

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME STREAM SURVEY

NAME: WEST BRANCH, RUSSIAN GULCH CREEK COUNTY: Sonoma

Lower

STREAM SECTION: 1.4 mi. FROM: Mouth TO: 15-foot bedrock falls LENGTH: 1.4 mi.

TRIBUTARY TO: Russian Gulch Creek TWP: 7 N R: 12 W SEC: 2

OTHER NAMES: Not known RIVER SYSTEM: Russian Gulch

SOURCES OF DATA: Personal observation and personal interviews with local resident.

<p>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</p>

EXTENT OF OBSERVATION - West Branch, Russian Gulch Creek surveyed on foot from mouth to 15-foot falls, total distance of 1.4 miles, on 22 July 1965 by Bill Stout.

LOCATION - West Branch of Russian Gulch flows into Russian Gulch at a point .3 miles from Highway 1 on Charles Ranch road, where Charles Ranch road joins Sonoma Coast Associates' road; Charles Ranch road connects with Highway 1 3.7 miles north of Jenner and .5 miles north of the Russian Gulch crossing of Highway 1.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - Contributes winter and summer flow to Russian Gulch Creek and provides .8 mile of good spawning and nursery grounds.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION -

Watershed and Immediate Drainage Basin - Size: 3.4 square miles, no current logging, logged 1955-1956, stable, bowl-shaped channel, U-shaped canyon, stream flowing from Smith Ridge southeast 2.8 miles, south .6 miles then .6 miles southeast. Topography and vegetation. Section 1 (from mouth to first tributary west .6 miles) steep 65 degree north slope, 45 degree south slope, U-shaped canyon, grass covered summits, 50 per cent vegetation (common) coverage along streams (redwood, big leaf maple). Section 2 (from junction of first tributary west .7 miles upstream) moderate 50 degree slopes, U-shaped canyon, 60 per cent vegetation coverage (big leaf maple trees dominant, redwood, horsetail, ferns, oaks).
Altitude - At mouth 50 feet, at upstream fish limit 450 feet.
Gradient - 357 feet per mile in surveyed area.

Width - Average 5 feet with range from 2 feet to 20 feet.

Depth - Average 3 inches with range from 2 inches to 2 feet.

Flow - One cubic foot per second.

Velocity - Gentle.

Bottom - 40 per cent rubble, 45 per cent gravel, 8 per cent sand, 2 per cent silt, 5 per cent boulders.

Spawning Areas - 60 per cent of the stream suitable for spawning.

Pools - Caused by boulders, log jams; good ratio of pools to riffle area 50 to 50. The pools were continuous.

Shelter - Dominance of boulders and rubble.

Food - Caddis fly larvae on rocks 20 per sq. feet good. Stone fly larvae on underside of rocks 15 per square feet good.

Barriers - Partial, log jams Number 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16. Total log jams Number 6, 9, 10, 11. Natural rock barrier Number 17, 15-foot bedrock falls upper fisheries limit.

Diversions - Not known.

Temperatures - Maximum, 100-foot from mouth upstream at 1400 on July 22, 1965, air 70 degrees Fahrenheit water, 60 degrees Fahrenheit Weather fair, calm, Altitude 50 feet.

Aquatic Plants - Algae grows on surface near mouth rare.

Winter Conditions - Three feet to four feet above summer level.

Pollution - None noted.

Springs - None noted.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - SH 90 per cent, range 1% inches-8 inches, average 3 inches, number per 100 square feet 75. SS 10 per cent, range 2-4 inches, average 3 inches, number per 100 square feet 2. Cottid range 2 inches, average 2 inches, number per 100 square feet 1.

OTHER VERTEBRATES - Frogs, toads, newts, snakes.

FISHING INTENSITY - Mr. Black reports light fishing.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USES - Private picnic ground.

ACCESSIBILITY - Accessible at the mouth 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 at mouth 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 - George Black.

POSTED OR OPEN - Posted, but Black stated that closure was loosely enforced.

IMPROVEMENTS - Clearance of 16 log jams.

PAST STOCKING - Not known.

GENERAL ESTIMATE - West Branch, Russian Gulch has excellent spawning gravels, well stabilized in streambed, good nursery potential because of desirable summer water temperatures and amplitude of food. Above upper fish limit the boulders and scarcity of spawning gravel and steep gradient renders this section undesirable.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT - Removal of 16 log jams from mouth to bedrock falls 1.4 miles upstream from mouth.

