

California Department Of Fish And Game  
**STREAM SURVEY**

**NAME:** PIETA CREEK **COUNTY:** Mendocino  
**STREAM SECTION:** FROM: Entire headwaters TO: mouth **LENGTH:** 8 mi.  
**TRIBUTARY TO:** \_\_\_\_\_ **TWP:** 12N **R:** 11W **SEC:** 2  
**OTHER NAMES:** unknown **RIVER SYSTEM:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**SOURCES OF DATA:** Personal observations

<b>EXTENT OF OBSERVATION</b>
Include: Name of Surveyor, Date, Etc.
<b>LOCATION</b>
<b>RELATION TO OTHER WATERS</b>
<b>GENERAL DESCRIPTION</b>
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
<b>FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS</b>
<b>OTHER VERTEBRATES</b>
<b>FISHING INTENSITY</b>
<b>OTHER RECREATIONAL USE</b>
<b>ACCESSIBILITY</b>
<b>OWNERSHIP</b>
<b>POSTED OR OPEN</b>
<b>IMPROVEMENTS</b>
<b>PAST STOCKING</b>
<b>GENERAL ESTIMATE</b>
<b>RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT</b>
<b>SKETCH MAP</b>
<b>REFERENCES AND MAPS</b>

**EXTENT OF OBSERVATION** - The headwaters section was walked out by G. Holman on July 30, 1959 for a distance of 5 miles. On Aug. 18, 1959 the remainder of the stream was walked out, to the mouth, a distance of 3 miles by J. Rowell and Don Lollock.

**RELATION TO OTHER WATERS** - Pieta Creek is one of the more important steelhead spawning and nursery streams in the Russian River drainage.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION** - Watershed - This stream is located in the coastal range between Clear Lake and the Russian River. The terrain is typical of this area being very steep and densely covered with brush.

Immediate Drainage Basin - The stream flows through a narrow V-shaped canyon most of its entire length, except in the headwaters section ' which is fairly open and agriculture terrain and near its mouth which enters the flood of the Russian River, The immediate vegetative cover consists of fir and oak near the stream while farther up the hills dense brush prevailed.

Altitude - (Range) - Some of the mountains in the headwaters exceed 3000 ft. with the streams mouth being less than 100 feet above sea level.

Gradient - Generally the stream is of moderate gradient throughout with short sections near the mouth being steeper.

Width - (range) - 0 to 30 ft.; average 3-4 ft.

Depth - 0-20 ft.; average 6 inches.

Flow - (Range) -Much of the upper headwaters section to the mouth of Tyler Creek was dry with an occasional pool. Areas of intermittent flows were encountered from Tyler Creek downstream 1 mile, after which the flow was ½ cfs to 1 cfs. From the mouth upstream ¼ mile the stream was dry. Winter flows probably are several hundred cfs at times.

Velocity - Generally slow in places rapid.

Bottom - Throughout the headwaters gravel prevailed but the remainder of the stream consisted of boulders, rubble, bedrock and gravel.

Spawning Areas - The best spawning areas appear to be in the headwater section with fair amounts of gravel prevailing in the remainder of the stream.

Pools - Pools were quite common throughout the entire drainage.

Shelter - Shelter for juvenile steelhead was abundant in the form of pools, large boulders.

Barriers - Barrier (1) - an area located approximately ¼ mile above the mouth consisting of many large boulders creating several falls 2-3 ft high. There is no fish passage problem in this area at present but these boulders could shift and create a barrier at any time. Barrier (2) - A 6-ft. bedrock falls exist approximately ½ mile below the mouth of Salt Springs. These falls are probably a barrier to adult steelhead during low winter flows but during higher winter flows steelhead are able to ascend. No action or alterations are recommended for this barrier as it is acting as an effective rough fish barrier.

Barrier (3) - A 3-ft. rock barrier exists ¼ mile below jeep stream crossing but does not interfere with steelhead passage. Barrier (4) - See attached. [sic]

**Diversions** - An irrigation pump is located approximately ¼ mile above mouth.

**Temperatures** - August 18, 1959, water 64°, air 58°.

**Food** - Abundant in the form of may and caddis flies.

**Aquatic Plants** - None observed.

**Pollution** - None observed.

**Springs** - Scarce, mostly in the mid-sections.

**FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS** - RT-SH appeared quite abundant from barrier (2) on upstream both fish of the year and yearling trout - Roach were noted in minor numbers between barriers (2) and (3) but were very abundant below barrier (2) to the mouth. Suckers were noted only below barrier (2).

**OTHER VERTEBRATES** - frogs, salamanders.

**FISHING INTENSITY** - This stream is closed to fishing during the winter and probably has heavy fishing pressure during the spring and early summer.

**OTHER RECREATIONAL USES** - None.

**ACCESSIBILITY** - The mouth can be reached via Highway 101. The headwaters can be reached via the Lone Pine Road. The mid-section can be reached by jeep road via the Smith Ranch.

**OWNERSHIP** - All private land.

**POSTED OR OPEN** - Posted.

**IMPROVEMENTS** - None observed.

**PAST STOCKING** - Unknown.

**GENERAL ESTIMATE** - This stream appears to be a major contributor to the steelhead fisheries of the Russian River. The bedrock barriers are quite effective in stopping the upstream migration of rough fish.

**RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT** - The removal of barrier (4) and the creation of flow maintenance dams in the headwater section might improve the steelhead production of the stream.

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

**REFERENCES AND MAPS** - Division of Forestry 1948 South Half Mendocino County.