

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
INTRAOFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: December 9, 1959

TO: C. K. Fisher, Fisheries Biologist III, Region 3

FROM: John S. Day, Fisheries Biologist I

SUBJECT: Barriers to Migrating Steelhead - Graham Creek tributary to
Sonoma Creek, Sonoma County

December 8, 1959 Warden Ray Bruer and the undersigned investigated water diversion barriers located on Graham Creek tributary to Sonoma Creek, 2 miles west of Glen Ellen. Three water diversion barriers were investigated. The first barrier located approximately 1/2 mile upstream from the mouth is a flashboard type dam with boards placed vertically and angled to the upstream side. Height of the structure is approx. 5 ft. A fish ladder was constructed at this dam. However, it is highly inadequate and it is just a ladder in name, not function. This water diversion belongs to the Boy Scouts of America and is supervised and maintained by Mr. Steve Hall, 317 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa.

Warden Bruer and I contacted Mr. Hall on Dec. 8. Mr. Hall seemed quite surprised that his dam constituted a barrier but he said he would be glad to relieve the situation. Warden Bruer desires that the structure be removed immediately before the steelhead migrate up Graham Creek this winter. Mr. Hall was agreeable to Warden Bruer's desires and said he would relieve the situation but that he desires aid from the department in order to best take care of the situation.

The next two barriers upstream from Mr. Hall's diversion belong to the Glen Ellen Water Works. Mr. Paul Thompson is the owner of the Glen Ellen Water Works. First of the two barriers is located approx. 1/4 mile upstream from Mr. Hall's barrier. This barrier is a concrete dam approx. 12 feet in height and is the water diversion dam for the water works. Warden Bruer and I visited Mr. Thompson to inquire as to who owned the first barrier on the stream. During the ensuing conversation Mr. Thompson inquired if he would be required to construct a fishway over his dam and Warden Bruer's answer was in the affirmative. Mr. Thompson was agreeable but also desired assistance in design from the department as to the type of structure and location of such a fishway. Warden Bruer and the undersigned felt that construction of a fishway at this dam would be a project of such a nature that to desire an immediate solution would be improper but that Mr. Thompson construct the fishway between now and the 1960-61 steelhead months.

The next third barrier belongs to the Water Co. and is located approx. 1/8 mile upstream from the cement dam. This structure is a rock masonry dam approx. 4 feet high with a 6-foot lip extended from the top of the dam downstream at approx. 2% grade. This lip is constructed of 2 x 12's and is located at this dam to keep overflowing water from digging out a hole at the base of the dam. If a steelhead was able to jump up from this structure the velocity grade and depth of water would be such that the fish would be unable to continue upstream. Mr. Thompson agreed to take care of this situation also but again requested consulting assistance.

The value of steelhead migrating past these barriers would be in allowing steelhead access to approx. 1-1/4 miles of new spawning and nursery areas.

Also present along the stream is an occasional log jam. Although none appeared to be complete barriers, it is felt that the removal of these James would be a benefit to migrating steelhead. One in particular is located between Mr. Hall's dam and the first Water Company dam.

It is recommended that Jerry Holman be called on to give assistance to the people affected. Namely, Mr. Hall and Mr. Thompson. Jerry would be able to give these people valuable information as to the best and most practical way to allow steelhead to pass their diversions.

It is also recommended that a letter with Bob Jones' signature be sent at the earliest convenience to Mr. Steve Hall, 317 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa and Mr. Paul Thompson, Glen Ellen Water Works, Glen Ellen, explaining the importance of removing their barriers and allow fish to go bay or building fishways if the barriers are not to be removed. In the letter to Mr. Hall it should be stated that his barrier be removed this winter before the steelhead runs begin on Graham Creek. The letter to Mr. Thompson should be stated that he will have until October of next year to complete adequate fishways at the dam belonging to the water works. This letter should also contain information that Jerry Holman will be available for assistance and will probably contact these people to give them an idea of the type of construction needed to be the most practical and inexpensive.

John S. Day
Fisheries Biologist I
Region 3