

# Mercury Bioaccumulation in Fish in a Region Affected by Historic Gold Mining; The South Yuba River, Deer Creek, and Bear River Watersheds, California, 1999: Usgs Open-File Report 2000-367



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## MERCURY BIOACCUMULATION IN FISH IN A REGION AFFECTED BY HISTORIC GOLD MINING; THE SOUTH YUBA RIVER, DEER CREEK, AND BEAR RIVER WATERSHEDS, CALIFORNIA, 1999: USGS OPEN-FILE REPORT 2000-367

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Bibliogov, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 246 x 189 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Mercury that was used historically for gold recovery in mining areas of the Sierra Nevada continues to enter local and downstream water bodies, including the Sacramento Delta and the San Francisco Bay of northern California. Methylmercury is of particular concern because it is the most prevalent form of mercury in fish and is a potent neurotoxin that bioaccumulates at successive trophic levels within food webs. In April 1999, the U.S. Geological Survey, in cooperation with several other agencies the Forest Service (U.S. Department of Agriculture), the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the California State Water Resources Control Board, and the Nevada County Resource Conservation District began a pilot investigation to characterize the occurrence and distribution of mercury in water, sediment, and biota in the South Yuba River, Deer Creek, and Bear River watersheds of California. Biological samples consisted of semi-aquatic and aquatic insects, amphibians, bird eggs, and fish. Fish were collected from 5 reservoirs and 14 stream sites during August through October 1999 to assess the distribution of mercury in these watersheds. Fish that were collected from reservoirs included top trophic level predators (black basses, *Micropterus* spp.) intermediate trophic level predators [sunfish (blue gill, *Lepomis macrochirus*; green sunfish, *Lepomis cyanellus*; and black crappie, *Poxomis nigromaculatus*)] and benthic omnivores (channel catfish, *Ictalurus punctatus*). At stream sites, the species collected were upper trophic level salmonids (brown trout, *Salmo trutta*) and upper-to-intermediate trophic level salmonids (rainbow trout, *Oncorhynchus mykiss*). Boneless and skinless fillet portions from 161 fish were analyzed for total mercury; 131 samples were individual fish, and the remaining 30 fish were combined into 10 composite samples of three fish each of the same species and...



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