



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Office of the General Manager

January 20, 2012

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL: fgc@fgc.ca.gov

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

California Fish and Game Commission
c/o Sonke Mastrup
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Dear President Kellogg and Commissioners:

Comment Letter to California Fish and Game Commission

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California supports improved management of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta's striped bass fishery. It is a necessary element of a comprehensive approach to solving the ongoing crisis in the estuary. The California Fish and Game Commission can play an important leadership role in updating management practices in the Delta by implementing proposed management changes that have widespread support of state and federal wildlife agencies.

Peer-reviewed, published studies have found an alarmingly high mortality rate of juvenile salmon as they migrate downstream through the Delta, never making it to San Francisco Bay. The primary cause of this mortality is predation. And striped bass, a non-native species, is a key predator. Previous management practices to promote, and even increase, the population levels striped bass are simply no longer appropriate given the crisis facing the Delta. The recommended changes in striped bass management reflect the kind of modern, updated management practices that are now necessary and prudent.

The California Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service support this proposal. A modest expansion of fishing opportunities, for striped bass, as part of an adaptive management strategy, is a reasonable next step.

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Metropolitan fully recognizes that no single action can resolve the broader Delta challenge. Improved management of the striped bass fishery is the step that the Fish and Game Commission can now take to keep the estuary on a path toward recovery.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger K. Patterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Roger K. Patterson
Assistant General Manager

cc: John Laird, Secretary, California Resources Agency
Gerald Meral, Deputy Secretary, California Resources Agency
Charlton Bonham, Director, Department of Fish and Game
Members of the Delta Stewardship Council