

California Fish and Game Commission
Draft Delta Fisheries Management Policy
September 30, 2019 Discussion Draft

[Items in red underline are suggested edits from the last draft, presented to the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) on August 7, 2019.]

The Delta, for the purposes of this policy, means the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as defined in Section 12220 of the California Water Code. It is the policy of the Fish and Game Commission that:

- I. The Commission and the Department of Fish and Wildlife shall seek to collaborate and coordinate with other agencies whose actions may affect species and other resources in the Delta and its tributaries as the Department manages fisheries, including but not limited to state and federally listed fish species such as salmonids and smelt and other aquatic resources. The Commission and Department will provide feedback to other agencies on any actions in the Delta that could have unintended impacts to California's fisheries.
- II. 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.
- III. The Department shall rely on the best available science to develop strategies and recommendations for managing fisheries in the Delta, including listed species, native species, and species of greatest conservation need. Using this information, the Department shall strive to improve habitat conditions (such as water temperature and flows, water quality, food, and other stressors) for and promote recovery of listed species.
- IV. The Department shall manage listed species, native species, and species of greatest conservation need to protect and enhance each species' abundance, distribution, and genetic integrity to support their resiliency and recovery.
- V. The Department shall manage Delta fisheries in a manner that provides for maximizing sustainable recreational angling opportunities while minimizing adverse effects to native and listed species, species of greatest conservation need, and recovery activities.
- VI. Based on current best available science and evaluations of past management of Delta fisheries the Commission and the Department shall not develop or enhance fisheries on the Delta which pose a direct threat to the survival of, or significantly limit, recovery of a listed species.
- VII. To the extent feasible, the Commission and the Department shall support scientific research on habitat or species improvement projects and investments to help the policy goals set forth herein. The Department should consider identified research needs when developing research plans, making research investments, making research funding decisions, and when reviewing and/or authorizing research projects. Where feasible, the Department should encourage and permit recreational anglers to contribute to scientific research of native and non-native species to help inform efforts to protect and enhance listed species, native species, and species of greatest conservation need; such studies should be carefully considered in light of the overall population goals for, and effect on, both the study target and related species.

California Fish and Game Commission

Draft Striped Bass Policy

Discussion Draft 9/30/2019

[Items in red are suggested edits to the existing policy. The existing policy adopted on 4/5/1996 may be found at [https://fgc.ca.gov/About/Policies/Fisheries#StripedBass.](https://fgc.ca.gov/About/Policies/Fisheries#StripedBass)]

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

- I. The Department of Fish and Wildlife shall work toward stabilizing and restoring the essential habitat for striped bass in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. This goal is consistent with Commission policy that the Department shall emphasize programs that ensure, enhance, and prevent loss of sport fishing opportunities.
- II. The Department shall ensure that actions to increase and sustain striped bass abundance are consistent with the Department's mission and public trust responsibilities including those related to threatened and endangered species and other species of special concern.
- III. The Department shall work toward these goals through any appropriate means. Such means may include actions to help maintain, restore, and improve habitat beneficial to striped bass, reduce impacts of invasive aquatic vegetation, reduce loss of striped bass from water projects and unscreened diversions, and assess the status of striped bass in the Delta.