

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
STREAM SURVEY

File form No _____ Date: September 15, 1976NAME: MILLERTON CREEK COUNTY: MarinSTREAM SECTION: _____ FROM: 0.4 mile downstream TO: mouth LENGTH: 2.2 miles
from headwatersTRIBUTARY TO: Tomales Bay TWP: _____ R: _____ SEC: _____OTHER NAMES: Millerton Gulch RIVER SYSTEM: Millerton CreekSOURCES 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 - On September 15, 1976, Fish and Wildlife Seasonal Aids Maureen Cogger and Ron Curtis surveyed Millerton Creek and its principal tributary (the southernmost of several unnamed tributaries to this creek; see reference map), both by car and on foot. Millerton Creek was spot-checked from a ranch house near the headwaters downstream to the gravel pit. The stream was walked from the gravel pit to approximately 1/4 mile downstream from the principal tributary. The creek was again spot-checked to the mouth. Approximately half the length of the principal tributary was surveyed by (sic)

LOCATION - Millerton Creek flows into Tomales Bay through a narrow valley from its headwaters in the mountains, a distance of about 2.6 miles. The stream is located north of Point Reyes Station in western Marin County.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - Several intermittent tributary streams enter from the north and south. Millerton Creek is bordered on the south by Grand Canyon Creek, and on the north by Verde Canyon Creek (a tributary to Walker Creek) and another, unnamed stream which also flows into Tomales Bay.

Watershed - Mountainous, and supporting both grazing land and wildland communities such as chaparral and mixed woodland. Some dominant plants include coyote bush, buckeye, and bay laurel. Some of the natural vegetation has been removed to

provide grazing space. Ongoing quarrying operations (sic) also disturbed natural habitat in the valley adjacent to the stream.

Immediate Drainage Basin - The canyon is U-shaped, with an incised channel flowing in a southwesterly direction. The size of the drainage area is approximately 3.8 square mile. The channels of the main stem and its principal tributary are well defined. Average width and depth of the main stem channel are 12 feet and 10 to 15 feet, respectively. The tributary channel averages 6 feet deep and 6 feet wide. Riparian vegetation is abundant, except in disturbed areas. In two such areas on the main stem (1/2 mile and 1 mile up-stream, respectively, from the Highway 1 crossing) vegetation is almost completely absent. The tributary, however, is virtually undisturbed with a dense riparian corridor; blackberry, gooseberry and poison oak thickets render it almost inaccessible. Alders, willow bays and buckeye are common to both. A salt marsh exists between the Tomales Bay levee and Highway 1 crossing, a distance of about 0.4 mile. Vegetation in this lowest reach was comprised entirely of what appeared to be cordgrass. Tidal influence occurs upstream to Highway 1 crossing.

Altitude - Elevation is 260 feet at the headwaters and sea level at the Highway 1 cross

Gradient - Moderate, except in the extreme lower reach. From headwaters to the Highway crossing the gradient averages 118 feet/mile.

Bottom - In the main stem channel the bottom was comprised of approximately 3% boulders, 17% rubble, 40% gravel, 35% sand, and 5% silt. Bottom was similar in the tributary, but gravel was 30% and sand was 45%.

Spawning Areas - Potential salmonid spawning area was good to excellent in upper reaches with much of the streambed containing loose gravel of pea-size to one-inch in diameter. Spawning conditions were poor in the lower 0.7-mile reach. In this segment the bottom was heavily compacted.

Pools - The stream was completely dry save for two or three isolated pools, which will probably soon dry up. During normal years pools are rather abundant; pool to riffle ratio would approximate 40:60. Pools appear to have been found by undercutting current and would probably average 1 to 4 feet deep and 12 feet wide.

Shelter - Good during periods of flow provided by undercut banks, overhanging riparian vegetation, submerged roots and boulders.

Barriers and Diversions - None observed.

Temperatures - (Taken at a standing pool at a point adjacent to the gravel pit and near the confluence with the tributary) at 1300 hours, air temperature was 66°F, water temperature was 55°F.

Winter Conditions - High water marks along the banks suggest a winter depth (during norm years) of 3 to 4 feet in the riffle areas.

Pollution - No discharge or litter was observed in the creek itself, but a gravel pit which is currently in operation (see reference map) may contribute to pollution of the stream. Litter such as junked cars and other debris was also observed in a flat, grassy area adjacent to the stream bank.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - None was observed but the stream has a past history of steelhead runs during wet winters.

OTHER VERTEBRATES - (Reptiles) western garter snake, western fence lizard; (birds) wrent (sic) Stellers jay, scrub jay, western flycatcher, crow, brown towhee, song sparrow, lesser goldfinch, turkey vulture; (mammals) black-tailed deer, raccoon.

ACCESSIBILITY - No legal access is available above Highway 1 as all of this land is under private ownership. A private driveway runs parallel to the stream for most its length above this point and is posted against trespass.

IMPROVEMENTS - None observed.

GENERAL ESTIMATE and RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT - The stream should be surveyed following a normal water year to document normal summer aquatic habitat and use by steelhead trout before management recommendations are formulated. Steelhead trout are known to have use the stream in past years following normal or wet winter runoff.

REFERENCES AND MAPS - U.S.G.S. 15' quadrangle maps: Point Reyes and Inverness.

Maureen Cogger and Ron Curtis
Seasonal Aids
Central Fishery District
Region 3



N I C A S I O
(FRINK AND REYNOLDS)

GRAVEL PIT

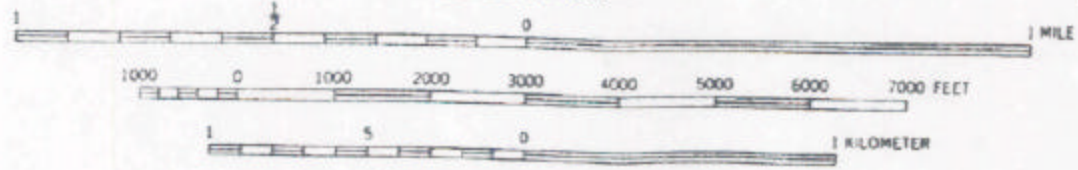
PRINCIPAL TRIBUTARY

IMPOUNDMENTS

HWY. 1

Inverness

SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET