

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
STREAM SURVEY

FILE FORM No. _____

NAME.....WALKER CREEK.....COUNTY.....Marin.....

STREAM SECTION....FROM mouth of Frink Canyon u/s....TO... Mouth of Arroyo Sausal Cr ...LENGTH....4 mi.

TRIBUTARY TO....Tomales Bay.....TWP...4N... R...9W...SEC.....22.....

OTHER NAMES.....RIVER SYSTEM.....Walker Creek.....

SOURCES OF DATA.....Half day field investigation on Dec. 14, 1959 by Jack T. Allen.....

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

EXTENT OF OBSERVATION - Half day field investigation on Dec. 14, 1959 including spot checks at road crossings, hiking on foot and travel by car along the road which parallels most of this section of the stream.

LOCATION - this section of stream is located approx. 4-8 mi. east of the town of Marshall. The stream flows in a general northwesterly direction throughout this section.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - Walker Creek is known to support a silver salmon and steelhead run.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - Watershed - The watershed in this areas is mainly in the form of rather steep grass-oak and brush covered hills. The stream course in this area is generally in a long and narrow rather open valley. Most of this area is covered with grass, with scattered areas of brush and oak.

Immediate Drainage Basin - The streambed is of the incised type throughout most of this area. Rather heavy streamside cover exist in the upper section but the willows thin out, mainly downstream, into the long, open sections with little streamside cover in lower portions.

Altitude - 120-200 ft.

Gradient - Gentle throughout.

Width - To high water mark upper section 5-150 ft. ave. 5 ft.

Lower section 4-200 ft.; ave. 5-6 ft. (stream only intermittent at time of check).

Depth - 0 - 6 ft. ; ave. 6 in. (intermittent at time of check).

Flow -

Velocity -

Bottom - Composed mainly of sand, gravel with minor amounts of silt.

Spawning Areas - A sand and gravel bottom is common throughout most of this section but is mostly exposed at this time of year. At higher stream flow levels 60-70 percent of this section should be suitable for spawning.

Shelter - Shelter restricted mainly to willow roots, snags, etc. with only minor quantities of rubble and boulders present.

Pools - Pools moderately plentiful but most are small and rather shallow. Usually 18 in. to less than 2 f. deep.

Barriers - None observed.

Diversions - Diversions in the form of pumps for domestic and stock use observed adjacent to but not directly in stream bed.

Temperature -

Food - Moderately plentiful.

Aquatic Plants - Algae moderately abundant in standing pools. Sedges also observed in some areas.

Winter Conditions - Subject to high fluctuations during winter storm periods.

Pollution - Drainage from dairy barns and stock pens drain directly into the stream in several locations along this section of stream. Erosion caused by cattle and stock crossings also rather severe in several locations in this section.

Springs - None observed.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - One to two-inch three-spined sticklebacks and 1-2 inch cyprinids (species unidentified) observed in some standing pools but rather scarce throughout most of area.

OTHER VERTEBRATES - Frogs moderately abundant. Ranchers report raccoon, fox, deer, abundant.

FISHING INTENSITY - Unknown but believed to be quite light.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USE - Some hunting may occur by persons acquainted with landowners.

ACCESSIBILITY - Paralleled by a road throughout this entire section.

OWNERSHIP - All under private ownership.

POSTED OR OPEN - Posted against hunting and trespass, throughout this area.

IMPROVEMENTS - None observed.

PAST STOCKING -

GENERAL ESTIMATE - Historically Walker Creek is reported to have had moderately large runs of silver salmon and steelhead but increasing use of this area in recent years for the grazing of cattle and sheep and establishment of numerous dairy farms in this area have caused a decline in the fishery in recent years.

A Wildlife Protection officer creel census conducted in the winter steelhead season of 1954-55 showed an estimated 1518 angler days were spent on this stream that season with an estimated catch of 576 steelhead with an average catch per angle of .38. This census was conducted in the tidewater section of the stream as the remainder was closed to fishing in that year fishing use and success were about equal to that experienced on the Garcia River for the same year.

The proposed Arroyo Sausal Creek dam, if constructed, will cut off the major spawning and nursery tributary to this stream.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT - Poor farming practices and pollution by dairy farms have seriously damaged the fisheries value of Walker Creek but as it still receives considerable fishing pressure it should be continued to be managed as a salmon and steelhead spawning and nursery area. If the proposed Sausal Creek dam is constructed compensation for lost spawning and nursery area should be asked for in the form of downstream flow releases. If adequate downstream releases can be secured enhancement of this section of stream should be attempted in the form of planting stream side cover to furnish shade and also partial protection from the adverse affects if farm livestock which at present are very detrimental to the fishery.

SKETCH MAP - See attached.

REFERENCES AND MAPS - USGS Quadrangle map 7.5 minute series Pt. Reyes Northeast Calif. 1954

✓ concurs
CKS
9/9/62

MARIN CO.



Frank Canyon Cr

Gravel Road

Chileno Valley

Marshall

Verde Canyon Cr

Marshall - Red Line Rd
Walker Creek

Arroyo Sausal Cr

Salmon Cr

0 1/2 1
Scale in Miles