

Memorandum

To : FILES

Date : January 30, 1968

From : Department of Fish and Game - Region 3

Subject: Millerton Creek - Tributary to Tomales Bay, Marin County

On January 17, 1968, Keith Dunbar of the North Coastal Regional Water Quality Control Board and Warden Al Giddings and Biologist Dick Moore of the Department of Fish and Game checked on this stream that extends Tomales Bay about 1/2 mile south of Millerton Point.

Al Giddings reported a dairy was discharging dairy wastes into a gulch that ran north and entered Millerton Creek about 1 to 1-1/2 miles upstream from the mouth. He reported the dairy is probably in joint ownership of Mr. Robert Giacomini and Waldo Giacomini.

Al Giddings reported about two weeks earlier, during storm runoff, water at the downstream side of Highway #1 bridge had foam over the surface. Ducks from Tomales Bay congregated and fed in this area.

During the present observations the stream was fairly clear at the mouth with occasional bubbles on the surface.

The stream was checked by car from the Highway #1 bridge upstream about 1 to 1 1/2 miles to the gulch mentioned above. A considerable amount of manure was noted in the vicinity of the stream and streambed. Manure was up to five inches deep on areas that had been quiet backwater flat areas during heavy runoff.

A large amount of manure was mixed with stream materials. Sand bars were found to be composed mainly of manure. Holes in gravel bars contained manure. Manure settled among streamside vegetations, Holes dug in gravel bars filled with a greenish brown water with foam at the surface.

Salmonids have not been observed in this stream in the last few years, however, Mr. Buz De Gallardi reports having caught steelhead in this stream in past years. Mr. Erwin Canieri of the California Highway Patrol also reports steelhead in this stream in past years.

Mr. Oscar Johnson is presently operating oyster beds 1 to 1-1/2 miles north of Millerton Creek. He has observed manure as much as three feet wide along the beach. He also reports seeing unusually heavy algae growths on his oyster beds.

Conclusion

1. This dairy discharge is definitely deleterious to fish.
2. The dairy discharge might contaminate the oysters. In this event the dairy discharge would be deleterious to shellfish and shellfish habitat.

Recommendations

1. Prevent manure from entering stream.

Consult with Al Giddings on the best procedure to achieve this end.

Consult the Regional Water Quality Control Board on setting standards on this dairy discharge.

Richard L. Moore
Assistant Water Quality Biologist
Region 3

cc Al Giddings