

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STREAM SURVEY

File form No _____ Date: _____

Name: CHILENO CREEK County: Marin

Stream Section: _____ From: mouth To: Laguna Lake Length: 6¼ mi.

Tributary To: Walker Creek Twp: 4N R: 9W Sec: 4

Other Names: North Fork Walker Creek River system: Walker Creek

Sources of Data: One day field survey vehicle and on foot; local ranchers; maps

EXTENT OF OBSERVATION
Include: Name of Surveyor, Date, Etc
LOCATION
RELATION TO OTHER WATERS
GENERAL DESCRIPTION
Watershed
Immediate Drainage Basin
Altitude (Range)
Gradient
Width
Depth
Flow (Range)
Velocity
Bottom
Spawning Areas
Pools
Shelter
Barriers
Diversions
Temperatures
Food
Aquatic Plants
Winter Conditions
Pollution
Springs
FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS
OTHER VERTEBRATES
FISHING INTENSITY
OTHER RECREATIONAL USE
ACCESSIBILITY
OWNERSHIP POSTED OR OPEN
IMPROVEMENTS
PAST STOCKING
GENERAL ESTIMATE
RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT
SKETCH MAP
REFERENCES AND MAPS

EXTENT OF OBSERVATION - A survey made by car and on foot by Jack Allen on Dec. 14, 1959 from mouth upstream to Laguna Lake.

LOCATION - Chileno Creek rises in the gently rolling hills approximately 4 miles west of Petaluma from which it flows south for approx. 3 miles then turning in a westerly direction it flows for about 7 miles to where it joins Walker Creek.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - It is one of the two largest tributaries of Walker Creek, a stream known to support a salmon and steelhead run.

Watershed - The watershed is part of a system of streams in the coastal range which flowed in a general westerly direction to enter Tomales Bay. The upper 2/3 of this stream is located in gently rolling hill country used primarily for agricultural and dairy farming. Large sections of this area are used for permanent pasture or are under cultivation. In the lower drainage hills become more steep, are mainly grass-covered with some brush and scattered oak.

Immediate Drainage Basin - Upper section generally open and exposed with little or no shade. Flows in this area normally only seasonal or intermittent, lower section rather open and quite exposed with little or only moderate streamside cover. Very limited stream cover in form of willow roots, cut banks, etc.

Altitude - 50-280 ft.

Gradient - Gentle throughout.

Width - Upper area 1-10 ft. Ave. 1½ ft. Lower area 2-150 ft. Ave. 5 ft. Only standing pool found during period of check in this extremely dry year!

Flow - Intermittent.

Velocity -

Bottom - Upper area dirt, mud, silt. Lower area - gravel, sand, silt.

Spawning Areas - Limited mainly to small tributaries or to the lower half of the main stream. Estimate only 15-30 percent of stream suitable for spawning of anadromous fish.

Pools - Only a limited number of small, rather shallow pools exist.

Shelter - Scarce, limited mainly to streamside willow roots and a few cut banks.

Barriers - None observed.

Diversions - None observed except for wells adjacent to the stream course.

Winter Conditions - Heavy fluctuation during winter rainy season.

Pollution - Siltation from poor farming practices. Also erosion caused from over-grazing of stream banks by livestock.

Springs - None observed.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - None observed.

OTHER VERTEBRATES - Frogs moderately abundant in areas near standing pools.

FISHING INTENSITY - Unknown but probably some fishing for winter salmon and steelhead occurs.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USES - Unknown; probably some hunting by those acquainted with landowners.

ACCESSIBILITY - Lower half of stream paralleled by a road; upper half accessible on foot or at road crossings.

OWNERSHIP - All under private ownership.

POSTED OR OPEN - Nearly all posted against hunting or trespass.

GENERAL ESTIMATE - Historically, Walker Creek to which Chileno Creek is tributary was reported to be an excellent spawning and nursery area for both steelhead and silver salmon.

Increasing fanning use of this area in the last few decades and with the clearing of most stream side cover during the same period has caused a very serious decline in fisheries value of the stream. In the writer's opinion it is doubtful that over 1/3 of the stream is now capable of supporting anadromous species, and in that area only on a very limited scale. The main contribution made by this stream is in the form of winter flows.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT - Damage caused by poor farming practices removal of streamside cover and shade and over-grazing of the drainage by livestock have nearly destroyed the fisheries value of this stream. Due to the above factors, Chileno Creek has little or no fisheries value. Therefore, not worth trying to manage at this time.

SKETCH MAP - See attached.

REFERENCES AND MAPS - U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Public Road; county road system map, Marin County 1954. USGS Quadrangle maps 7.5-minute series (topographic); Cotati, California, Quadrangle; Petaluma Quadrangle; Pt. Reyes NE, California Quadrangle.

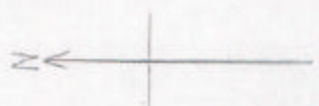
CHILENO CREEK
MARIN CO

Laguna Lake

Chileno School

Sonoma Co
Marin Co

Chileno Creek



Two Rock Fork Rd

Walker Creek

Walker Creek

Tomas

