

6/12/07 Workshop  
Suction Dredge Mining  
Deadline: 6/22/07 Noon

**From:** "Marde" <marde@charter.net>  
**To:** <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Date:** Thu, Jun 14, 2007 1:47 PM  
**Subject:** Comment Letter - Suction Dredge Mining



Dear Sirs,

I am the owner of Micro-Sluice Gold Products. At the present time, I have 3 dealers in California that represent my company. I have been a member of the Gold Prospectors Association of America for many years; and am currently a member of the New 49'ers Prospecting Organization in Northern California. Most of my suction dredging for the past years has been limited to holidays and vacations. I have observed the following: Underwater dredging has many benefits, 1) when a dredging hole is created, the water is cooler in the dredge hole for the fish, 2) Anytime you take a break and come back to your dredging hole you will always find fish feeding in the dredge hole, 3) In 1992, my son and I were dredging on the Klamath River in Northern California, we were dredging during the salmon run. We took a break and when we returned, the salmon were laying in the dredge hole resting. About 30 minutes later, they left, moving upstream. Occasionally during the day numerous salmon would stop in the hole to rest before going upstream. The next day was the same, the hole was full of salmon when we started, after a short time they cleared out. The dredge hole was an obvious benefit for the fish.

After seeing this, I think it would be unwise to stop dredging.

In conclusion, I benefit from our dealers in California and I would like to see them continue in their endeavors and I would be glad to support them. The out of state charge for annual suction dredging, the permit this year is \$167.25 is a deterrent for me to return to dredging at the present time.

Thank you.  
Martin Hach