

State of California

The Resources Agency

Memorandum

To : Files**Date:** August 6, 1968**From :** Department of Fish and Game - Region 3**Subject:** NICASIO RESERVOIR, MARIN COUNTY

Nicasio Reservoir is located in south central Marin County about thirteen miles northwest of San Rafael. The reservoir was created in 1961 with construction of a 130 foot high dam on Nicasio Creek by the Marin Municipal Water District.

To compensate for the blockage of silver salmon and steelhead with the creation of the reservoir, the Marin Municipal Water District built a trapping station on Nicasio Creek about one half mile below the dam. Salmon and steelhead entering the trapping station are transported by truck to Nicasio Creek to complete their upstream spawning migration. Downstream migrant traps were constructed on Nicasio and Halleck Creeks. Migrant juvenile salmon and steelhead are trapped and released in Nicasio Creek downstream from the dam.

Trapping facilities are operated by the Department of Fish and Game but are financed by the water district.

Creel censuses were conducted during 1965 and 1966. These censuses were made incidental to trapping operations and were short in duration for days censused.

1965

During May and June, 1965, 26 days were censused for brief intervals. In May, 603 anglers were interviewed on seventeen days. Anglers had fished 1,278 hours and had caught 954 fish for an average catch of 0.74 fish per angler hour. Their catch consisted of 439 rainbow trout, 495 bluegill, 14 silver salmon and 6 largemouth bass.

In June, nine days were censused with 213 anglers interviewed. Their catch was 340 fish for 425 Hours of angling effort, an average catch of 0.80 fish per angler hour, Their catch consisted of 229 bluegill, 93 rainbow trout, 9 silver salmon and 9 largemouth bass.

The combined angler catches for May and June was 1,294 fish with 532 trout and 724 bluegill comprising 97.1 percent of the total catch.

Anglers were counted on twenty five days. The time of angler counts varied considerably with counts made twice during the day on three occasions. Daily counts ranged from 13 to 178 anglers with counts exceeding 50 anglers on fourteen days.

1966

During 1966, angler counts were made on 21 days with a range of 42 to 140 anglers counted at any one time fishing the reservoir,

1,941 anglers fishing 3,979.5 hours were interviewed. They caught 5,943 fish for an average catch of 1.4 fish per hour of angling effort. Their catch consisted of 5,280 bluegill, 548 rainbow trout, 107 largemouth bass, 4 crappie and 4 brown bullhead.

21,746 subcatchable sized and 9,000 catchable trout were planted in February and May, 1966 respectively.