



Rx Fly Fishing!

Volume XXXVIII Number I January 2014 Jerry Neuburger, Editor Stockton, California

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President's Message by Marty Kjelson



Greetings, Happy New Year, and thanks for the opportunity to serve as President these past two years. I have decided to sit down and allow some younger (or perhaps older) blood to assume this position. Thus, this will be my last newsletter message. I look forward to hearing from our new President.

I expect our annual New Year's Day on the Mokelumne River will be a great outing as well as the one later in January on the Yuba River. Hopefully we will have some good storms to build up a snow pack for 2014 so the many needs for water will be met this coming year. Our club has had some good outings in 2013 and I thank all who lead those events as well as attendees that make them special.

Our Board continues to work on our behalf in wrapping up the year and preparing for 2014. Major efforts include planning for the 2014 budget, the outing schedule and program speakers. Seeing drafts of these efforts makes me think we'll have another interesting and fruitful year along with some new outing

locations and speakers. We even have some new members ready to guide us to their favorite fishing spots.

We had some great talks in December, one from Charlie Reames that got everyone's attention. He shared about his trip to Alaska with his son where, while they had some good days, they just about lost one of their guided party members when he went overboard from a raft in some difficult and very cold water. Needless to say, we were glad to hear the trip ended ok, but reemphasized the critical need to assure water safety when we enjoy our hobby/sport/addiction of fly fishing. The board discussed plans to hold water safety clinics during the next year on streams and water craft use in flowing and still waters. It will be

Calendar

January 1, 2014, New Year's Day at the Mokelumne

January 8, 2014, January Membership meeting

January 11, 2014, U.C. Davis property Outing, at the Yuba River, Highway 20

January 15, 2014 DFF Board Meeting

January 25, DFF Annual Dinner

March 1, 2014 Bob McMillan Trout Bout

June 7, 2014 Catfish Derby

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time well spent.

I look forward on January 8th to hearing our speaker, biologist Joe Setka, from East Bay MUD, who will discuss recent work and conditions on the Lower Mokelumne River, our nearest local stream. I must admit, I haven't "paid my dues" on the Mokelumne but hope to fish it more in the next year and learn some tips from our club members that fish it a lot. Ron Forbes and Jerry Neuburger have been involved with a recently formed multi-group effort to find ways to better manage that important stream.

Finally, are you ready to attend

our annual dinner on January 25th. I hope so, and bring you friends and family. It again will prove to be a great evening with good fellowship, award presentations, a super raffle and awesome food. A lot of planning efforts have been put in on the dinner by a lot of good folks Thanks them at the dinner. We will be announcing and voting on the 2014 slate of officers during the dinner which brings up a major club need. That of finding someone to fill the vacancy of President. We have a Vice President and Treasurer and two folks to help share the Secretarial duties in 2014 but to date no President. I encourage each of you to consider meeting that need either as Presi-

dent or possibly to share that role with someone else. I and the Board will certainly help in mentoring any person willing to take on that task which will begin after the dinner. The Board will need to resolve this issue by the next Board meeting on January 15th. As always, any member in invited to that meeting. If you can come and help in solving this challenge , please attend or convey your thoughts to any Board member before the meeting.

Once again, thank you for the support you've given me in the past two years. Tight lines and good fellowship. See you on the water.
Marty

Learn more about what's happening to improve fish and fishing on the Mokelumne at the January meeting

Our speaker for the January meeting is:

Jose Setka, Supervising Biologist and Wildlife Biologist for E Bay MUD.

His topic will be, "Changes on the Lower Mokelumne River After the Joint Settlement Agreement"

Jose will bring his computer and CD for the program but may need help setting up.

I will be hosting Jose at Bud's Seafood in Stockton prior to the meeting

at 5:30. Join us.

Ron

Don't forget to buy your 2014 fishing license before you arrive at that stream or lake!

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DAVE'S DIVE



Good news for the Mokelumne but a dreadful outlook for the 2014 fishing year

He who marches to the music of the rank and file has already earned my contempt. He has been given a large brain by mistake, since for him, a spinal cord would suffice.

... Albert Einstein

My apologies for the lack of a conservation article in December's Newsletter. Computer glitches and Comcast errors put me out of touch with the internet for three weeks. Hopefully these issues have been resolved. Delta Fly Fishers' annual New Year's Day party at Van Essen Park is a Delta Fly Fishers tradition. Talking with old friends, meeting new friends, having coffee and donuts, lunch, and a chance to catch trout steelhead is a great way to start a new year. Hope to see you on the water.

