

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA  
Department Of Fish And Game

**STREAM SURVEY**

Date: July 19, 1973

NAME: CUMMISKY CREEK COUNTY: MENDOCINO

STREAM SECTION: Entire FROM: Mouth TO: Headwaters LENGTH: 6 miles

TRIBUTARY TO: Russian River TWP: 12N R: 11W SEC: 14

OTHER NAMES: None RIVER SYSTEM: Russian River

SOURCES OF DATA: Personal observation

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** - Cummisky Creek was surveyed on foot from the confluence with the Russian River. The headwater (mid point in Section 2, T12N, R12W) on July 18, 1973, by B. Finlayson and J. Nelson.

**LOCATION** - Cummisky Creek enters the Russian River in the vicinity of the Cummisky Station Road, about five miles northwest of Cloverdale, California on U. S. Highway 101.

**RELATION TO OTHER WATERS** - Cummisky Creek contributes winter and summer flows to the Russian River and provides four-and-a-half miles of spawning and nursery area for steelhead trout.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION -**

**Watershed and Immediate Drainage Basin** - Cummisky Creek drains a basin of about 20 square miles of which the upper section was second growth redwood and the lower section was oak-grassland. The entire creek, with the exception of the first mile downstream, flows through a V-shaped canyon. The gradient becomes noticeably steeper about four miles above the confluence with the Russian River. At this point, the water quality also changed from a slow-moving and algae-abundant water downstream to a clearer and faster moving water upstream.

**Altitude** - At confluence with Russian River; 600 feet  
The upper point of the survey: 2,000 feet

**Gradient** - Overall-285 feet/mile.

**Width** - Average; Four feet  
Range; One to ten feet.

**Depth** - Average; Five inches  
Range: One inch to four feet.

**Flow** - Average: 0.3 c.f.s.  
Range: 0.1 to 0.6 c.f.s.

**Velocity** - Ranges from rapid to slow.

**Bottom** - The streambed above the main falls (see attached map) consisted of 70% boulder and 30% rubble and gravel. Below the falls, the stream was composed of 30% boulder, 65% rubble and gravel and 5% sand.

**Spawning Areas** - An average of 35% of the streambed was suitable for spawning. Only 12% of the streambed above the falls appeared suitable.

**Pools** - The pool to riffle ratio was one to one.

**Shelter** - Undercut banks, logs and boulders provide shelter for fish.

**Barriers** - The main barrier to anadromous salmonid migration was a 10-foot high waterfalls (see attached map)[sic]. It appeared to be impassable to all fish. A small log jam and a flashboard dam were also noted (see attached map)[sic]. Both of these latter obstacles appeared to be only hazards and passable at higher flows.

**Diversions** - Two diversions were noted on the creek (see attached map)[sic].

Station Data -	Sta. 1	Sta. 2	Sta. 3	Sta. 4	Sta. 5	Sta. 6
Air Temperature (°F)	79	68	64	66	66	64
Water Temperature (°F)	74	75	67	70	72	66
Altitude (feet)	760 ft.	690	820	900 ft.	100 ft.	600 ft.
Weather	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Fog
Time	1710	1750	1000	1120	1210	0300

**FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS** - Steelhead trout, roach, sucker, and Sacramento squawfish were observed in Cummisky Creek. Juvenile steelhead, sucker, roach and squawfish were present up to the 10-foot high falls listed above; roach being the most numerous (300/100 ft. of stream). The juvenile steelhead were two to three inches in length and in densities of 25/100 ft. of stream. Rainbow trout were the only fish species present above the falls (10/100 ft. of stream) and ranged from three to 14 inches in length.

**OTHER VERTEBRATES** - Turtle, frogs, salamanders and snakes.

**FISHING INTENSITY AND OTHER RECREATIONAL USES** - Unknown

**ACCESSIBILITY** - Access may be gained by foot from the Mountain House Road Bridge, 9 miles south of Hopland, California and from the Cummisky Station Road on U.S. Highway 101.

**OWNERSHIP** - Private property.

**POSTED OR OPEN** - Not posted.

**IMPROVEMENTS** - The dam and diversion listed above appeared to have an adverse effect upon fisheries resources.

**PAST STOCKING** - None.

**GENERAL ESTIMATE** - That portion of Cummisky Creek below the falls provides about two miles of prime steelhead trout nursery area. Furthermore, spawning area appeared to be above average. In addition, the stream supports a small native population of rainbow trout above the falls. The falls, a natural barrier, appears to keep all non-game fish species out of the upper area.

**RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT** - Removal of the above falls could greatly enhance the steelhead fishery by opening up additional suitable nursery and spawning areas; however, this should not be attempted without installation of a device to prevent migration of non-game fish species, especially squawfish, into the area.

**SKETCH MAP** - Attached [sic].

**REFERENCES AND MAPS** - U.S.G.S. 15 minute series (Hopland Quad) 1960. Scale 1:62,500.