

From: "Ron & Donna" <kliwer1@verizon.net>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Sat, Jun 9, 2007 10:12 AM
Subject: Dredging HELPS fish habitat

5/12/07 Workshop
Suction Dredge Mining
Deadline: 6/22/07 Noon

To Whom it may concern,

I have actually seen fish swim into a hole in the river bottom where I was dredging and feed on what is being stirred up. They seem to thrive around the dredged area. They also rest in the dredge hole after dredging activity has ceased.

Responsible suction dredge miners do not dredge stream banks! Dredging occurs only in the wetted perimeter of the stream. Therefore, it is unlikely suction dredging will cause a loss of cover adjacent to the stream.

Solar radiation is the single most important energy source for the heating of streams during daytime conditions. The loss or removal of riparian vegetation can increase solar radiation input to a stream increasing stream temperature. Suction dredge operations are confined to the existing stream channel and do not affect riparian vegetation or stream shade (SNF, 2001).

Suction dredging could alter pool dimensions through excavation, deposition of tailings, or by triggering adjustments in channel morphology. Excavating pools could substantially increase their depth and increase cool groundwater inflow. This could reduce pool temperature. If pools were excavated to a depth greater than three feet, salmonid pool habitat could be improved. In addition, if excavated pools reduce pool temperatures, they could provide important coldwater habitats for salmonids living in streams with elevated temperatures (SNF, 2001).

Dredge mining had little, if any, impact on water temperature (Hassler, T.J., W.L. Somer and G.R. Stern, 1986). In addition, the Oregon Siskiyou Dredge Study states, "There is no evidence that suction dredging affects stream temperature" (SNF, 2001).

Increases in sediment loading to a stream can result in the stream aggrading causing the width of the stream to increase. This width increase can increase the surface area of the water resulting in higher solar radiation absorption and increased stream temperatures. Suction dredge operations are again confined to the existing stream channel and do not affect stream width (SNF, 2001).

Please allow dredging to legally continue as it does not affect the environment in a deleterious fashion, but rather helps improve fish habitat by loosening the packed river gravels and creating cool water pools.

Sincerely,

Ron Kliwer

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