On the 19th of December, I talked with Darrick Backer of the Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery to get

some figures on this years Salmon run. Darrick is the Mokelumne's Hatchery Manager. As of the 19th of December:

. 12,108 Chinook salmon and 48 Steelhead passed through the counter at Woodbridge.

. At the hatchery there were 3,652 adult Chinook and 1,4476 juveniles counted.

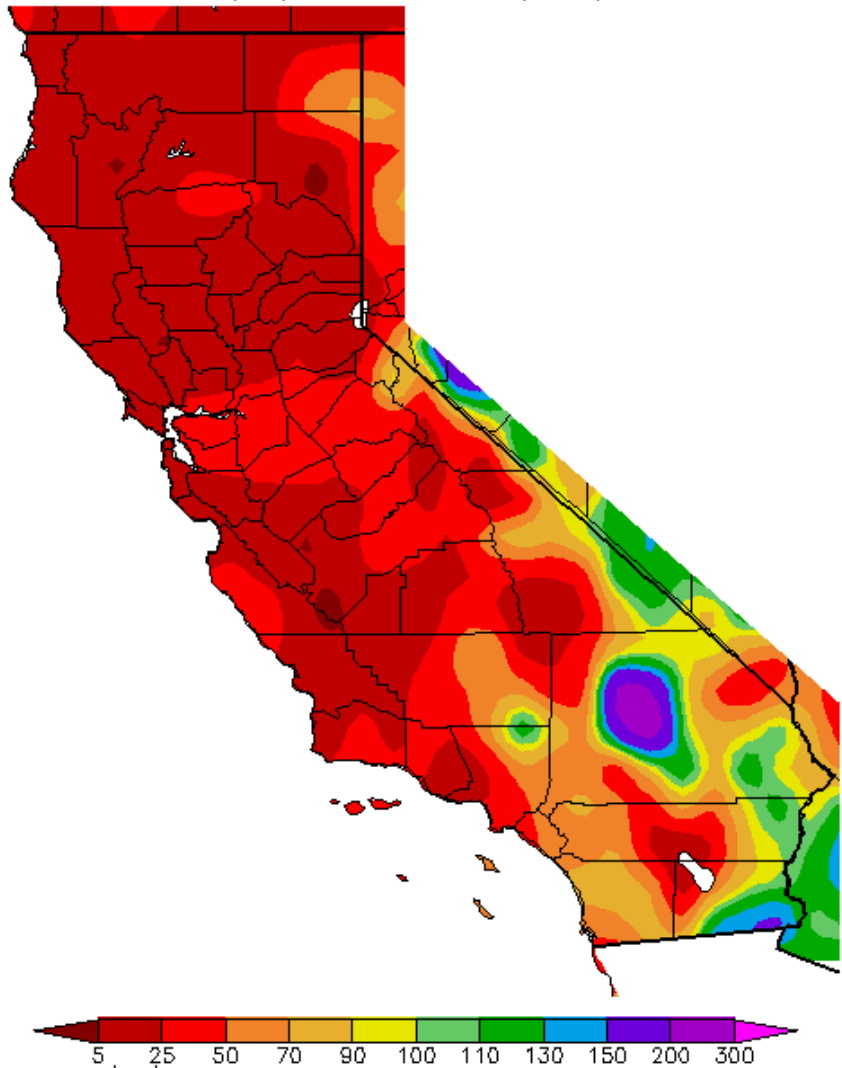
. A total of 5,521,132 eggs were harvested.

One, possibly two minor Chinook runs are still expected. With the Steelhead season just starting, as of the

13th of December, 90 adults and 40 juveniles were counted. Of the 9 fish harvested, 12,810 eggs were taken. The number of Steelhead counted can be confusing. As the salmon travel upstream to spawn, they pass through the counter only once. However, the Steelhead may pass through the counter at Woodbridge in both directions several times. Hence the confusion in their numbers. With the current technically used, it's not possible to get an accurate count on the Steelhead in the Lower Mokelumne.

