

DRAFT

January 17, 2020

Mr. Erik Sklar, President
California Fish and Game Commission
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Comments on proposed Striped Bass Policy

Dear Mr. Sklar,

The Delta Protection Commission serves as a forum for Delta residents and fosters communication between public agencies and private entities to encourage increased recreation and tourism in the Delta. The Delta Protection Commission supports efforts to maintain the striped bass population as important to Delta recreational and economic values.

At the December 2019 California Fish and Game Commission (CFGC) meeting, your Commission heard public comment on the proposed amended Delta Fisheries Management Policy and Striped Bass Policy. Many of the speakers at the meeting were concerned the Delta striped bass fishery will no longer be supported because of concerns over bass predation of listed fish species. Fish researchers also commented that striped bass were unlikely to be the primary cause of listed species declines. We ask that you consider the following comments as you work with stakeholders to revise the Striped Bass Policy:

- Include the language from Stakeholder Draft Version 1: “...the department’s goal is to restore the striped bass population to a healthy, self-sustaining growing population and robust recreation fishery...reduce impacts of invasive aquatic vegetation, improve water quality, reduce loss of striped bass...and assess the status and population of striped bass in the Delta.” Further, incorporate the 1.1 million striped bass fish population numeric target as a replacement for the existing numeric target, as supported by many members of the stakeholder group.
- Include language supportive of interagency research efforts to identify steps to manage a successful striped bass fishery and what the striped bass population needs to be self-sustaining.

DPC January 16, 2020 meeting – Agenda Item 11a (Comment Letter on proposed modifications to California Fish and Game Commission striped bass policy) – Attachment 1

- In order to address the questions about predation, the CFGC should promote additional studies on the relationship between striped bass and listed species, including predation, habitat needs, and how to manage game fish and species of conservation need.

Our Commission also recognizes the broad agreement on the Delta Fisheries Management Policy and urges its adoption as well.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the CFGC proposed policy. We understand the important need to balance all of the species in the Delta and look forward to future engagement opportunities. Please contact me at (916) 376-8941 or at erik.vink@delta.ca.gov if I can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

Erik Vink
Executive Director

cc: Chairman Oscar Villegas and members, Delta Protection Commission