

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STREAM SURVEY

Date: _____

NAME: SALMON CREEK COUNTY: Main

STREAM SECTION: _____ FROM: mouth TO: headwaters LENGTH: 4.5 miles

TRIBUTARY TO: Walker Creek TWP: 4N R: 8W SEC: 30

OTHER NAMES: _____ RIVER SYSTEM: Walker Creek

SOURCES OF DATA: Field investigation by 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

EXTENT OF OBSERVATION - A half-day field investigation was made on Dec. 9, 1959 by Jack Allen including spot checks at road crossings hiking on foot and by travel on car along roads which parallel most sections of the stream.

LOCATION - Salmon Creek rises in the coastal foothills approx. 4 mi. southwest of Petaluma. It flows in a general westerly direction to a point where it joins Sausal Creek. These two streams combine at this point to form Walker Creek.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - It is a salmon steelhead spawning and nursery area of Walker Creek.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - The watershed is a part of a system of streams in the coast range which flow in a generally westerly direction to enter Tomales Bay. The stream originates in a brush-grass covered hill area then traveling downstream crosses an open grassy incised section most of which has rather (sic) willow stream side cover. Cattle crossings at dairy ranches scattered along this stream have caused considerable silting in certain sections but some mediocre to fair gravels exist in the remainder of the lower section.

Altitude - 200-600 ft.

Gradient - Moderate to gentle headwaters section; gentle throughout remainder.

Width - 1-15 ft.; ave. 2-3 ft. (dry at time of check).

Width Lower Section - 1-75 ft.; ave. 2-3 ft.

Depth - Upper Section 1 in. - 4 ft.; avg. 3 in. (intermittent at time of check).
Lower Section 1 in. - 5 ft.; avg. 3 in. (intermittent at time of check).

Flow -

Velocity -

Bottom - Consists mainly of gravel, sand with some clay but in the vicinity of the dairy ranches along this stream considerable sedimentation from silt and clay occurs in the vicinity of cattle crossings.

Pools - Moderate number but small in size. Few over 18 inches in depth.

Shelter - Mainly in the form of willow roots, snags, etc. Boulders and rubble scarce.

Barriers - None observed. A farm pond has been constructed on a small tributary in adjacent to the road in Sec. 27.

Diversions - In addition to the farm pond mentioned above, pumps were noted adjacent to though not directly in the streambed at nearly all dairy farms along this stream.

Temperatures -

Food - Moderately abundant.

Aquatic Plants - Considerable algae growth noted in standing pools and seeps.

Winter Conditions - Subject to high fluctuations during periods of winter storms.

Pollution - Cattle barns and stock yards and most dairy farms along the stream are immediately adjacent to the streambed and drain directly into it.

Springs - None observed.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - None observed.

OTHER VERTEBRATES - Frogs moderately abundant. Raccoon, fox, bobcat and deer are also reported in this general vicinity.

FISHING INTENSITY - Not known.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USES - None observed.

ACCESSIBILITY - Accessible throughout most of its length from the Marshall-Petaluma Rd. and on foot in the remainder.

OWNERSHIP - All under private ownership.

POSTED OR OPEN - Whole area posted against hunting or trespass.

IMPROVEMENTS - None observed.

PAST STOCKING -

GENERAL ESTIMATE - Over-grazing the watershed, pollution from dairy barns and stock corrals and severe erosion and siltation of the stream at stock crossings have all been rather severe limiting factors to and have caused serious deterioration of the fisheries value of the stream. The small size and shallowness of pools plus only limited flows during the summer period seriously restricts the size of a fishery this stream can now support. It is the writer's opinion that this stream has only fair to mediocre fisheries value at the present time.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT - This stream although seriously damaged by poor farming practices, dairy pollution and soil erosion should still be managed as a salmon-steelhead spawning and nursery area. It is doubtful that efforts to rehabilitate this stream would meet with much success as! the cost of such a project would be prohibitive.

SKETCH MAP - See attached.

REFERENCES AND MAPS - USGS Quadrangle maps 7.5 minute series (topographic)j Pt. Reyes NE, California 1954; Petaluma, California 1953.

SALMON CREEK MARIN CO.

