

012-23-206

Mattole River, Humboldt Co.

(Field Note)

10435

Tributary to: Pacific Ocean

Dates of Survey: September 6-10, 1982

Purpose of Survey: To determine the presence of summer steelhead.

Location: From the mouth to the Humboldt-Mendocino County line.

Method of Survey: Visual observation by walking and swimming.

Equipment used: Face mask, snorkel

Surveyors: Bob Reavis, Leo Millan, Jerry Morinaka, Dan Richards and Mary McClain.

Observations: For the entire 63 miles surveyed, there were only three large salmonids sighted. All three of these fish were within the middle section of the survey (between Petrolia and Ettersburg). One was approximately 14"; the other two were approximately 16". They could have possibly been spawned-out hold over steelhead, summer steelhead or even large rainbow.

According to some locals there once was a substantial summer steelhead run on the Mattole. At present, however, the Mattole River has limited pools suitable for summer steelhead to utilize throughout the summer. Most of the suitable pools were located in the upper stretches of the Mattole.

Temperatures in one pool located in the upper stretch below Nooning Creek were recorded at 78°F at the surface and 63°F 3' below the surface. Other temperatures taken were:

Date	Location	Time	Air	Water
9/7	5 mi. downstream of Ettersburg	1800	72°F	69°F
9/8	10 mi. downstream of Ettersburg	1200	84°F	71°F
9/9	estuary 1 mi. from the mouth	1100	60°F	61°F

Most of the pools in the middle and lower sections were not temperature stratified. The three large fish sighted were all located in temperature stratified pools. The 14" fish was located in a pool 14'd x 20'w x 20'l. One of the 16" fish was located in a pool that was 7'd x 10'w x 30'l. in which numerous boulders were submerged or partially submerged. Both fish were found with numerous young salmonids.

Written by: Mary McClain  
Seasonal Aid

cc Zaney  
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