

State of California

The Resources Agency

# Memorandum

To : Fishery Management, Region 3

Date: March 25, 1976

From: Department of Fish and Game - Menlo Park

Subject: The status of steelhead and silver salmon spawning success in Redwood, Pine Gulch, Lagunitas, and Corte Madera Creeks, Marin County; Mid-February, 1976.

To date, the 1975-1976 winter season has been one of the driest in central California history. As a consequence, the anadromous salmonid fishery resource has suffered. Low stream flows have hampered successful gametic migration. It was reported by wardens of both Marin and San Mateo Counties that light rains occurring 16 and 17 February 1976, allowed fish passage in several streams in their respective counties. On 24 and 25 February 1976, four Marin County coastal streams were inspected to determine if these rains permitted successful spawning.

## Redwood Creek 24 February 1976

The stream was walked from Muir Woods Park parking lot to 100 yds. upstream from the mouth of Fern Creek. Four adult male silver salmon and one male steelhead were observed adjacent to the park's restroom. The SS ranged from 12 to 18 inches TL, and the SH was approximately 15 inches TL.

Mr. Hardin, Park Superintendent, stated to his knowledge there had been no successful spawning within the park's boundaries.

Adjacent to the park's restrooms at 1145 hrs. the water temperature was 47°F. At the stream's mouth there was a shallow confluence with the ocean.

## Pine Gulch Creek 24 February 1976

The stream was walked from Olema-Bolinas Road Bridge crossing to approximately 500 yds. upstream.

Stream flow at the bridge was approximately 1 to 2 cfs. Air temperature was 54°F, and water temperature was 51°F.

Two 3-inch salmonids were sighted. No migratory adults or redds were observed.

Lagunitas Creek 24 February 1976

## Surveyed by Sites

Site #1: White House Pool

Twenty-seven anglers were fishing White House Pool at 1430 hrs. All were interviewed, and only one individual had successfully landed an SH on the day.

A female and male SS were found dead on the stream's banks.

Site #2: Three miles downstream from Samuel P. Taylor State Park, Headquarters. Walked 200 yds. of riffle and pool habitats.

No salmonids or redds were observed.

Site #3: Samuel Taylor State Park, Headquarters.

Stream flow was approximately 3 to 5 cfs. A park ranger on duty stated that no adult salmonids had been sighted since the mid-February rains.

Corte Madera Creek 24 February 1976

The stream was walked from Lagunitas Road Bridge crossing downstream to the Denil Fishway.

Stream flow through the Fishway was approximately 1 cfs. No salmonids were observed.

Discussion

The mid-February rains permitted only limited fish passage in three Marin County streams. Several salmonids migrated as far as Muir Woods Park in Redwood Creek. It is unlikely that successful spawning occurred in the park. All salmonids observed here, were small males.

According to Warden Giddings, SS penetrated to three miles upstream from Point Reyes Station on Lagunitas Creek. Low stream flows did not permit further migration. Spawning success, at best, was probably minimal and restricted to the stream's lower reaches.

On Corte Madera Creek, a few salmonids were reported (Warden Albert) to have migrated passed the fishway downstream from Lagunitas Road. Rapid water fluctuation associated with urban streams may have precluded the chance for successful spawning. The stream flow one week after the mid-February rains was approximately 1 cfs.

Gary Scoppettone

Fish and Wildlife Seasonal Aid

GGG:KRA:nw