

California Fish and Game Commission
Draft Delta Fisheries Management Policy
Nov 21, 2019 Discussion Draft tracked against Oct 28 version

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta has faced, and continues to experience, declines in pelagic fishes and anadromous salmonids. This policy is intended to guide management decisions that could affect fish species and other aquatic resources. 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 (Commission) that:

- I. The Commission and the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) 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 Delta fisheries and other aquatic resources. The Commission and Department will provide feedback to other agencies on any actions in the Delta that could have significant, adverse impacts to California's fisheries. "Delta fisheries" includes listed species, species of greatest conservation need, native species, and game fish.
- 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 credible science (as defined by Section 33 of the Fish and Game Code) to develop strategies and recommendations for managing Delta fisheries. Using this information, the Department shall strive to improve habitat conditions (such as water temperature and flows, water quality, and food) and manage other stressors (such as disease, predation and prey availability, and competition) to promote recovery of Delta fisheries (where applicable).
- IV. Recognizing that listed species hold a special status, ~~the Department shall manage listed species, native species, and species of greatest conservation need~~ Delta fisheries to protect and enhance each species' abundance, distribution, and genetic integrity to support their resiliency and (where applicable) recovery.
- V. The Department shall manage Delta fisheries in a manner that provides for maximizing sustainable recreational angling opportunities while avoiding or minimizing adverse effects to native and listed species, species of greatest conservation need, and recovery activities.
- VI. Based on credible 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~~ s, the 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 determine and identify clear, objective-based research needs when developing research and recovery project plans, making research investments, making research and recovery 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 Delta fisheries; such studies should be carefully considered in light of the overall population goals for, and effect on, both the study target and related species.

Alternative Language:

- V. The Department shall manage Delta fisheries in a manner that maximizes sustainable recreational angling opportunities while avoiding or minimizing adverse effects to native and listed species, species of greatest conservation need, and recovery activities for such species. Further, the Department shall not develop or enhance fisheries in the Delta where credible science indicates that doing so would significantly limit recovery of a listed species.
- ~~VI. Based on credible science and evaluations of past management of Delta fisheries, the Commission and the Department shall not develop or enhance fisheries on the Delta which significantly limits the recovery of a listed species.~~

California Fish and Game Commission
Draft Striped Bass Policy
Nov 21, 2019 Discussion Draft tracked against Oct 28 version

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

- I. The Department of Fish and Wildlife shall monitor and manage striped bass in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, 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 greatest conservation need.
- 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, improve water quality, reduce loss of striped bass from water projects and diversions, and assess the status of striped bass in the Delta.

Original Striped Bass Policy
Adopted Apr 5, 1996

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

- I. The Department of Fish and Game shall work toward stabilizing and then restoring the presently declining striped bass fishery of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Estuary. 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 striped bass abundance are consistent with the Department's long-term mission and public trust responsibilities including those related to threatened and endangered species and other species of special concern. Recognizing issues associated with potential incidental take of these species, an appropriate interim objective is to restore the striped bass population to the 1980 population level of 1.1 million adults within the next 5-10 years.
- III. The long-term striped bass restoration goal, as identified in the Department's 1989 Striped Bass Restoration Plan, is 3 million adults.
- IV. The Department shall work toward these goals through any appropriate means. Such means may include actions to help maintain, restore, and improve habitat; pen-rearing of fish salvaged from water project fish screens; and artificial propagation.