Re-establishment of salmonids on the Upper Mokelumne

Percent of Average Precipitation (%)
10/1/2013 - 12/21/2013



Generated 12/22/2013 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

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Rx Fly Fishing! is the monthly publication of the Delta Fly Fishers, Inc. Delta Fly Fishers, Inc. is a public benefit 501c3 non-profit corporation registered with the California Secretary of State.

Any correspondence regarding this publication should be directed to: The Delta Fly Fishers Inc. PO Box 77862 Stockton, CA 95207-7862

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In the second week of December, the Foothill Conservancy hosted a meeting at the Lodi US Fish and Wildlife office to discuss the possibility of re-introducing an anadromous fish population on the upper Mokelumne River above Pardee Dam. The project is to be known as The Upper Mokelumne River Anadromous Fish Restoration Project. The list of organizations attending included the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (MNFS), California's Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), California Sportfishing Protective Alliance (CSPA), East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Trout Unlimited (TU), Cal Trout (CT), the Foothill Conservancy (FC), and Delta Fly Fishers (DFF). There is a lot of excitement about the possibly of re-establishing the Upper Moke's lost anadromous fish population. The project is non-mandated and the goal is to



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keep it a simple as possible. There are however, many issues that need to be addressed. Steelhead will be a more difficult species to re-introduce from an ecological and regulatory perspective due to concerns of possible in-breeding with the native trout. The genetics of an introduced fish was a major issue of discussion. The question of whether the introduced chinook should be of wild or hatchery origin is always a major point of concern. The USFWS and EBMUD have data showing that the Chinook in the Mokelumne that we consider wild, all have genetic traces of the Mokelumne's hatchery Chinook.

My educational background is not in fisheries biology, so I am always overwhelmed by the complexities involved with projects like this one. Some of the issues discussed at the meeting were fish passage/barriers, the genetics involved, temperature issues, disease risk management, permits needed, impacts on angling, economic asset/liability issues, experimental studies needed, the impacts of native species, and habitat assessment are some of the issues that need to be assessed.

At the next meeting, FC will show a detailed map of the project area and later lead a tour into the areas under consideration. EBMUD will have information of available of fish passage /barrier issues. FC and other or-

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ganizations are putting together literature concerning reintroduction

of fish. Hopefully at the next meeting we will have a draft abstract/project concept document for review. This will be an exciting project on the Mokelumne River.

