

November 16, 2006

King Salmon Arrive in Alameda Creek

At least 6 chinook salmon (one over 20 pounds) have been reported in the Alameda Creek Flood Control Channel below the DeCoto Road bridge. Watch for these fish to move up to the BART weir with the next rain storms.

Alameda Watershed Habitat Conservation Plan Meeting December 4

After a year and a half break, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission is again taking up its proposed Habitat Conservation Plan for projects, maintenance, and operations in the upper Alameda Creek Watershed. This HCP will not cover fisheries issues. The SFPUC will hold the next public workshop for the HCP on **Monday, December 4th in Dublin**, time and location TBA.

The HCP will be a long-term conservation plan for land use and biological planning on SFPUC lands. The HCP will result in a permit allowing the SFPUC to legally "take" or harm endangered species, in exchange for conservation measures intended to protect the species and their habitats. More information about the HCP can be found at

<http://www.alamedacreek.org/Alerts/SFPUC%20HCP/SFPUC%20HCP.htm>

Alameda County Watershed Forum December 5

The Alameda County Watershed Forum, an informal gathering of Alameda County creek activists, will meet **December 5th in Castro Valley**, time and location TBA. For information contact Dale Hopkins, dhopkins@waterboards.ca.gov.

Submit Information on Stream Flow Conditions

You can help submit information on stream flow conditions in your local creek to a new database documenting flow conditions in San Francisco Bay Area streams.

Flow, or the lack thereof, is one of the most basic factors affecting water quality and biological communities in streams. For example, streams that go completely dry support very different fish and invertebrate communities than streams that flow year round. Because of our Mediterranean climate, many streams in the Bay Area tend to dry up during the summer. This drying is quite variable with time (from year to year and season to season) and space (upstream vs. downstream).

A website has been developed to encourage individuals to submit information about the flow status of Bay Area streams. This information will be collected in a database by U.C. Berkeley grad students, and will be used by scientists and managers for interpreting benthic macroinvertebrate (aquatic bugs) data. Although it is one of the easiest things to monitor, there is very little data on flow conditions. Your help is needed to study and understand flow conditions!

See https://nature.berkeley.edu/~mcover/matt/flow_about.htm

Help Save Klamath River Salmon

Just throw the Klamath fish in a truck - orremove inefficient dams that block salmon from accessing more than 300 miles of spawning habitat in the Klamath Basin. Trucking salmon around dams is not the answer. **Write a letter to help stop an absurd idea before it starts!** Help remove Klamath dams and demand FERC protect Klamath salmon! See the Friends of the River alert at http://www.friendsoftheriver.org/ActionAlerts/2006_Klamath_River.htm#WriteaLetter

Salmon Hazard Pesticide Warnings

Are "Salmon Hazard" pesticide warnings posted in your local hardware store? They are supposed to be!

Many pesticides approved for use in homes and gardens can be harmful or lethal to aquatic life. Even when these pesticides are applied according to manufacturer instructions, they can run off into the surrounding creeks that flow into San Francisco Bay. Certain active ingredients in pesticides are particularly harmful to salmon and steelhead trout, including 2,4-D, carbaryl, diazinon, diuron, malathion, triclopyr BEE, and trifluralin.

A recent lawsuit settlement by the Washington Toxics Coalition with the US Environmental Protection Agency requires stores in urban areas from California to Washington that sell pesticides containing these seven active ingredients to post warning signs and information for consumers. However, very few stores have complied with the requirement to post the information.

Find out the information about the pesticides and the warning requirements at <http://www.alamedacreek.org/Alerts/Pesticides/Pesticides.htm>

What You Can Do

The next time you visit your hardware store, check the pesticide aisle for the "salmon hazard" graphic and information. If you don't see the warning labels, tell the store manager about the lawsuit and the legal requirement to protect salmon from harmful pesticides. E-mail savebay@saveSFbay.org to report a store that is not posting salmon protection information.

Report Warns of Global Collapse of Fishing

In a recent report published in Science magazine, fisheries experts and ecologists are predicting that if fishing around the world continues at its present pace, more and more species will vanish, marine ecosystems will unravel and there will be "global collapse" of all species currently fished, possibly as soon as mid-century. Read the New York Times article about the report at http://www.nytimes.com/2006/11/02/science/03fishcnd.html?_r=1&bl&ex=1162616400&en=8e7132392e14b91f&ei=5087%0A&oref=slogin