

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME STREAM SURVEY

File form No _____ Date: _____

NAME: RUSSIAN GULCH CREEK **COUNTY:** Sonoma

Lower 2.2 mi. upstream

STREAM SECTION: 2.2 mi. **FROM:** mouth **TO:** Upper fish limit **LENGTH:** 2.2 mi.

TRIBUTARY TO: None (flow into ocean) **TWP:** 7 N **R:** 12 W **SEC:** 11
Russian Gulch Creek

OTHER NAMES: Middle Branch, Center Branch **RIVER SYSTEM:** Russian Gulch

SOURCES OF DATA: Personal observation and personal interview with local ranchers

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
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Diversions
Temperatures
Food
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Winter Conditions
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FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS
OTHER VERTEBRATES
FISHING INTENSITY
OTHER RECREATIONAL USE
ACCESSIBILITY
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POSTED OR OPEN
IMPROVEMENTS
PAST STOCKING
GENERAL ESTIMATE
RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT
SKETCH MAP
REFERENCES AND MAPS

EXTENT OF OBSERVATION - Russian Gulch Creek surveyed on foot from mouth to the upper fish limit, a point 2.2 miles upstream, on 29 July, 1965 by Bill Stout.

LOCATION - Mouth Russian Gulch Creek located at a point approximately .3 miles south of the Russian Gulch Creek bridge on Highway 1, which is located approximately 3.2 miles north of Jenner.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - Contributes winter and summer flow and provides .3 miles of good spawning grounds and .5 miles of good nursery grounds.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION -

Watershed - Immediate Drainage Basin - Size: 4.9 square miles; Russian Gulch Creek flows from a point approximately .1 miles south of Brain Ridge approximately due south; no current logging: logged out between 1950-60; Section 1 (from mouth to confluence of Middle and Western branches, .9 miles from mouth upstream), 40 degree U-shaped canyon; stable, shallow, wide stream channel with sand-gravel banks; vegetation abundant; unidentified plant dominant, willow, red alder; coverage confined primarily to stream channel with grass on summits. Section 2 (from confluence of Middle and West branches to 9-foot bedrock falls .5 miles upstream); steep 70 degree slopes, U-shaped canyon, vegetation abundant; redwood trees dominant, big leaf maple, tanbark oak, red alder, ferns, California laurel, horsetail, Western azalea. Section 3 (from 9-foot

bedrock falls to end of fish limit .8 miles upstream; slopes precipitous, V-shaped canyon; vegetation common; horsetail fern.

Altitude - At mouth sea level, at upstream fish limit 425 feet.

Gradient - 193 feet per mile.

Width - Average 8 feet with range from 1 1/2 feet to 15 feet.

Depth - Average 8 inches, with range from 1 inch to 10 feet.

Flow - None at mouth; 1.5 cfs. 100 feet upstream from confluence of Middle and West branches; 1.2 cfs. for stream.

Velocity - Slow to moderately rapid.

Bottom - Section 1 (from mouth to confluence of Middle and West branches) boulders 10 per cent, coarse rubble 15 per cent, fine rubble 15 per cent, coarse gravel 30 per cent, fine gravel 20 per cent, sand 10 per cent. Section 2 (from confluence of Middle and West branches to 9-foot bedrock falls .9 miles upstream) bedrock 10 per cent, boulders 25 per cent, coarse rubble 30 per cent, fine rubble 15 per cent, coarse gravel 10 per cent, fine gravel 5 per cent, sand 5 per cent. Section 3 (from 9-foot bedrock falls to end of fisheries limit .8 miles upstream) bedrock 35 per cent, boulders 40 per cent, coarse rubble 15 per cent, fine rubble 5 per cent, coarse gravel 5 per cent, fine gravel 5 per cent, sand 5 per cent.

Spawning Areas - Section 1 (from mouth to confluence of Middle and West branches) 50 per cent good. Section 2 (from confluence of Middle and West branches to 9-foot bedrock falls .9 miles upstream) 30 per cent fair. Section 3 (from 9-foot bedrock falls to end of fish limit) 5 per cent poor.

Pools - Sixty per cent of stream: caused by boulders, digging action of current and logs.

Shelter - Poor to excellent: undercut banks, boulders and logs.

Barriers - Partial. 1. Nine-foot bedrock falls 1.4 miles from mouth upstream. 2. Ten-foot bedrock falls 1.6 miles from mouth upstream. 3. Six log jams.

Diversions - Not known.

Temperatures - Maximum at 100-foot upstream from confluence of Middle and West branches at 1100 on 29 July 1965: air 67 degrees F., water 58 degrees F.; weather: fair, winds 1-3 mph; altitude: 50 feet.

Food - Caddis fly larvae: 45-55 square foot, stone fly nymph 10-20 square foot. Others not identified.

Aquatic Plants - Section 1 (from mouth to confluence of Middle and West branches) considerable algae. Section 2 (from confluence of Middle and West branches to 9-foot bedrock falls) moss.

Winter Conditions - Three to four feet above summer minimum.

Springs - Small spring .8 miles from confluence of Middle and West branches upstream.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - Section 1 (from mouth to confluence of Middle and West branches) SS-SH (1"-4"): 200/100 feet. Section 2 (from confluence of Middle and West branches to 9-foot bedrock falls) SS-SH (1"-8"): 50/100 feet, 3-spined stickleback (1"-2") 200/100 feet. Section 3 (from 9-foot bedrock falls to end of fishery limit) SS-SH (1"-3") 15/100 feet.

OTHER VERTEBRATES - Frogs, garter snakes, newts.

FISHING INTENSITY - Black and De Voe report light fishing intensity.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USES - Picnic grounds.

ACCESSIBILITY - Accessible by Charles Ranch Road which joins to Highway 1 3.7 miles north of Jenner. Key to gate at entrance obtainable from Black at Charles Ranch. Also accessible by Sonoma Coast Associates' road 2.6 miles north of Jenner. Key may be obtained from W. R. Johnson on top of hill south of gate.

OWNERSHIP - Sonoma Coast Associates and George Charles Ranch.

POSTED OR OPEN - Posted, but Black states that closure is loosely enforced.

IMPROVEMENTS - Removal of 6 log jams from mouth to upper fish limit.

PAST STOCKING - Not known.

GENERAL ESTIMATE - Russian Gulch Creek has moderate spawning and nursery areas and is being currently utilized and populated by steelhead, silver salmon, stickleback, and rainbow trout. The log jams present are not extensive but do hinder fish movement and favor a rainbow trout population. This is especially noticeable in the upper % of Section 2 and the entire Section 3.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT - Russian Gulch Creek should be managed for silver salmon and steelhead spawning and nursery especially in Section 1 and Section 2. The barriers should be removed to improve traffic.

SKETCH MAP - See attached.

REFERENCES AND MAPS - One USGS Arched Rock 7 1/2 series (1943). One USGS Fort Ross 7 1/2 series (1943). One Division of Forestry (Sonoma Ranger Unit) (1956).

Russian Gulch Creek
T-7-N R-12-W Sec 11



1. Stream Classification	<u>V</u>
2. Now satisfactory - SA & SS	<u>0.4 mile</u>
3. To be improved	<u>1.2 mile</u>
4. Available after improvement	<u>1.6 mile</u>

