

Sept. 25, 1954

FIELD NOTEFeliz Creek  
Mendocino County

The stream was examined to determine conditions after the recent treatment with rotenone for rough fish control. Throughout the north branch, large numbers of dead fish were found, a surprisingly large concentration of lampreys were present. Suckers and roaches seemed to be dominant. No trout were noted. Most of the fish were small in size, being less than 6". Only one large sucker, approximately 23" long was observed. Approximately one-half mile of stream section was examined carefully and no sign of fishlife was found. The main headwater section was then examined by going through the Germano ranch. This headwater section of the stream maintains a continuous year round flow. A fine population of steelhead or rainbow trout was found present. In each large pool were approximately four or five trout ranging in size from 5" to 7". In addition, would also be found perhaps two dozen small young of the year fish approximately 2 to 3". The stream flow was approximately one-half second food. It is believed that this stream is probably being utilized to its carrying capacity during the low flow period.

WAE:fo

Sept. 22, 1954

With Marble, Stice, Beigel, Bravo and Hand, chemical treatment to control rough fish on this stream was begun on this date and completed the following day. Treatment was started approximately one mile above the falls on this creek. It was continued downstream to a point about two miles below the Helman Ranch, at which point the stream went underground. Access to the upper portion of the stream was through the McNab Ranch just south of Ukiah. This was over about 5 miles of trail, barely usable by jeep. A test section above the falls was post-checked for completeness of kill and to learn the population composition in the area. In a 100' stretch of stream, varying from 4 to 20 feet in width and up to 2 feet in depth with a flow of about 2 second feet, the following dead fishes were seen: RT-SH, 127, almost all fingerlings; roach, 29; suckers, 12. All but two or three of these fishes were of fingerling size, or smaller. Mr. Walker, foreman of the McNab Ranch, gave us considerable information regarding access. A second section post-checked was located about one-quarter of a mile below the falls. In this area, the stream flowed through a deep canyon but was unshaded. The flow was about 3 second feet. The stream bottom consisted of several shallow sandy pools, mixed with gentle ripples and small boulders. The following fishes were observed: RT-SH, 6; roach, 53; suckers, 29; squawfish, 31. Some of the squawfish were up to 8" in length as were a few of the suckers. The other fishes were of fingerling length, or smaller. A third post-check was made immediately above the Helman Ranch. This was the only wet area of the creek where the channel was extremely wide and shallow. There was no shade and the flow was something less than one second foot. The 100' section checked here, consisted of a long, deep pool, well shaded by two or three trees and a short riffle section flowing into the pool, having no shade. The following fishes were observed: RT-SH, 1, probably a resident rainbow approximately 14" in length, and an additional trout 25" in length and looking like a typical steelhead was also killed. Roach, 225; suckers 61, up to 18" in length; squawfish, 19, up to 20" in length. The entire Feliz Creek area chemically treated with the exception of the broad open area by the Helman Ranch, flowed through a narrow, steep, rocky canyon with a fairly steep gradient. Most of the stream bottom consisted of gravel, rubble and boulders, and appeared to be excellent material for spawning fish.

HEP:fo