Water Quality Report Card

Temperature in Gualala River

Regional Water Board: North Coast, Region 1	**STATUS** Improvement Needed
Beneficial Uses Affected: COLD, COMM, EST, MIGR, RARE, SPWN	
Implemented Through: Non-regulatory actions, active stakeholder engagement	**Pollutant Type:** Nonpoint Source
Effective Date: Not Applicable	**Pollutant Source:** Construction/Land Development, Erosion/Siltation, Irrigated Crop Production, Logging
Attainment Date: Not Applicable	

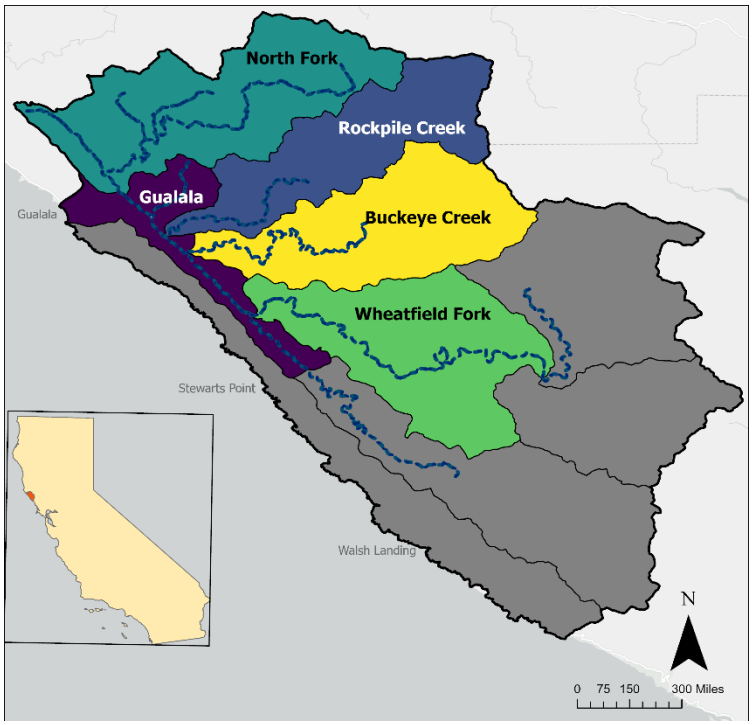
Water Quality Improvement Strategy

In 1993, the USEPA listed the Gualala River on its federal Clean Water Act §303(d) list of impaired water bodies due to elevated water temperatures. Salmonids are native to the Gualala watershed and are dependent upon a high-quality freshwater environment at the beginning and end of their life cycles. Stream temperatures for most of the watershed exceed preferred juvenile rearing temperature ranges for steelhead and coho. Maximum Weekly Maximum Temperature (MWMT) values describe the water temperature peaks in a stream and predict how well the stream may support cold-water species. Staff calculated MWMTs from continuous water temperature data collected in the Gualala River watershed by the GWC and the former Gualala River Timber company from 2002 to 2021.

TMDL Waste Load Allocations/Load Allocations

A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for temperature has not yet been developed. However, the region-wide Policy Statement for Implementation of the Water Quality Objective for Temperature in the North Coast region applies in this watershed. The policy addresses shade, sediment delivery, flow considerations and stream geometry through a combination of permits, waivers, grants and loans, enforcement actions, and support of restoration projects

Gualala River Watershed Map

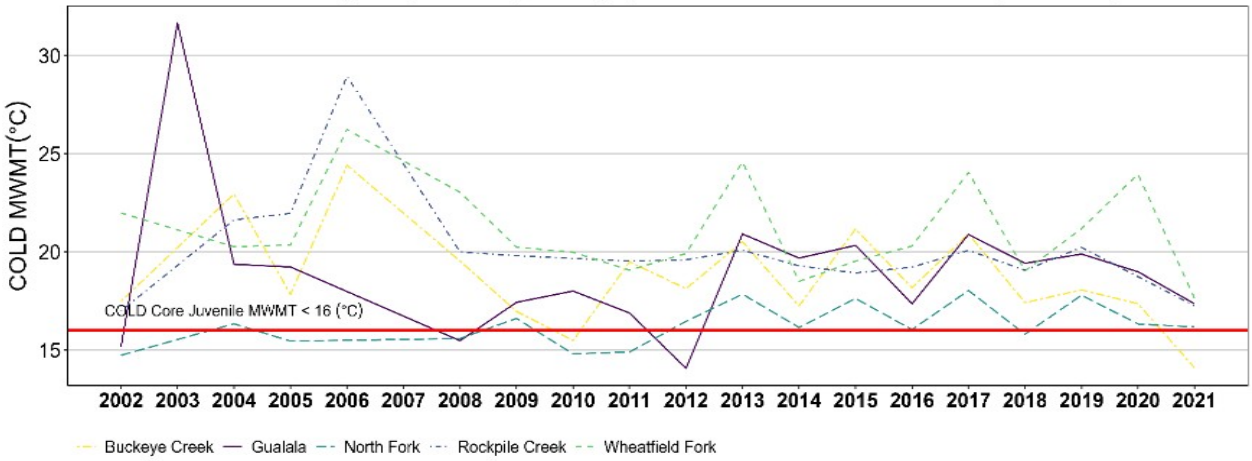


Water Quality Outcomes

- Median MWMT is decreasing in all subwatersheds with data, but still above the evaluation guideline of 16 °C (60.8 °F).
- Ongoing and planned watershed sediment control actions such as riparian vegetation and floodplain restoration, may also help lower stream temperature.

Water Quality

Median Maximum Weekly Temperature (MWMT) by Subwatershed & Season Year (2002-2021)



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