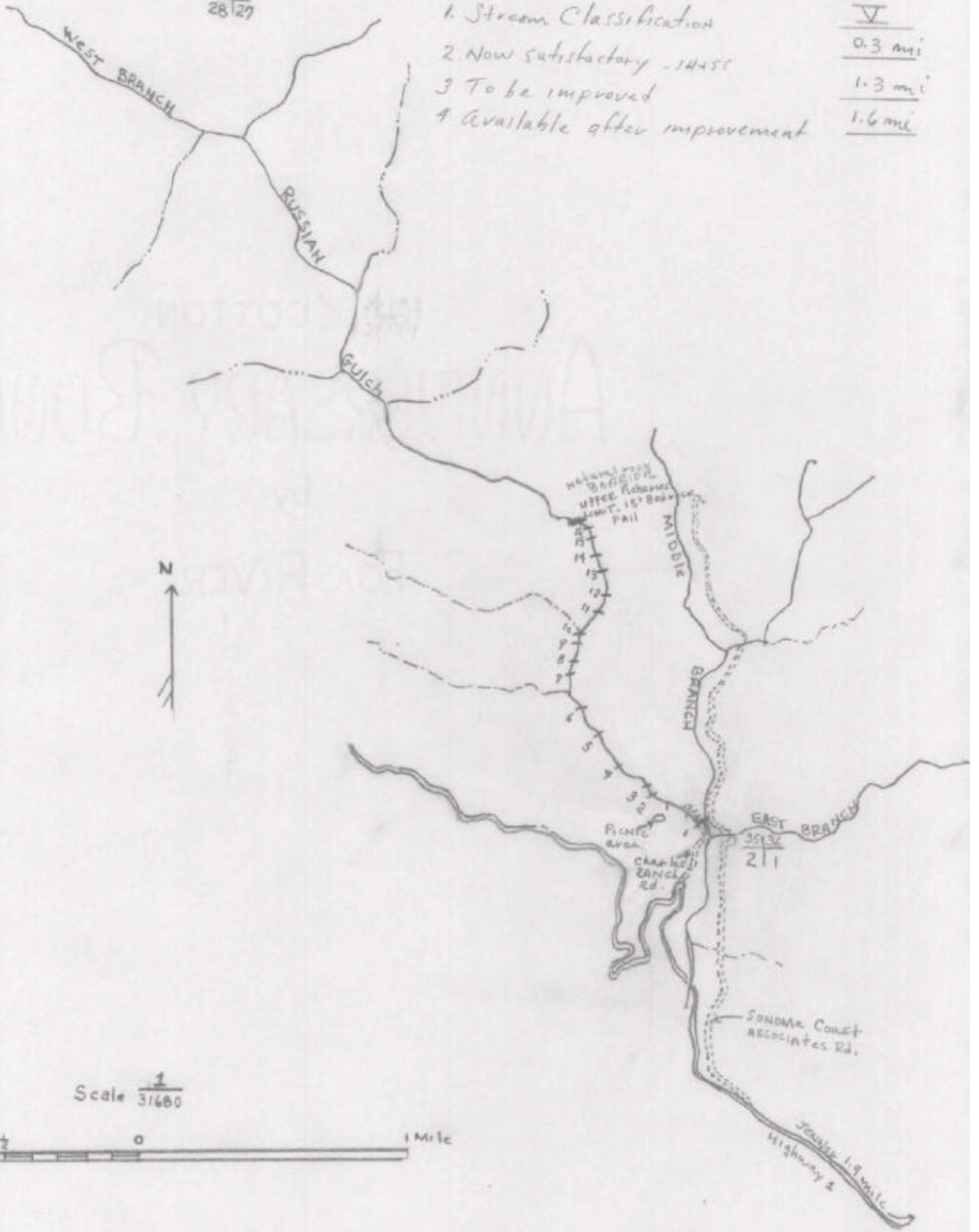
SKETCH MAP - See attached.

REFERENCES AND MAPS - One USGS 7 1/2 Minute Series (1944) scale 1 to 31,680. Arched Rock Quadrangle. One USGS 7 1/2 Minute Series (1943) scale 1 to 24,000. Fort Ross, California. One Division of Forestry map 1956.

21/22
28/29

1. Stream Classification
2. Now satisfactory - 14451
3. To be improved
4. Available after improvement

<u>V</u>
0.3 mi
1.3 mi
1.6 mi



Scale $\frac{1}{31680}$

1 Mile