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Fish and Game Commission Chooses to Ignore Striped Bass Recommendations

SACRAMENTO, CA – We recognize that this is a difficult decision that faces significant opposition from recreational fisherman, but critical decisions such as this are going to need to be made, if the state is going to reverse the decline in Delta and achieve the co-equal goals envisioned the Delta Reform Act of 2009.

The Coalition for a Sustainable Delta entered into this settlement in good-faith to provide state and federal fishery regulators an opportunity to design a balanced, scientifically-based proposal to begin addressing the important issue of predation by striped bass.

The Fish and Game Commission decided to act against the scientific recommendations of the Department of Fish and Game, the Delta Stewardship Council, the National Oceanic Administration Agency, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

“Unfortunately, the unwillingness of the Commission to even consider putting the state and federal proposal out for environmental review means that this issue will now be forced back before the courts,” said Michael Boccadoro, a spokesperson for the Coalition for a Sustainable Delta. “By shirking their responsibility, they are eliminating an opportunity for a balanced approach and forcing the courts to act.”

“Governor Brown has made resolving issues in the Delta a top priority and we certainly support his efforts. However, he faces a difficult task that will become impossible if an unaccountable commission of laypersons is going to stand in the way of state and federal regulators who are trying to take the necessary steps to achieve the Governor’s vision.”

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