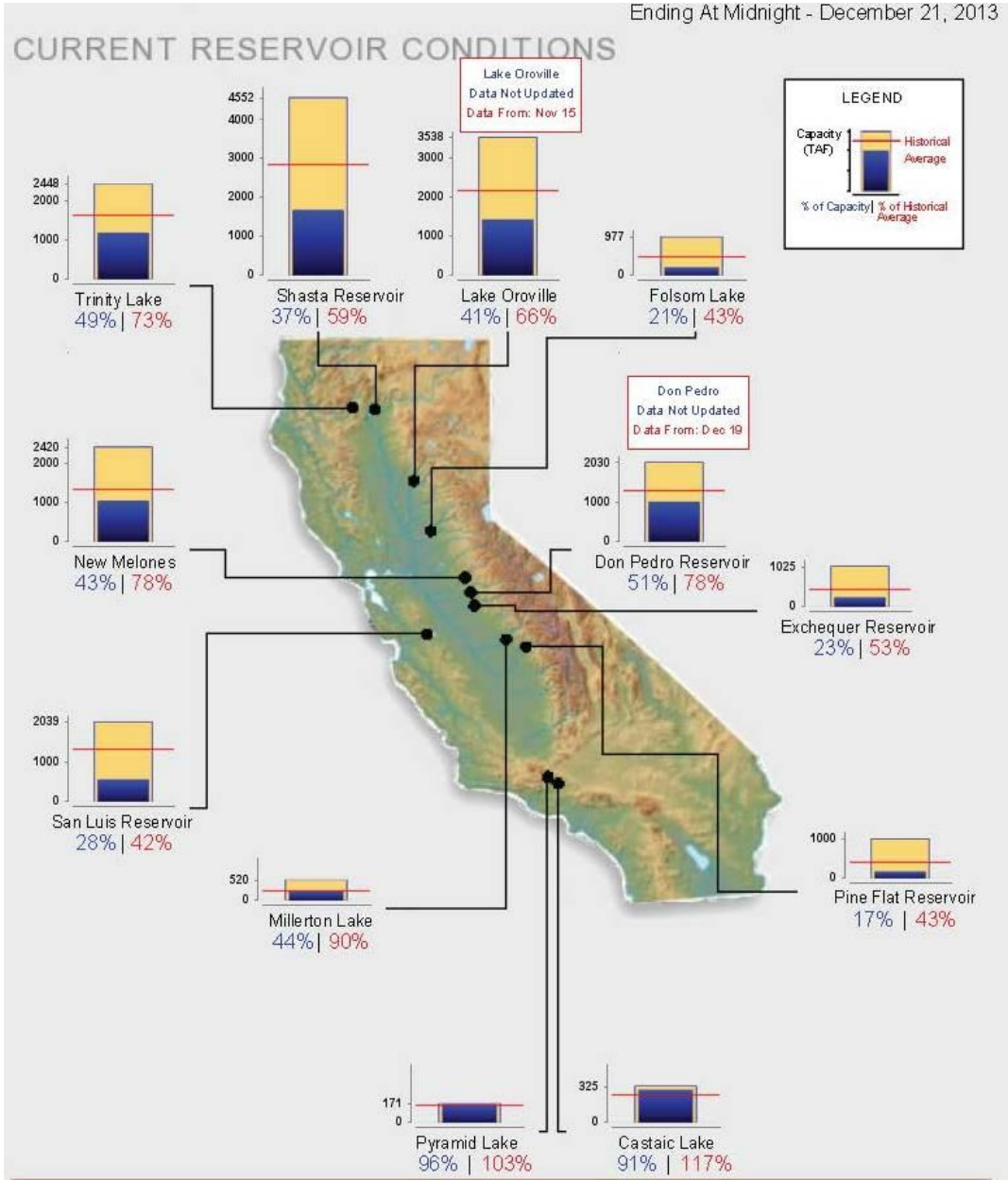
Delta Fly Fishers Conservation Projects

For the last several years I have been unsuccessful in finding conservation projects for the club on the Calaveras and Mokelumne Rivers. Recently however, I have been contacted by a professor at UOP and a member of the USFWS about working on projects on both rivers. We have the potential of once again becoming actively involved in our rivers as we have in the past. More on this later.

A third year of drought and what it is doing to our fisheries

For the last three years California has received less rain and snow than at any time in the state's recorded history. The Department of Water Resources is now predicting another drought year if we don't get major rain and snow in January and February. The potential harm to our fisheries is at an all time high. Bill Patzert, a JPL climatologist, describes the West "as dry as a popcorn box in a desert." California is experiencing a Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO). This is a long term oscillation with the Pacific ocean's surface temperature colder than normal and leads to "La Nina" effects. Patzert commented that "The West and Southwest are in the throes of a 13 year drought and may be until the 2020's before the PDO phase reverts back."

As of December 21, the state's cur-



rent reservoir conditions reflect the situation.

Lake Shasta	down 63%
Lake Orville	down 59%
Trinity Lake	down 51%
Folsom Lake	down 79%
New Melones	down 57%
Don Pedro	down 49%
San Luis	down 62%
Exchequer	down 77%
Millerton	down 56%
Pine Flat	down 83%

However, Lake Pyramid and Castaic in Southern California, which get their water through the state and federal water projects, are only down by 4% and 9% respectively. Despite the drought, south valley farmers and wa-

ter contractors continue to take water regardless the state's promise to comply with their doctrine of co-equal goals. Again they disregard our fisheries, the Delta's salinity and environment issues, and compliance with the law. The California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA) issued an alert after the CDFW released their September-October Mid-Water Trawl Abundance Indices (MTAI). The indices is base on data collected between the years 1967-1972. All recorded MTAI fish populations are down drastically with the following numbers :

. Striped bass 99.6%

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. American shad	89.1%
. Delta smelt	98.9%
. Longfin smelt	99.7%
. Threadfin shad	98.1%

The fisheries in the Delta are now at less than 5% of what they were during their historic highs. For the last thirty years the state's agencies, south valley farmers, water contractors, and southern metropolitan water districts have ignored the law and their promises with impunity. As Bill Jennings of CSPA said, "The historical practice of violating regulatory requirements to protect our fisheries is outrageous but the consistent failure of the regulators

and trustee agencies is simply incomprehensible and indicates a collaboration of culture of noncompliance. "Jennings also said, "I can understand water agencies attempting to take water that doesn't belong to them, but I can't understand the cops giving them the green light." In early December, the Westland's Water District, the Kern County Land Company, south valley farmers, and water contractors went to Washington with their state and federal legislators, to get more water "from the Congress-created drought." Translation: They want more water that does not belong to them. Two weeks ago, Gov. Brown told state agencies to find ways to get

more water to south valley farmers. The governor has forgotten the entire state is in drought and that he promised to restore the Delta and its environment. As Gov. Brown is taking his repugnant actions, anti-environmental members of Congress are promising to "gut the Environmental Protection Act. "

This next year promises to be interesting.

