

DRAMATIC RETURN OF STEELHEAD !

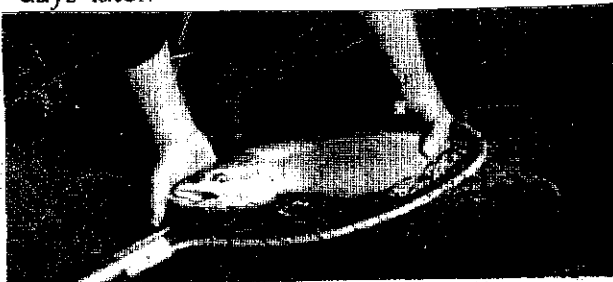


OVER A DOZEN FISH SIGHTED

A school of steelhead trout were spotted in Alameda Creek on March 11th during a tour given to state and federal fish and game employees. Engineers and hydrologists from the federal National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the state Department of Fish and Game (DFG) saw the fish while viewing the concrete weir below the B.A.R.T. tracks. The engineers are working on design proposals for a fish ladder on the structure. 4 fish were successfully moved upstream on March 15th.

See attached press release for more information

A male and a female steelhead were found spawning in a tributary to the original Alameda Creek channel on March 2nd and 3rd. The pair came in from the bay 2 miles north of the mouth to Alameda Creek. Unfortunately, the tributary was judged to be unsuitable habitat for the eggs to successfully hatch. This was evident not only from the garbage and refuse dumped in the creek, but also due to the channel being lined with concrete, loaded with silt, and devoid of any vegetation to shade the creek to keep water at suitable temperatures. A lone steelhead was seen in this channel several days later.



NEXT ALLIANCE MEETING **(We meet the last Tuesday of every month)**

Tuesday, May 26th, 7-9 PM
Centerville Public Library
3101 Nicolet Avenue in Fremont

Directions: From Hwy. 880 take DeCoto Road exit. Go East on DeCoto. Turn right on Fremont Blvd., turn left on Nicolet.

FISH LADDER

A fish ladder committee has formed to make the idea a reality - we had our first meeting in February. We will try to get partial funding from the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) under Section 1135, a program to provide restoration for past ACE projects that have caused environmental damage. We are interested in having the Alameda County Flood Control District (ACFCD) be the local sponsoring agency. We will be meeting with ACE and ACFCD on April 21st to start this process. and to discuss a proposed low-flow channel for the lower creek. Engineers from NMFS and DFG are working on design proposals for the fish ladder.

MEDIA COVERAGE

Fremont Argus - 3/4 and 3/12
Oakland Tribune - 3/4 and 3/12
Contra Costa Times - 3/13
San Jose Mercury News - photo 3/12, 5/8
San Ramon Valley Times - 3/4 & 3/12?
Hayward Daily Review - 3/12
Tri-Valley Herald - 3/12?
S.F. Chronicle - 5/8
Channel 2 TV News - 5/7
Know of other articles? Please send us a copy.

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check out our updated web site at
<http://www.formulate.com/alamedaCreek>

owned by SFWD that are apparently no longer used, and are candidates for removal to allow fish migration. We will meet with SFWD in March or April - details at our next meeting.

LETTERS NEEDED

If you haven't already written a letter on behalf of fish restoration, please contact us for a list of agencies to write to and addresses. This is an important time to write, because we are going to be asking the management agencies to take specific actions to restore fish runs, and they need to know that the public is paying attention to what they do.

ALAMEDA COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

ACWD has sent a letter to the Alliance indicating that they will do several things to help fish restoration;

- ACWD staff will look for fish below the rubber dams while they are being inflated, and will notify E. Bay Reg. Parks if they spot fish.
- During this winter, they will inflate the lowest rubber dam first, so that any fish trapped below the weir will be impounded in a pool of water. [this still leaves the possibility of stranding fish below the lowest dam if the creek is de-watered, but fish that have made it to the weir will not be stranded on dry concrete].
- ACWD will help to solve the problem of fish migration past their inflatable dams, if there is shown to be sufficient habitat and if water releases are procured upstream.

ENDANGERED REPTILES

We have two other critters recently listed as federally threatened species in our watershed. The Alameda Whipsnake and the California Red-Legged Frog (of Calaveras jumping frog fame) are in serious trouble, and are particularly vulnerable locally due to rampant development. If you are interested in researching populations within the watershed, contact Jeff.

