

Hangtown creek

MY DEMOCRAT. 3/28/74

fish killed

by dumped poison

There are fish in Hangtown Creek, foot-long rainbow trout at that-- and this week somebody killed several hundred of them by deliberately dumping a chemical into the water.

Fisheries biologist Jim Richard of the Fish & Game department reported Monday that about 300 trout plus a few suckers were lying poisoned on the bottom of the creek over the 8-10 of a mile between Smith Flat road and the Broadway Motel.

Richard said the dumping of 5½ gallons of a bleach was deliberate. Some guys will do that kind of thing just to collect a gunnysack full quick, he said, for a fish feed or to show off as trophies.

Under Fish & Game regulations, such an act is a misdemeanor punishable by up to a \$1000 fine or six months in jail, added Georgetown game warden R. L. Rufenacht, who helped Richard investigate the fish kill.

The fish poisoning was especially unfortunate at this time because the trout were about to spawn, said Richard, estimating that in the first halfmile the bleach killed about 99 percent of the fish in the creek.

Contrary to general adult opinion, but wellknown to small boys of the area, Hangtown Creek has quite a few fish in it, rainbow trout up to 12 or 13 inches, said Richard.

Fish life has picked up since the city stopped dumping sewage into it, he said, and the creek has the potential to be quite an attractive fishing stream especially if the city were to stop channeling it with concrete and building parking lots over it, he added. The debris of old tires, car hub caps, plastic bottles lying in and around it doesn't help fish life either, apart from being unsightly, he added.

They have cited