

From: "Stanley Meager" <sgmeager@sisqtel.net>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Sun, Jun 10, 2007 12:55 AM
Subject: Comments

State Water Board:

I have been dredging gold from California Rivers since 1969. I have yet to see any damage done to our river system by dredging. I can speak for myself and friends when I say that dredging the river bottom is very helpful to our rivers and fish. I can say first hand that when I have become tired dredging

I hand feed dozens of fish that eat behind my dredge. They are literally there by the dozens feeding off the insects I have uncovered for them. When I take a break from dredging, I like to sit in the water with my mask and snorkel on. I take sand flees, I think that's what they are called, from the bottom of the river, pull them out of there shells and feed them to the trout that wait for me to feed them.

I remove all kinds of lead from the river bottoms, left there by fishermen and hunters. I also remove mercury whenever I find it.

I can't tell you how many times I have come back to one of the holes I have dredged to find it teeming with fish. They find food in the holes, colder water, and protection from birds.

The next thing I have seen is the river bottom where I have left after dredging, it is clean from silt and mud, leaving a better place for salmon and such to lay eggs.

I have seen fish killed from escaping from fishermen and animals but I have never seen one killed by my dredge or me or my friends. I have seen damage done to the salmon and steal head from our local Indian tribe. They net them by the thousands and sell smoked salmon to anyone that will buy it. I refuse to buy it from them. Yet they are the first to call foul.

I will invite anyone from the water board to come dredge with me to see this for themselves. You don't have to take my word or the word of some study, come see it for yourselves.

Thank you for the opportunity to add my comments to your study. It's too bad that you are on a wild goose chase because this has all been resolved in the past. Someone once said if you do not know your history, you are bound to repeat it. What a waste of time and money to repeat anything if it has already been resolved.

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