PETITIONS

Petitions with 1,125 signatures of Bay Area residents supporting restored steelhead runs were sent to Fish and Game. Thank you to Michael Grayson for his help collecting them.

OUTREACH

A concerted effort needs to be made to contact other environmental and fishing groups as well as elected officials to present our restoration plans and to enlist their support in applying the political pressure needed to make these goals happen. If you have the time and/or connections for this project, please talk to Jeff.

CREEK ALLIANCE SOCIAL EVENT

Take a bath and break out your best clothes! ACA will have our first social gathering on March 29th.

Sunday March 29th
Picnic at Sunol Regional Wilderness
NOON - 5 PM

Video showing of "CHINATOWN"
7 PM at Kilkare Woods Association

This is a chance to hang out with other fish lovers alongside the creek in the beautiful oak woodlands of the upper watershed. Chinatown is the classic noir movie about water and power in Southern California. With Jack Nicholson.

BOTH EVENTS POTLUCK
BRING FOOD TO SHARE
BARBECUE AVAILABLE AT BOTH EVENTS
NO ALCOHOL PLEASE

Directions to picnic: Hwy. 84 east through Niles Canyon past Sunol, continue under Hwy. 680 on Calaveras Road. Left at Geary Road. Turn left into parking lot immediately after passing the entry kiosk. We will be in the adjacent picnic area. \$3.50/car entry fee.
to Kilkare Woods: From Main St. in the town of Sunol, go up Kilkare Road (along Sinbad Creek) about 3 miles, look for signs saying "Alameda Creek Alliance". Limited parking, so please carpool.

\$ MONEY \$

If you have extra \$ just lying around, we can use it to pay postage and printing costs, to buy a printer, or to pay for phone calls. We are now affiliated with a non-profit, so contributions are tax deductible. You can write a check to the Alameda Creek Alliance

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Know of other articles? Please send us a copy.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The Alameda Creek Alliance has taken the lead role in the steelhead restoration project. Exciting things are happening on the creek, and you can help by getting involved. Come to our next meeting, or contact us about letters you can write to agency representatives. Help us monitor the creek and document fish, or volunteer for habitat assessment surveys in the spring.

NOTEWORTHY NEWS

- Napa voters approved measure A, a flood control plan based on restoration rather than the traditional environmentally destructive methods such as channelization. The plan will restore wetlands and riparian forests, and allow the river to meander through its lower reaches. The plan is expected to greatly enhance fish and wildlife habitat while providing improved flood control.
- Steelhead and spring run Chinook in the Central Valley were listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.
- Numerous dams around the country are under serious consideration for removal. Dams on the Elwha River in Washington and the lower Snake River in Idaho are expected to be decommissioned to restore salmon runs. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ordered in November that a dam on the Kennebec River in Maine be torn down and sturgeon and salmon runs be restored.
- **NATURE BATS LAST;** A school of herring caught in a trawler's net refused to give up without a fight - and sank a 63' boat. The trawler Steinholm was fishing off Norway's northern coast when it made a huge catch of the fish. When the crew tried to haul in the net, the entire school of herring swam for the

bottom and capsized the ship. No one was injured.

EARTH DAY BOOTH

ACA will have a booth at the Fremont Earth Day

Earth Day Fair
Saturday, April 25, 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Fremont Senior Center
Lake Elizabeth

Please come by the booth and talk to people about what we are trying to accomplish on the creek. Our booth should be easy to find - look for the large wooden fish. We also need a raffle prize to give away. If you have ideas or want to help set up at 8 AM, call Jeff at 376-0518.

WETLANDS FAIR

We will also have a booth at the Wetlands Fair

Wetlands Fair
Saturday, May 16, 10 AM - 4 PM
Coyote Hills Regional Park, Fremont

STEELHEAD RESTORATION PLAN

Alameda Creek Alliance will be the first entity to publish a Steelhead Restoration Plan for Alameda Creek, with specific proposals for restoring fish runs and our vision for the creek. We will present this plan to management and enforcement agencies involved with the creek, and also use it to interest local, county, and state representatives in backing our restoration efforts. Please get involved in forming this plan - we will try to publish it by April.

SF WATERSHED PLAN

The San Francisco Water Department is currently revising its watershed master plan for Alameda Creek. We have told SFWD that we want to be involved in the process, to ensure that there is enough water for fish and wildlife habitat. We would like SFWD to allow sufficient water to flow through late spring to restore rearing habitat and to allow juvenile fish to migrate out to the bay. Also, there are two smaller dams in Niles Canyon