

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STREAM SURVEY

NAME: FREEZEOUT CREEK **COUNTY:** Sonoma
STREAM SECTION: FROM: Mouth **TO:** 3/4 mile upstream **LENGTH:** Approx. 3 miles
TRIBUTARY TO: Russian River **TWP:** 7N **R:** 11W **SEC:** 15
OTHER NAMES: None **RIVER SYSTEM:** Russian River
SOURCES OF DATA: Personal survey and information gained from local residents.

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 -

Freezeout Creek was surveyed from the mouth to 3/4 of a mile upstream by Dave Netherby on March 4, 1966. The survey was discontinued at the point where the stream became uninhabitable and inaccessible to fish due to steep gradient, torrential flows, and a number of rock formed falls.

LOCATION -

Freezeout Creek empties into the Russian River, approximately 50 yards downstream from the bridge at Duncans Mills.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS -

Freezeout Creek is a spawning and nursery tributary to the Russian river and the Pacific Ocean.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION -

Watershed - and

Immediate Drainage Basin - Freezeout Creek has its watershed in a steep, mountain forest area, heavily shaded by Redwood trees, etc. The drainage basin is pastureland with Alder trees predominating along the lower banks of the stream.

Altitude - The altitude of this stream ranged from 25 feet in the lower pasture to 1300 feet at Fern Spring.

Width - The width ranged from 4 to 10 feet throughout. The average width was 5 feet.

Depth - The depth ranged from 2 inches to 4 feet throughout. The average depth was 0.5 feet.

Flow - Measured with pigmy meter at 5.4 cfs.

Velocity - Rapid throughout.

Bottom - Freezeout Creek, in the headwaters, has a bottom consisting primarily of bed-rock (25 percent), boulders (50 percent), and rubble (25 percent). In the lower areas, the bottom consists of boulder (10 percent), rubble (15 percent), gravel (50 percent) and sand (25 percent).

Spawning Areas - Spawning areas are good with the loose gravel ranging from pea size to 4 inches in diameter.

Pools - There are many good pools formed by jams, the digging action of the current and undercut banks. These pools range from 4 to 10 feet wide, 2 to 4 feet deep, and 6 to 12 feet long. (50 percent pools, 50 percent riffle)

Shelter - The shelter is abundant, composed of roots, logs, undercut banks, and over-hanging trees.

Barriers - Two or three partial log jam barriers are located in the valley within 3/4 mile of the mouth. Boulders form falls in the headwaters.

Food - Insect life appeared to be sufficient in the areas of the stream that were accessible to fish.

Winter Conditions - Freezeout Creek floods along with the Russian River (approximately 4 times in past 10 years).

Pollution - The water in Freezeout Creek was clear and seemed to be free of pollution.

Springs - This stream begins its flow at Fern Spring, high in the mountains near the Monte Rio fire trail.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS -

Silver salmon and steelhead and/or rainbow trout were seined from 3/4 mile of Freezeout Creek. They ranged in size from 2 to 6 inches, the average size running 3 inches. Saw fish up to 8 inches in length but could not catch and classify them.

OTHER VERTEBRATES -

Sheep and cattle graze in the lower valley.

FISHING INTENSITY -

Quite light, only friends of George Casini can use the stream. Mr. Casini said that the fishing was good last year.

ACCESSIBILITY -

To reach this creek, cross the bridge over the Russian River at Duncans Mills. Turn right on Moscow Road, travel 50 yards to the mouth. Logging roads run along the stream to the headwaters.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USE -

None known.

OWNERSHIP -

The lower pastures are owned by George Casini. The headwater area seems to be owned or leased by a lumber company.¹

POSTED -

This area is posted against trespass and hunting.

PAST STOCKING -

Unknown.

GENERAL ESTIMATE AND RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT -

Freezeout Creek is a good nursery and spawning area utilized mainly by silver salmon with some steelhead and/or rainbow trout. The log jams in the lower valley are almost complete barriers and should be removed. Stocking would make the stream more productive. Continue to manage as a spawning and nursery area.

[¹ In 1982 most of the Freezeout Creek watershed is owned by Louisiana Pacific Corp.]

Freezeout Creek
Sonoma County

