J. B. KIMSEY EUREKA, CALIFORNIA

BUREAU OF FISH CONSERVATION 16 DECEMBER, 1952

GUALALA RIVER, SONOMA COUNTY

On the evening of December 6, 1952, I attended a meeting of the Mendocino Council of Fish and Game Clubs at Fort Bragg and they announced at that time that they had affiliated with a new coast-wise council of sportsmen's clubs which will include nearly all the counties in District 5. This larger council went on record as opposing the opening of the Gualala River to summer fishing. This proposal will be presented to the commission by this group in January.

I believe this a wise move on their part as we do not yet know what the effect of the closure has been on the adult populations. We are in a somewhat better position as to information on the fingerling population as on August l5, 1952 we shocked a section of the Gualala River just below the confluence of the north fork. A table of the results is appended. We believe that the length frequencies of the fish removed show a healthy condition and do not indicate we are fostering a resident population at the expense of our migratory fingerlings. None of these fish can be clearly considered residents.

The size range does not suggest a summer sport fish population as only four or five are what a good sportsman would consider keepers. On the Mattole River, Humboldt County, where summer angling is open, we found anglers taking fish as small as three inches. Out of 28 fish measured in two creels, fifteen were under five inches in size. The largest fish measured was 7 inches.

While we did not shock further upstream the information obtained on the upper reaches of the Garcia River may be indicative of the situation on the Gualala River. The data collected at Station 3 on the Garcia also are appended. These length frequencies indicate that only 11 of the 107 measured trout could be classed as residents while the remaining 96 trout and 36 silver salmon are clearly fish of the year.

A follow up next summer with a more intensive shocking program will give us more conclusive information. In the meantime, I believe it best to continue the closure and to make some attempt to secure data on what has happened to the adult population. If results show we are not accomplishing anything then we should remove the closure.

I do not believe the pressure to open this stream originates with the real sports anglers.

J. B. Kimsey
District Fisheries Biologist

GUALALA RIVER, SONOMA COUNTY
August 15, 1952

STATION NO. 1

Length Frequencies - Steelhead

Inches	Number
1.0 - 1.5	0
1.5-2.0	2
2.0 - 2.5	5
2.5-3.0	12
3.0 - 3.5	46
3.5 - 4.0	39
4.0 - 4.5	17
4.5 - 5.0	13
5.0-5.5	10
5.5 - 6.0	2
6.0 - 6.5	2
5.5-7.0	0
7.0 - 7.5	1
Total	149

Physical Data

Surface area	4075 sq. ft.
Mean depth	1.67 ft.
Volume	6805 cu. ft.
Flow	54 cfs

Catch by Species

Cottids	49
Gasterosteus	47
Hesperoleucus	37
Trout	150

GARCIA RIVER, SONOMA COUNTY
August 14, 1952

STATION NO. 3

Length Frequencies-Steelhead-Silver Salmon

Inches	No. Steelhead	No. Silver salmon
1.0 - 1.5	5	0
1.5 - 2.0	35	0
2.0 - 2.5	19	1
2.5 - 3.0	17	21
3.0 - 3.5	15	14
3.5 - 4.0	5	0
4.5 - 5.0	3	Total 36
5.0 - 5.5	1	
5.5 - 6.0	1	
6.0 - 6.5	0	
6.5 - 7.0	1	
7.0 - 7.5	1	
7.5 - 3.0	1	
8.0 - 8.5	0	
8.5 - 9.0	0	
9.0 - 9.5	1	
9.5 - 10.0	0	
10.0 - 10.5	0	
10.5 - 11.0	0	
11.0 - 11.5	0	
11.5 - 12.0	0	
12.0 - 12.5	0	
12.5 - 13.0	1	
13.0 - 13.5	1	
13.5 - 14.0	0	
Total	107	

Physical Data

Surface area 1249.5 sq. ft.
Mean depth 1.34 ft.
Volume 1674.3 cu. ft.
Flow 30 cfs (est.)

Catch by Species

Cottids 33
Gasterosteus 6
Trout 109
Silver salmon 36