

January 6, 2006

Year End Storms Bring Fish, Near Flood Flows to Alameda Creek

Last week's storms provided sufficient flow to allow anadromous fish to move into lower Alameda Creek from the Bay. On January 29th and 30th an unidentified salmonid, either a chinook salmon or steelhead trout, was spotted at the BART weir in Fremont. Photos of this fish are on our web site at

<http://www.alamedacreek.org/Historical%20photos/recent%20fish%20documentation/Recent%20fish%20documentation.htm>

The huge year-end storm brought Alameda Creek flow over New Year's eve up to 10,000 cubic feet/second in lower Niles Canyon and 18,000 cfs in the flood control channel in Union City!!!! Keep your eyes out for fish in the flood control channel when we get our next significant storm.

Bay Area media articles covering the recent resident trout listing decision:

Fish policy splits feds, conservationists

Fremont Argus 12-30-05

http://www.insidebayarea.com/argus/localnews/ci_3356418

No federal protection for landlocked trout

San Jose Mercury News 12-28-05

http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/breaking_news/13503511.htm

Fish Protection Making Waves

Tri-Valley Herald 12-28-05

http://www.insidebayarea.com/trivalleyherald/localnews/ci_3349709

Federal Steelhead Ruling Leaves Alameda Creek & Other Central Coast Trout Without Protection

The Fishsniffer 12-23-05

<http://www.fishsniffer.com/guest/051224alameda.html>

Alliance Objects to Listing Decision for Steelhead Trout

CBS Channel 5 12-23-05

http://www.cbs5.com/localwire/localnews/bcn/2005/12/23/n/HeadlineNews/STEELHEAD-TROUT/resources_bcn.html

A recent article on the coho salmon run in west Marin:

Coho home for the holidays: San Geronimo Valley greets surge of spawning salmon

S.F. Chronicle 12-26-05

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/12/25/BAGF6GDAE61.DTL>

The full text of these latest Alameda Creek articles and others going back to 1997 can be found on the ACA web site at www.alamedacreek.org – click on “Media Articles”

Cold Dead Fish Award to SFPUC

Daniel Bacher of The Fish Sniffer Magazine has awarded the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission one of his “Cold Dead Fish” awards for 2005, for their lobbying against federal listing of resident trout in Alameda Creek:

“For over 10 years, the Alameda Creek Alliance and other conservation organizations have been trying to restore the steelhead and king salmon populations of Alameda Creek. However, The

San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) has lobbied against listing Alameda Creek trout, including landlocked populations of steelhead/rainbow trout behind Calaveras and San Antonio Dams that they operate, despite compelling genetic evidence that these fish are descendants of wild steelhead.

As a result of their lobbying, the National Marine Fisheries Service under the Bush administration excluded Alameda Creek steelhead above the dams from federal protection. According to Jeff Miller of the Alliance, this decision is biologically unjustified since it arbitrarily divides steelhead populations, listing only adult anadromous fish yet excluding trout below dams that can interbreed with migratory steelhead and even juvenile trout that are the offspring of steelhead. For joining forces with NOAA Fisheries rather than working with the ACA and other fish restoration groups, the SFPUC gets the “Fishy Smelling Bedfellows” award!”

www.fishsniffer.com/dbachere/index.html