

## **Draft Delta Fisheries Management Policy**

It is the policy of the Fish and Game Commission that:

The Commission and Department shall seek to collaborate and coordinate with other agencies with jurisdiction over species and other resources in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) and its tributaries as they manage fisheries, state and federally listed fish species, such as salmonids and smelt, and other aquatic resources.

The Commission and Department shall strive to manage these resources holistically, sustainably, and consistent with the direction of the legislature to protect, restore, and enhance the Delta ecosystem.

The Department shall rely on the best available science to develop strategies and recommendations for managing fisheries and listed species in the Delta. Using this information, the Department shall strive to improve habitat conditions for and alleviate threats to listed species.

The Department shall manage listed fish species to protect and enhance each species' abundance, distribution, and genetic integrity to support each species' resiliency and recovery.

The Department shall manage Delta fisheries in a manner that provides for angling opportunities and minimizes adverse effects to native and listed species and recovery activities.

Based on current best available science and evaluations of past management of Delta fisheries, the Commission and Department shall not develop or enhance fisheries in the Delta which may pose a direct threat to the survival of, or significantly limit, recovery of a listed species.

To the extent feasible, the Commission and Department shall support scientific research to help advance the policy goals set forth herein. The Department should consider identified research needs when developing research plans, making research funding decisions, and when reviewing and/or authorizing research projects. The Department may consider the sampling of non-native fish outside sport fishing size and bag limits to advance scientific research to support native species in the Delta, where statutorily permitted and practical. Where feasible, the Department should encourage and permit recreational anglers to contribute to scientific research on predator-prey relationships to help inform efforts to protect native species.