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SEASON'S FIRST STEELHEAD TROUT TAKES A BOW

Mercury News Staff and Wire Reports

The first steelhead trout of the season in Fremont's Alameda Creek has been spotted, environmentalists said Thursday.

An employee of the flood control district spotted the 24-inch fish Sunday as it tried to jump over a concrete drop structure on district property, said Jeff Miller, spokesman for the Alameda Creek Alliance.

The structure is one of several barriers that keep steelhead and salmon in the lower creek from migrating upstream to spawn in the Sunol Regional Wilderness, he said. Miller's group is pushing to remove the barriers that block the spawning of the trout, a threatened species.

The water district will try to move the fish over the inflatable dams in the creek during the next rains, he said.