

Acknowledgment of corrections to previous versions of the Park News document “Drakes Estero – A Sheltered Wilderness Estuary”

Research conducted by Dr. Roberto Anima of the U.S. Geological Survey in Drakes Estero in the late 1980s resulted in a report to the National Park Service (Anima 1990) and a U.S. Geological Survey report (Anima 1991). The NPS incorrectly interpreted the report by Dr. Roberto Anima (1990) stating that he had detected oyster feces and pseudofeces in sediment core samples, that he estimated the amount of fecal matter produced by oyster rafts, and that he considered oyster farming as the primary source of sedimentation in the estero. Instead, Anima (1991; page 92) states that “Because they are filter feeders, the oysters being grown and harvested in the estero play an important role in the deposition of fine grained sediment”. Although, Anima did not quantify sedimentation related to the oyster farming, he references another study - "Ito and Imai (1955) calculated that in Japanese waters a raft of oysters 60 m square would annually produce 0.6 to 1.0 metric tons (dry weight) of fecal material."

Fish research in Drakes Estero conducted by Jesse Wechsler, a geography graduate student at UC Davis, resulted in his Master’s thesis (Wechsler 2004) and contributed to a report to the National Park Service (Elliott-Fisk 2005). The NPS incorrectly interpreted that the Estero de Limantour supports a different fish community than Schooner Bay. To clarify, the fish found at sampling sites in Estero de Limantour were most different from sites associated with the oyster racks in Schooner Bay, not the entirety of Schooner Bay. Although not tested for statistical significance, Wechsler reports that “Four of the five indices used to assess the similarity of the fish assemblage showed the greatest compositional divergence was between Estero de Limantour and Schooner Adjacent”.

NPS acknowledges the errors and will periodically update information when corrections and new information are available.