

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STREAM SURVEY

FILE FORM

No.....

NAME..... JOHNSON CREEK..... COUNTY..... Mendocino.....
 STREAM SECTION..... FROM..... mouth..... TO..... extreme headwaters..... LENGTH..... 2-1/2 mi.....
 TRIBUTARY TO..... John Gates Creek, to Dougherty Cr. Twp..... 16N..... R..... 14W..... Sec..... 33.....
 to So. Fk. Big River
 OTHER NAMES..... unknown..... RIVER SYSTEM..... Big River.....
 SOURCES OF DATA..... personal observations.....

- 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 - This tributary was walked out from the mouth to the headwaters section, a distance of 2-1/3 miles on August 7, 1959 by S. N. Nye.

LOCATION - This stream heads southwest of Orr Springs and northeast of Edward Ranch and flows west and north, entering John Gates Cr. two miles above its confluence with Dougherty Cr.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - A small minor spawning tributary probably of little importance to the anadromous fish of Big River.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - Watershed - centered in a typical coastal drainage, heavily forested with redwood, Douglas fir. This area has been logged in past years.

Immediate Drainage Basin - This stream lies in a narrow, steep-sided, V-shaped canyon which widens and narrows several times. The slopes are covered with redwood, Douglas fir, madrone, laurel and oak, with no other base vegetation or cultivation.

Altitude - Unknown.

Gradient - Moderate, becoming steep in headwaters.

Width - average 3 ft. (1-6 ft.)

Depth - average 2 in. (1-3 in.)

Flow - .1 cfs. average (5 gpm to .2 cfs)

Velocity - Sluggish to rapid throughout.

Bottom - Gravel throughout with rubble, sand, boulder and bedrock.

Spawning Area .Good throughout except for a few poor areas.

Pools - Good development. Ave. 3 ft. x 5 ft. x 1 foot.

Shelter - Good throughout in the form of stream side trees and overhanging limbs and roots.

Barriers -(1) Natural rock - boulder, slash jam barrier 200 yards above headwater forks, on last tributary 5' high and silted in - 15' wide x 10' long x 5' high 75% void. (2) Log jam and boulder barriers silted in. A bedrock bench 3' high is located 50 yds. above next lower tributary of #1,, 10' wide x 1' long x 3' high, 10% void. (3) fallen trees and root barriers silted in. Bed drop 3 feet. 50 yds. above tributary nearest to the mouth of the creek. A barrier 10' wide x 3' long x 3' high - 50% void.

Diversions - None seen.

Temperatures - Air 72°, average (70-73). Water Temp. 57° ave. (56-58)

Food - Common in the form of caddis fly, stonefly, mayfly, small, trout, dipthera and other unidentified insects.

Aquatic Plants - Only small amounts of algae observed.

Winter Conditions - Mild. Appears to exhibit normal winter fluctuating runoff.

Pollution - None observed.

Springs - Uncommon. Three observed.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - RT-SH averaging 2 inches (1-6 in.). Success appears to be good. Fish were first observed above the third tributary upstream from the mouth. Stickleback were also observed; they were uncommon however, averaging 2 inches in length. Cottids averaging 2 in. in length also observed. The cottids were few in number.

OTHER VERTEBRATES - Frogs, salamanders were also observed.

FISHING INTENSITY - Unknown.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USE - Unknown.

ACCESSIBILITY - This stream can be reached by taking the Orr Springs Rd. off Highway 101 north of Ukiah and travel 20 miles to Dougherty Creek road, upstream for 2 1/2 miles. This road then bends left up John Gates Creek for a distance of 2 miles to the mouth of Johnson Creek. From this point on, the creek must be walked out on foot.

OWNERSHIP - Unknown.

POSTED OR OPEN - Posted.

IMPROVEMENTS - None observed.

PAST STOCKING - Unknown.

GENERAL ESTIMATE - The tributaries of Johnson Creek appear to be of little value to spawning fish. This condition is due to the steep gradient, lack of water and barriers. The barriers are present at or near the mouth of the tributaries. Johnson Creek appears to be in fair to good condition. However, taller, logs, slash from old lumber operations and old fire litter the stream. Barriers listed are not complete barriers to spawning anadromous fishes, This condition is shown by the numbers of RT-SH above the barriers. Probably this stream is of minor importance to the anadromous fishes of Big River due to the small size of the stream and small flows. The flow is intermittent.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT- It is felt that the removal of log jams and barriers in this stream will be of little value because this stream is of such minor importance. This stream should continue to be managed as a spawning and nursery stream for anadromous fishes.

