NOAA Hazardous Waste Site Report

Picketville Landfill (IV-17)
Jacksonville, Florida
April 13, 1984

Location and Nature of Site:

Picketville Landfill is a municipal facility located on the northeast side of Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida (Figure 1). The landfill began operations in 1940 on a limited basis, with full-sacle operations beginning in 1967. The landfill continued operations until 1977 when it was closed. The landfill has received all types of waste, ranging from household garbage to hazardous materials. The site occupies approximately 53 acres of generally flat land. It is located in a semi-rural area and is covered by weeds and pockets of trash. Some of the waste believed to be disposed on the site includes lead, battery acid wastes and casings, light terpene sludge, and PCB containers.

Proximity of Chemical Hazard to Marine Resources:

Complaints from private citizens have concerned runoff problems from the site, especially after rains. Leachate from the site has been observed flowing into Six Mile Creek, which flows into the headwaters of the Ribault River. The Ribault River flows approximately five miles before it joins the Trout River. From the junction of the Ribault and Trout Rivers, it is another two miles along the Trout River until it connects with the St. Johns River. Six Mile Creek is tidally influenced.

Groundwater monitoring wells have been installed around the site. Samples from these monitoring wells have shown evidence of iron and chromium contamination. Groundwater was found by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to be contaminated to a depth of 80 feet in 1981. Chemical analysis of a leachate sample from Picketville Landfill was performed by the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation. The result showed a concentration of 72.6 ppb heavy metals (4).

Marine Resources at Risk:

No documentation was found which could confirm that the Picketville Landfill contributed to marine resource damage. However, a biological survey of Six Mile Creek by the Florida State Department of Environmental Regulation was performed, and biota in the creek were found to be impoverished.

The St. Johns River is a relatively undisturbed estuarine area that supports commercial and recreational fisheries and provides critical habitat to many marine organisms (Table 1).

Figure 1. Site location.

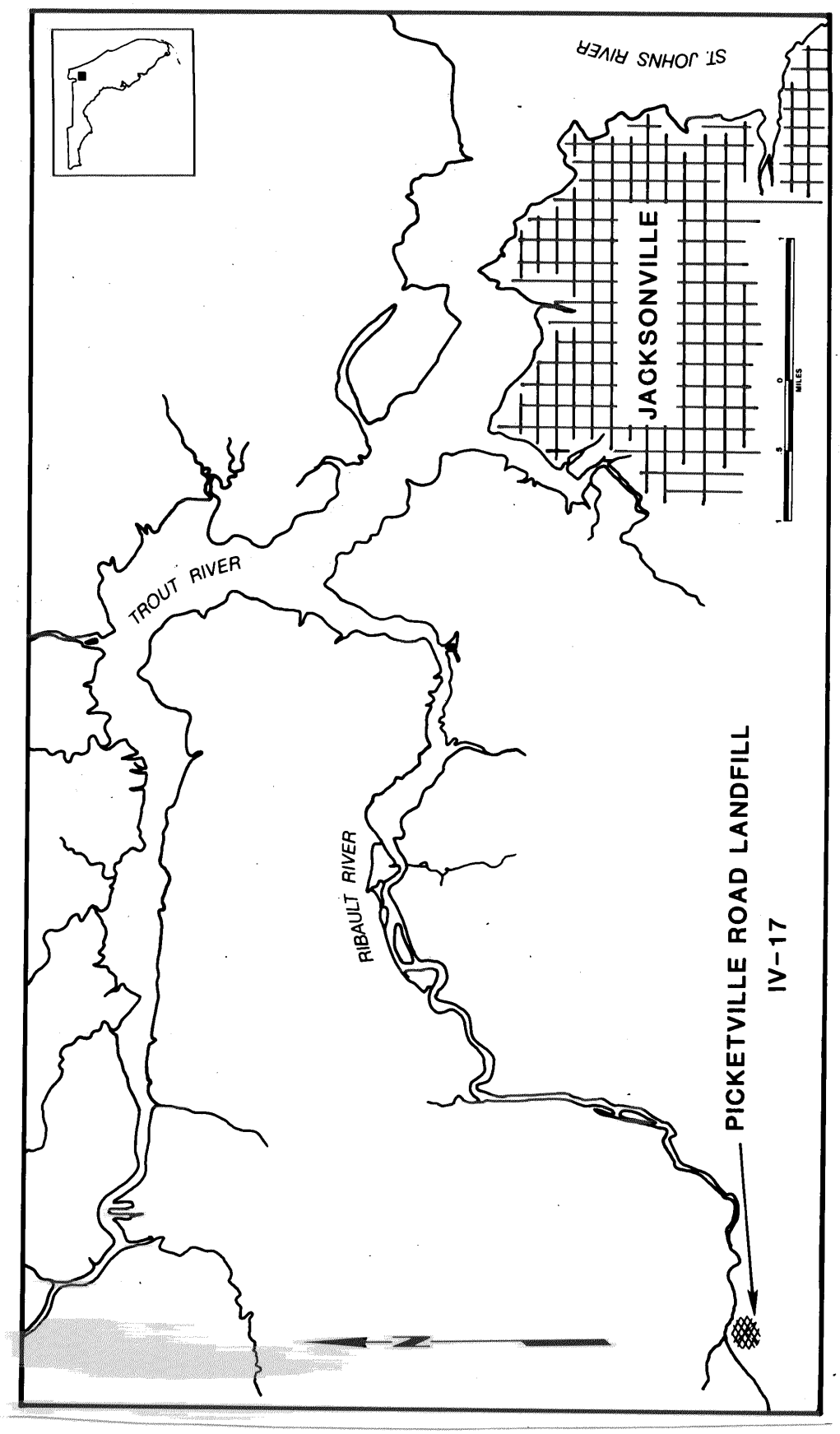

Table 1. Fishery resources of the St. Johns River. (1,2,3).

Finfish Species	Adult Habitat	Spawning Area	Nursery Area	Comm. Fish.	Rec. Fish.	Migr. Route
Anadromous						
Seatrout	X	X	X	X	X	
Spot	X		X	X	X	
Croaker	X		X	X	X	
Whiting	X		X	X	X	
Red Drum	X		X	X	X	
Flounder	X		X	X	X	
Pompano	X		X	X	X	
Bluefish	X		X	X	X	X
White grunt	X		X	X	X	
Mullet	X	X	X	X	X	X
Atlantic menhaden	X		X	X	X	
Shellfish						
Blue crab	X	X	X	X	X	
White shrimp			X	X	X	
Brown shrimp			X	X	X	
Pink shrimp			X			
Eastern oyster	X	X	X	X	X	

The commercial and recreational fisheries in St. Johns River are very important to the local economy, and the entire riverine system is used by many marine organisms as nursery habitat. Many wading birds, shorebirds, and seabirds are present here all year, as are bottlenose dolphin. Manatee are occasionally sited here.

Summary of Site-Related Actions:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is the lead agency for this site. Picketville Landfill is still considered to be in the site investigation stage. No actions have been taken to prevent future releases of leachate from the site.

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References:

1. National Marine Fishery Service, 1974. Anglers Guide to the United States Atlantic Coast.

2. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1980. Atlantic Coast Ecological Inventory.

3. Research Planning Institute. Environmental Sensitivity Index - Northeast Florida.

4. Florida State Department of Environmental Regulation. "Bioassays of Picketville Road Landfill." Bureau of Water Analysis/Biology Section.