

The Delta Fly Fishers, Inc.
P.O. Box 77862
Stockton, CA 95207

December 22nd, 2011

California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090



Re: The Department of Fish and Game's ill-thought recommendation for a change in sport fishing regulations for striped bass.

Dear Sirs,

The Delta Fly Fishers is a 35 year old fly fishing club of over 100 members based in Stockton, California. Its Board of Directors asks that you reject the Department of Fish and Game's recommendations for changes in the sport fishing regulations for striped bass. We ask this with a full understanding of the issues involved and believe that a change in the regulations would be bad for the Delta, bad for its fisheries, and bad for California's fishermen. In making this request we ask you to consider the following:

- 1) Stripers have successfully lived in harmony with other fish species in the Delta for over 120 years with no significant impact on any native species.
- 2) The best and most respected scientific studies have shown striped bass predation of Chinook salmon and Delta Smelt to be of no consequence in the decline of those two species.
- 3) The state's leading authority and expert on Delta fisheries, Dr. Peter Moyle, U.C. Davis, believes reducing striper populations will most likely have a severe adverse effect on all Delta fish species.
- 4) The Delta adult striped bass population has crashed as significantly as those of the Chinook salmon, Delta Smelt, Longfin Smelt, Green Sturgeon and other Delta species.
- 5) The fish populations of the Delta started their catastrophic decline only when water exports began from the Delta and when large scale farming in the south San Joaquin Valley introduced massive amounts of toxic agricultural runoff into Delta waters. This decline has accelerated in the last ten years along with the massive increases in pumping that have taken place.

Changing the regulations as proposed by the Department of Fish and Game will decimate the striped bass fishery, put thousands of people out of work and destroy a large portion of the Delta economy while depriving California's sportsmen and women of fishing for one of the world's great game fish.

Sincerely,

Herman Spalinger, Club President, on behalf of the Delta Fly Fishers Board of Directors.