) The majority of the creek is filled with silt and in most cases a heavy algae growth was found growing on the streambed. Water temperatures varied between 70 F and 73 F and air temperatures varied between 70°F and 75°F.
- (5) The smell of hydrogen sulfide gas was noted along with the presence of a few dead Sacramento squawfish in the vicinity of The Geysers Resort (T 11 N, R 9 W, S $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 13).