SKETCH MAP -See attached.

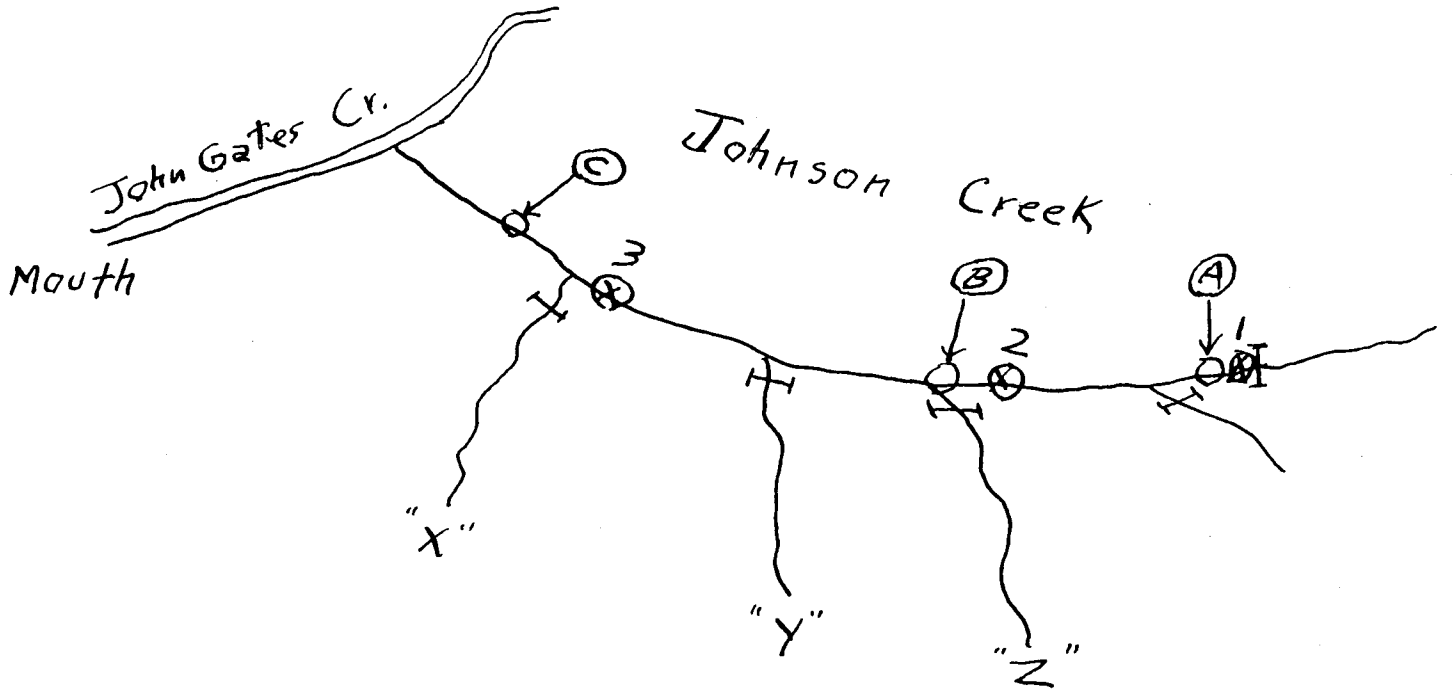
REFERENCES AND MAPS - Calif. Div. of Forestry 1943 , Mendocino County south half.

JSDay/S.Nye:cd

JOHNSON CREEK

Jams and Barriers

1. Natural rock – boulder, slash jam barrier 200 yards above –headwater forks, on last tributary 5' high and silted in 1/2 15 ft wide 10 ft long 5 ft high 75% void.
2. Log Jam and boulder barriers silted in –a bedrock bench 3 ft high is located 50 yards above next lower tributary of #1. 10 ft wide 1 ft long 3 ft high 10% void.
3. Fallen trees and root barriers silted in. Bed drop 3 ft. 50 yards above tributary nearest to the mouth of the creek. A barrier 10 ft wide 3 ft long 3 ft high 50%. void.



Extent of Observation = \longleftrightarrow