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 bottom and no in-stream structure). Since I have not seen the whole 45 mi, 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 CDFG 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 Zatkin 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 in-stream 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.
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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 Conditions  
>Date: Tue, 31 Jan 2006 11:24:19 -0800  
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