

## California Department of Fish and Game

STREAM OR LAKE SURVEY - SURVEILANCE SHEET

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name of stream or lake Garcia River Tributary to Pacific Ocean River system Garcia River  
 Other names \_\_\_\_\_ County Mendocino Township \_\_\_\_\_ Range \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_  
 Stream section: \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of stream section: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sources of data: Leo Shapovalov, 9/2/48

Point Arena to Zeni Ranch with Warden J. G. McKerlie. Zeni Ranch to Garcia River Falls and return, via horse with Mr. Butch Zeni. (The round trip by horse was about 14 mi., most of it over trail-less terrain; we rode up the stream bed of Garcia R. for one mile to the falls, and for about 1/2 mi. above the falls.) Made observations and took photos at the falls. Return from Zeni Ranch to Point Arena with McKerlie. In evening at Pt. Arena, with McKerlie interviewed Jerry Miller & Ernest Titus, Pres. & Vice-Pres., respectively, of Pt. Arena Rod and Gun Club.

The main falls in the Garcia River form a 12-ft vertical drop over solid bedrock. There is a very large, deep pool below the falls (t 20 ft x 30 ft). Possibility to build a fishway at north side of falls.

Garcia R. flow about half-mile below falls est. 4 c.f.s. Beautiful stream for the mile seen below the falls, with a good combination of excellent spawning riffles and deep pools, and stretches of rough, boulder- and rubble-strewn water. Stream mostly about 25 ft wide. Steelhead and silver salmon 2 to 3 1/3 inches. Abundant everywhere, many in schools of a few to several dozen fish.

Garcia R. 50 ft above falls, water temp. 68.5 F, air 81, at 1 p.m., water and sky clear. Rough, mountainous, uncult. terrain, wooded with Douglas fir, tan oak, madrone, maple, and deciduous oak with alders streamside.

Walked out stream above falls to Camp Beautiful; Zion (?) owner since 1908. Some redwoods along stream and opposite the camp. Good spawning areas at camp. Steelhead 5 to 6 in. common and 2 to 4 in. occasional above falls; a few 7 and 8 in. fish were seen. Crayfish and sticklebacks present above falls. Red-bellied Triturus common in pools as separate individuals above and below falls.

On this date Warden McKerlie told me he knew of only 2 king salmon caught in the Garcia R. last season and that very few enter it. Butch Zeni spoke of catching fish that weighed 33 lb when he was a boy; they must have been king salmon.

According to McKerlie, tidewater in the Garcia R. extends to about 1 to 1 1/2 miles upstream from its mouth.

According to Titus, old-time residents say just a few fish get over the falls in the spring ("little blue fellows").

GARCIA RIVER  
Mendocino County

Field Notes

June 9, 1953: Warden Groves reported on this date that a new run of adult steelhead took place on June 4 and 5 in the Garcia River. The majority of the fish were pooled up at the foot of the falls. This is unusual for so late in the year. Groves also reported that the job of eradicating the falls last winter was incomplete. A few adult steelhead did get over the falls during the winter run, and they and their redds were seen by a number of individuals this spring. The Union Lumber Company is planning to finish their job this fall even if it means re-routing the stream at a point near the falls. HEP:

Aug. 3, 1954: Inspected logging operations in company of Jones and McKerlie. Est. flow 1/2 cfs. Water dark clear and possessing a strong odor. Bottom coated with a thin film; no fishlife observed. This type of debris in stream is definitely deleterious to fishlife. This is the Don Ford logging operation. It was stated that he will be cutting in this area for the next 5 years. WAE:mm

Aug. 3, 1954: The river was examined in the upper headwaters area where the road parallels the stream. A very slight gradient exists; the channel is open and a gravel bottom is present. Appears particularly suited for spawning purposes; no sign of fishlife was found although an est. flow of 1 cfs was present. What the limiting factor is, is not known; possibly high summer water temperature. WAE:mm

Dec. 6, 1955: North Fk. --- Don MacKinsey of the Hollow Tree Lumber Co. and I went to the north fork of the Garcia in Section 5 where logging was carried out this summer. This area is below the reported falls which is a barrier to salmon and steelhead. This barrier consists of several large boulders wedged into a very narrow stream channel. These boulders have created falls approximately 20 feet tall. The gradient slope of the stream is very steep, being boulder strewn and relatively a poor spawning stream. This logging area below the barrier was fairly clean of debris, although several old log jams exist. The logging contractor cleared up his debris in the stream, but he was very reluctant in removing these older log jams. It was also noted the complete absence of soil erosion prevention measures on the logging roads and skid trails. It was summarized to Mr. MacKinsey that the area on Inman Creek was to be cleared out. Also that no soil erosion measures were taken in their logging operations was pointed out to him. GH:ss

Aug. 9, 1956: Garcia Falls - I once again tried to contact Mr. Cox, the owner of the land where the falls are situated. Mr. Cox wasn't at home but in talking to his son, Tom, they are still reluctant to give us permission to construct the tunnel pipe fishway around the falls. They indicated that we could do any amount of blasting of the falls that we would want. I believe that the situation that exists at the falls can be adequately remedied by blasting and I feel that we should proceed with this idea in mind being that we are having so much trouble in obtaining permission to construct the fishway. I believe that contact should be made with Elton Bailey, George Warner and John Thorp and an explanation given as to the situation we are in and ask them for their opinions on this alternate plan. GH:dk

GARCIA RIVER  
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Sept. 5, 1956: Garcia Falls - Mr. Tom Cox was again contacted as requested, by Mr. Evans. This contact was made in reference to obtaining his approval of construction of the tunnel type fishway. Mr. Cox's attitude towards our plan of constructing this tunnel type fishway is the same and he will not consider any fishway whatsoever. He feels that blasting is the only answer, and I believe if we continue to pursue the construction of any fishway any further, our relationship with Mr. Cox will be weakened tremendously. Blasting was one of the alternate plans submitted by the Engineering Section in the correction of this falls and should be considered in our future plan of elimination of this salmon and steelhead barrier.  
GH:dk