



303 (d) Deadline: 1/31/06

text2

Hello Tim,

I am sorry I did not get this to you sooner. I have only seen a few short sections of lower Pescadero and they did not look good (very sandy/silty and no instream structure). Since I have not seen the whole 4.5 miles though, I can't say anything about that section d/s from the USGS gage. Also, Butano and LB looked pretty bad in 1995 but haven't been back since so I can't really say anything about current conditions there either.

The chronology for what CFG has done in the Pescadero watershed since 1995 is as follows:

1995 - we quantitatively surveyed the habitat in Butano; Little Butano; Pescadero mainstem from the USGS gage to the headwater barrier; Peters; Oil; and Slate Creeks. Qualitative electrofishing was also conducted on those streams. Reports available on the Zatkan cd at local libraries.

1999 - We walked mainstem Pescadero (from lower Wurr Road bridge upstream), Slate, Oil and Peters Creeks and sampled pool habitat only for presence/absence juvenile coho salmon. Quantitative habitat typing surveys were not conducted, but qualitative notes on conditions were noted.

In 2001, a walk through survey was completed (no fish sampling).

In 2002, thirty pools on the mainstem of Pescadero Creek were snorkel surveyed for p/a of juvenile coho salmon.

In 2003, Peters Creek and thirty pools on the mainstem of Pescadero were sampled for p/a juvenile coho salmon.

In 2004, Peters, Oil, Slate, Little Boulder and Waterman Creeks and thirty pools on the mainstem of Pescadero were sampled for p/a juvenile coho salmon.

In 2005, almost every pool between lower Wurr Road bridge upstream to Slate Creek were sampled for p/a juvenile coho salmon.

During the p/a surveys, some data was collected on the pools that were sampled, but a full scale habitat survey like the one completed in 1995 was not done.

Lower Pescadero Creek from the USGS gage downstream has never been surveyed due to poor landowner access. Butano and Little Butano have not been looked at since 1995.

So, with this in mind during the 1995 survey habitat conditions (e.g. spawning gravels; pool habitat depth and instream structure; canopy; stream temperatures; etc...) looked quite good compared to other watersheds in the vicinity. Some areas of the mainstem Pescadero were silty and/or had excessive sediment deposition but for the most part, the habitat looked pretty good.

As for Butano and Little Butano in 1995, the situation was reversed. Most of the habitat was silty or had excessive sediment deposition, but there were some spawning areas.

In 1999, Pescadero Creek was still recovering from the El Nino event with excessive amounts of fine sediment deposition in the pools. Many spawning areas were still noted and did not appear to be as heavily impacted as the pool, run and glide habitat. In the tributaries, there was more wood deposition and log jams that were barriers in 1995 dispersed or moved downstream, but excessive sediment deposition wasn't noted in the tributaries after the El Nino event.

text2

In 2001 and 2002, habitat conditions in the mainstem continued to improve and in 2002, CDFG in conjunction with NOAA staff, agreed coho salmon smolts could be re-introduced into Pescadero watershed. Apparently, as a consequence of the 2002 coho smolt plant and the subsequent return of adults in 2004-05, several hundred (in not thousand) juvenile coho were detected in the mainstem of Pescadero Creek during the summer of 2005. A second plant of coho smolts is to be made in Late Feb./early March in upper Pescadero Creek in 2006.

For the most part, habitat conditions in the areas surveyed continue to improve but there are sections of creek that have no spawning or rearing habitat value (long, wide, silty glides with no instream structure for scouring). In addition, it is unknown what the habitat looks like on Pescadero Creek from the USGS gage to the lagoon, Butano or Little Butano Creeks.

Jennifer

Jennifer Nelson
Associate Fisheries Biologist
Coho Salmon and Steelhead
P.O. Box 88
Aptos, CA 95001-0088
(831) 688-6768

From: Craig J. Wilson
To: Carmencita Sannebeck; Yates, Randal
Date: Wed, Feb 1, 2006 7:32 AM
Subject: Fwd: FW: Pescadero Stream Conditions

More for the record and distribution. CJW

>>> "Tim Frahm" <timfrahm@hotmail.com> Tuesday, January 31, 2006 >>>

Hello Craig,

Forwarded is an email from DFG re; habitat conditions in Pescadero Creek. It comes from the DFG biologist who conducts the region stream habitat and population surveys. This information is in response to our Dec conversation regarding existing habitat conditions and the reintroduction of coho salmon into Pescadero. At that time, I promised to seek some input from DFG - seeking any recent information which may lead to informed decisions regarding this watershed. If you have any questions, please feel free to call.

Tim Frahm
San Mateo Co. Farm Bureau
650 560 0232

>From: "Jennifer Nelson" <JENELSON@dfg.ca.gov>
>To: <timfrahm@hotmail.com>
>Subject: Pescadero Stream Condiitons
>Date: Tue, 31 Jan 2006 11:24:19 -0800
>