

MAR-54R. Jim Jim

CALIFORNIA DIVISION OF FISH AND GAME STREAM SURVEY

FILE FORMNo

NAME.....NICASIO..CREEK.....COUNTY.....Marin.....

STREAM SECTION.....FROM.....TO.....LENGTH.....

TRIBUTARY TOLagunitas Creek.....Twp.....R.....Sec.....

OTHER NAMES.....RIVER SYSTEM.....

SOURCES OF DATAPersonal 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
Pool
Shelter
Barriers
Diversions
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 - Observed by K. R. Middleton and H. Regnart on 8/7/58 and 8/8/58, from the mouth to a point 1.4 miles upstream from the town of Nicasio.

LOCATION - In Marin county from just south of the Lucas Valley-Nicasio, San Geronimo road junction to the junction of the Pt. Reyes and Francis Drake Blvd. roads.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - Forms the main stream tributary to Lagunitas Creek.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - Watershed - The upper headwater region is heavily timbered with redwood and fir, as well as madrone, maple and bay. The lower, or middle portion of the watershed is characterized by open, rolling grasslands. The lowest, or near the mouth portion is again heavily grown over with bay, madrone and mixed shrubs in a V-shaped canyon. Immediate Drainage Basin - The lower portion of the stream in the V-shaped canyon area is well covered on both banks. The mid-portion is bordered on both banks by open grassland, the main cover being restricted to the north-facing slopes. The immediate stream banks in this area are fairly well covered by willow and associated shrubs, except in the vicinity of station 3, where the stream is well exposed. The upper reaches of the stream in the area of station 4 are well shaded by dense stands of redwood, bay, and Douglas fir.

Altitude - Range is from 50 ft. at the mouth to 750 ft at the headwaters.

Gradient - Very slight gradient throughout its length except for the redwood canyon area of station 4, and then the gradient in this area is only moderate.

Width - Stream quickly narrows from about a 12-foot width near its mouth to a width ranging from 3 to 6 ft. for the remainder of the stream. Overall average width is 6.8 feet.

Depth - Some pools in the lower portion are up to 2 ft. in depth, but generally the stream averages about 6 inches at this time. High water marks indicate a depth of several feet in some areas.

Flow - Ranges from a trickle in the lower portion to about 0.1 cfs for the remainder of the stream. It is intermittent in two areas as indicated by the map.

Velocity - Not perceptible in the lower mouth portion. Somewhat faster in the steeper, canyon areas but still only sluggish.

Bottom - Generally gravel, sand in some areas, and rubble is predominant in area of station 3.

Spawning Areas - Abundant and good at higher water levels.

Pools - Numerous small, somewhat unstable pools in the lower portion. Area of station 4 has larger, more permanent type pools.

Shelter - Good throughout stream except in area of station 4, where streambed broadens and stream is exposed.

Barriers - No barriers were noted.

Diversions - No diversions were noted.

NICASIO CREEK Marin County P-2

Temperatures - Ranged from 76° F. in the broad, exposed area of station 3 to 65° F. in the well-shaded area of station 4.

Food - Caddis larvae, mayfly nymph and flatworms were plentiful throughout the stream.

Aquatic Plants - Heavy bottom algae found in area of station.

Winter Conditions - High water marks in several areas indicate a depth of several feet during winter runoff. There is much piling of wood debris at the mouth.

Pollution - none noted.

Springs - None found, but Mrs. Desky (property owner) reports that three arise from their land in the area of station 4.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - Roach and suckers were abundant in the warmer, lower portion of the stream. One dead sculpin, about 6 inches long was found in a pool near the mouth. Sticklebacks were found scattered throughout the stream in fair numbers, but were found to be especially plentiful just upstream of station 2. RT were abundant in the area of station 4. A visual count of 70 RT was made in a section of stream 63 feet long in this area. Four seinings in this same general area produced 15 RT, 3 sticklebacks, and 2 sculpins.

Other Vertebrates - Frogs and tadpoles were found.

FISHING INTENSITY - Unknown.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USE - Unknown.

ACCESSIBILITY - Area of station 1, not too readily accessible. Area of stations 2 and 3 are readily accessible. Area of station 4 accessible only by means of private roads, and these are limited in number. Often there are locked gates to roads which may cross the stream in this area.

OWNERSHIP - All private ownership in area of station 4. Lower areas of station 3 have been or will be purchased by the Marin Water District for construction of proposed dam in this area.

POSTED OR OPEN - Area of station 4 is all posted, as well as area of station. Posting of areas of stations 1 and 2 not known.

IMPROVEMENTS - None noted.

PAST STOCKING - Unknown.

GENERAL ESTIMATE - This stream would seem to provide a good spawning area for SH and possibly SS at the current low water level and consequent high temperatures, the lower portions of the stream do not seem very suitable for young RT, as evidenced by their scarcity in this region as well as a fair population of rough fish. However, the upper stream section with good cover and lower water temperatures, is currently supporting a good population of RT. This upper area also affords numerous large pools for young RT which they are seemingly utilizing successfully.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT - Indications are that this stream is a fairly important and successful anadromous fish spawning and nursery area, and should be managed as such. This stream also serves as a route for SH and SS running to Hallech Creek, a tributary to Nicasio Creek. It is my understanding that no provisions are being made for upstream migrants in the proposed dam project on this stream, and thus would cut off the runs altogether. Possibly the anadromous runs would warrant an egg collecting station, but this is difficult to evaluate without knowing the extent of the winter runs.

