



Association of California Water Agencies  
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January 25, 2012

Mr. Jim Kellogg, President  
Mr. Richard B. Rogers, Vice President  
Mr. Michael Sutton  
Mr. Daniel W. Richards  
Mr. Jack Baylis

C/o Mr. Sonke Mastrup  
California Fish and Game Commission  
P.O. box 944209  
Sacramento, CA. 94244-2090

Via e-mail: [gfc@fgc.ca.gov](mailto:gfc@fgc.ca.gov)

**Re: Proposed Changes to Striped Bass Fishing Regulations**

Dear President Kellogg and Commissioners:

The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) urges the California Fish and Game Commission to approve the proposed changes to the fishing regulations for striped bass in the Delta that have been jointly recommended by the California Department of Fish and Game, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

ACWA consists of approximately 450 public water agencies located throughout the state of California. Our members provide over 90 percent of the water for residential, commercial and industrial, and agricultural uses. Many of our member agencies rely on water from the Delta to supply, in part or whole, the water needs of their ratepayers. The Endangered Species Act listings of species native to the Delta aquatic ecosystem such as winter-run Chinook salmon and delta smelt have drastically limited the ability to ensure a statewide reliable water supply.

As you are aware, striped bass are a non-native species in the Bay-Delta estuary that prey on native endangered species such as delta smelt and winter-run Chinook salmon. We believe that the changes to the current striped bass fishing regulations proposed by the responsible state and federal fish and wildlife agencies represents a well-reasoned approach that provides a balance between reducing a stressor that is having a significant adverse impact on the listed

species and maintaining a viable sport fishing industry in the Delta, a significant contributor to local and regional economies. The proposal before you includes adaptive management and ongoing research components that allow for evaluation of the effects of the proposed changes on the populations of both striped bass and the listed species. Such an approach will allow for scientifically informed adjustments to the regulations.

Many factors have contributed to the dramatic decline of fish species native to the Delta. Organizations, public agencies, and local, state and federal leaders have been working on solving the Delta crisis. We need to recognize that as a part of a long-term, comprehensive solution, every stressor on the Delta ecosystem will need to be addressed. While the proposed changes to the striped bass fishing regulations will not singularly resolve the challenges in the Delta, we believe that striped bass predation is an issue that must be addressed if we are to restore viable native fish populations.

Thanks you for your consideration. If you have any questions about our comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 441-4545.

Sincerely,



Executive Director  
Association of California Water Agencies

Cc:

John Laird, Secretary of the California Natural Resource Agency  
Dr. Jerry Meral, Deputy Secretary of the California Natural Resource Agency  
Chuck Bonham, Director of the Department of Fish and Game  
Charlie Hoppin, Chair of the State Water Resources Control Board  
Tom Howard, Executive Director of the State Water Resources Control Board  
Phil Isenberg, Chair of the Delta Stewardship Council  
Joe Grindstaff, Executive Officer of the Delta Stewardship Council