Ron Forbes

Conservation Chair

2014 Delta Fly Fishers Annual Silent Auction and Raffle

By John Highsmith

It's coming again, the annual Banquet and with it, our Silent Auction and Raffle. This year we will be auctioning off several guided trips including Delta striper and largemouth bass, shad fishing as

well as the Lower Sacramento and the Yuba for trout. There will be rods, reels, fly lines, complete rod/reel sets, books- you get the idea. You really need to be there to see it all. In the raffle, there will be many items along with the grand

prize; a float tube complete with oars. It's a great opportunity to see the rest of the club members, enjoy a good meal, laugh and maybe pick up some gear.

Hope to see you there!

Tips for the Novice Fly Fisher

By Bob Fujimura

Our club received a fair number of its new members in the late fall and winter season – which always surprise me. But this is also the period when most fishers choose not to fish and many anglers are full of anticipation of the start of the new fishing season. So if you are wondering what you should do during this season, here are my suggestions:

Prepare for the new season – if you are not fishing use this extra time to inspect, clean, adjust, or replace your fishing equipment. Great time to clean your fly lines, maintenance reels, replace or organize your flies, and order the equipment that you never had the

time to purchase when you were actively fishing/working.

Practice your fly casting – the best way to improve your catching skills is to improve your casting – practicing your casting will speed up this skill.

Do your homework – if you are not familiar with basic techniques or fishing locations, identify what you want to learn or places you want to fish and start researching. With your goals identified, you can ask your more experienced club members, read books or other references, and query the Internet for more information. Certain types of fish species or locations have seasonal prime periods; know where and when to fish maximizes

your fishing success. Trip planning is essential if you want to get the best experience from most fishing trips. If you want to hire a good guide during the prime fishing season, you need to make your reservations early. Popular fishing destinations also often have limited reasonably priced lodging accommodations – so early planning is important if you are on a tight budget.

Learn another fly fishing skill – a traditional winter activity for fly fishers is learning fly tying or rod building. Fly tying is fun, rewarding, and can be done as a social activity. Some of our membership regularly comes to the Wednesday

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evening sessions to talk with their friends and tie flies. New members can ask for informal instruction on fly tying.

Keep fishing – for some experienced fishers winter is a welcomed

season for fishing. Winter steelhead and tailwater fishing for resident wild trout are two common stream venues. Foothill and valley floor reservoirs and lakes are excellent locations for hatchery trout. Winter fishers often must use dif-

ferent techniques and slower presentations than other seasons. But many fishers find the fishing worth the discomforts.

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Fly Fishing Helpful Hints

by Bruce Rollans

I use finger guards when striping line, especially when using saltwater lines or high density sink lines. These are made from elasticized fabric sewed into a tube shape that slides over your finger(s) to protect your skin from friction burns or cuts caused by the line or backing sliding rapidly over the surface of your skin. I use them on the pointer and middle fingers of my casting hand. These are commonly sold in packages of one to three in fly shops or fly fishing catalogs for \$4

to \$8. They are usually poorly sewed and, consequently, do not last very long.

A good alternative is to buy a woman's bathing suit at a thrift store then cut and sew them at home to fit your own fingers. The material is usually elasticized. It may take you a few attempts to get the best fit, depending on your finger size. Make every effort to avoid getting the tube too small as it can wind up being too tight on your fingers. After you cut what

you think is the proper sized rectangle, make a hem in each end of what will become the tube. Backstitch each of the two hems. This will reduce fraying. Next stitch and backstitch to create the tube. Practice makes perfect. The thrift store swim suit will provide a lot more product for far less money.

If you are wearing gloves with velcro fasteners these finger guards will stick to the Velcro and may wind up no longer on your finger, but stuck to the Velcro.

Rx Flyfishing!

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