SKETCH MAP - See attached.

KM: ed

In lower area temperature not believed
prohibitive for anadromous fishes. WCB

CALIFORNIA DIVISION OF FISH AND GAME **STREAM SURVEY**

FILE FORM

No. _____

NAME NICASIO CREEK

COUNTY MARIN

STREAM SECTION FROM _____ TO _____ LENGTH _____

TRIBUTARY TO LAGUNITAS (PAPERMILL) CREEK

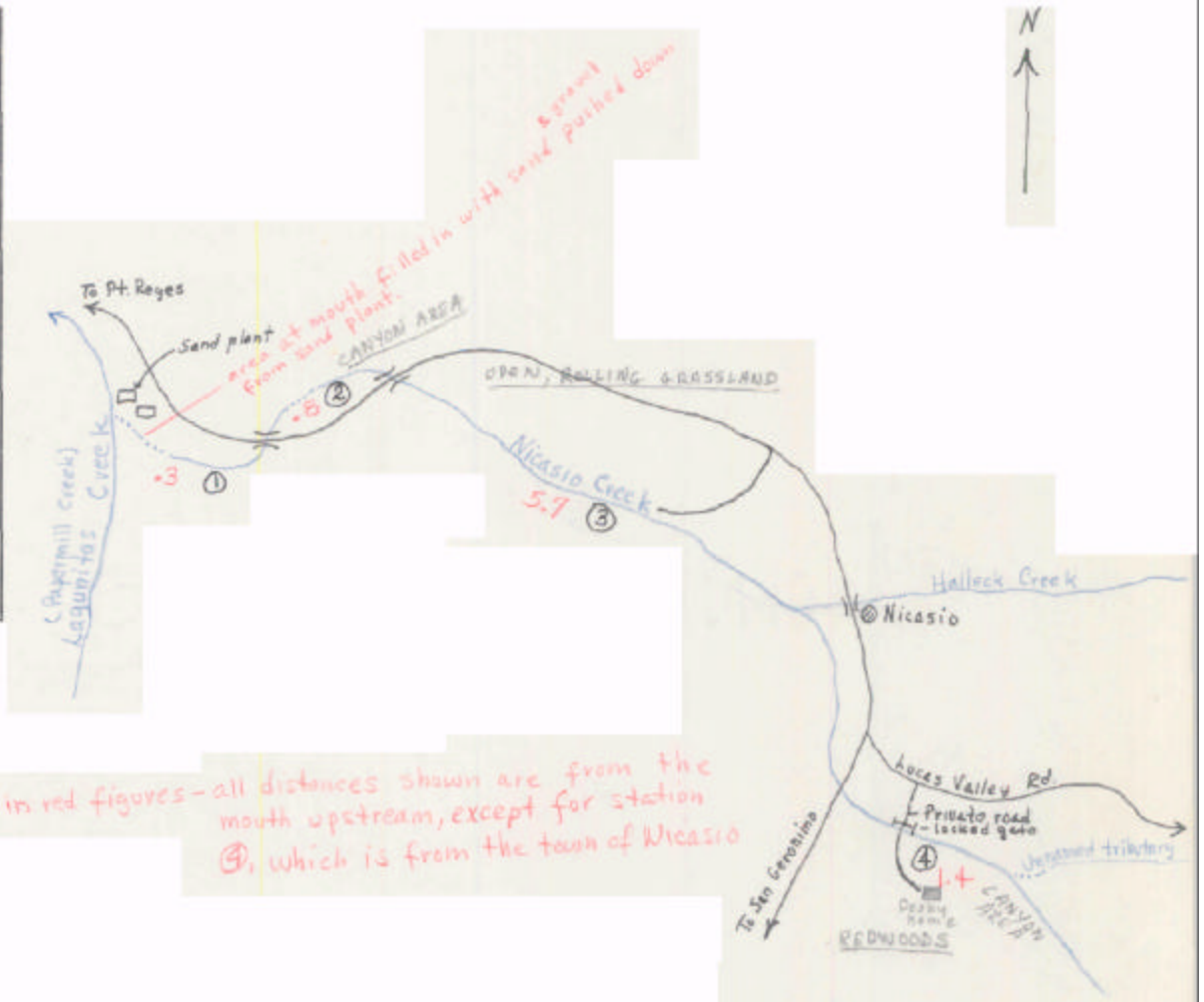
Twp. _____ R. _____ Sec. _____

OTHER NAMES PAPERMILL

RIVER SYSTEM _____

SOURCES OF DATA OWN OBSERVATION (K.R. Middleton)

- EXTENT OF OBSERVATION
 Include Name of Surveyor, Date, Etc.
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mileage in red figures - all distances shown are from the mouth upstream, except for station ③, which is from the town of Nicasio