



Rx Fly Fishing!

The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!

Volume XLIV

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Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

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February Calendar

February 8 Lunch on the Moke with Amy

February 12 General Membership meeting, John RI Willams School

February 14 FlyDay Night Tying, House of Coffee, Lodi

February 19 BOD meeting, Oak Grove Park

February 24-25 Clear Lake Outing

February 26 FOM, Oak Gerove Park

February 29 Tokay HS Science Fair

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Dr. Terra's Monthly Message

Yes, it's Doctor, read the editor's comments...



Editor's note: We are truly fortunate to have Amy as our current president. Amy is a teacher of the severely mentally and physically handicapped in Lodi Unified, is a single mom with an adopted son, Rocky whom most of you have met, works two jobs to support her fly fishing passion and, even with all that, worked on completing her Doctoral Program at UOP. Amy defended her doctoral dissertation on Thursday, January 30, before a panel of her academic peers and, in a highly unusual accomplishment, had her submission accepted by the panel without the necessity for further study, revisions or research.

Congratulations Doctor Terra. You are a model of, "Passing it forward."

From Dr. Terra

I don't know about you, but I took a nice long nap on Sunday after the annual installation dinner. I was tired and happy, having spent a wonderful evening recognizing so many people that have make the club the amazing group it is. The only danger in doing so, is failing to include some essential person and their efforts. I didn't envy president Jerry in having to choose just one person to recognize for their service- so many hands and hearts go into making all of our activities work. Look for member highlights coming in the newsletter that highlights a member and their contributions to the club each month. This gives everyone a chance to get to know each other and thank individuals for their efforts and service.

I do know that many raffle items found homes the night of the dinner and am grateful to everyone that purchased tickets and made bids. You help fund our many activities this coming year- And speaking of activities, things get started this month and continue to provide opportunities for you to

explore your fly fishing interests-

February 8th is our second outing on our home water- the Mokelumne. I will be out there and there will be coffee and pastries available starting at 8. I will likely be out fishing so look for my truck, grab some coffee and pastries off my tailgate and hit the water. Lunch of hot vegetable soup and paninis will be served around noon. I will cook for the first 20 people that find me at my truck at noon!

Our February membership meeting on the 12th features Delta Bass Bugs co-winner Ryan Williams. Come and meet the other half of the dynamic duo that won Bass 'n Fly this last year and hear all that Ryan has to share about his fishing experiences.

Valentines Day, the 14th you will find me tying flies at House of Coffees for our Flyday Night Social. Join me if your significant other lets you, or even better, just stop by together and treat them to a great drink at the coffee shop.

After the Board meeting on the 19th, the Pleasanton Fly Show runs from the 21st through the 23rd. Hope to see you there stocking up for some fun fishing. Fly of the month is on the 26th with Tim, and the 29th is the NorCal Science Festival at Tokay High. Dena will be looking for volunteers in our booth. It is a fun day hanging out with kids and is one of our larger educational outreach activities.

Looking forward to fun times learning, fishing and hanging out with everyone this coming month. You really are the best part of fishing and I love learning about your life and experiences when we get together for club activities. I am eager to support you this coming year and am available at (209) 329-4801 or at deltaflywebmaster@gmail.com.

See you out there! -Amy

Learn the “Float and Fly” technique for still water fishing for LMB at the February DFF meeting.

Win a striper eight weight rod, reel and line.

Guide and master fly fisher Ryan Williams will be doing a presentation on Crappie/Bass combo trips on Clear Lake. All the crappie information in the presentation applies to bass on Clear Lake, or any lake in general, as the same techniques and flies are used. A good portion of the presentation will focus on the new “Float n’ Fly”, a technique that took off in 2015, now being used all around the state for bass in public reservoirs year round



Ryan is a full time guide & fly tier, centered in Oroville, with 9 years of guiding experience. He now focuses on the Feather and Sac rivers for trout, steelhead, and stripers, Lake Oroville and Berryessa for Bass, and Clear Lake for both bass and crappie. Ryan is best known for his re-discovering of the Float n’ Fly with the fly rod, and it’s application for stillwater bass during the Winter. Ryan is also the first fly fishing guide to figure out Clear Lake. He’s also been a major proponent of top-water fly fishing on CA’s public reservoirs. Ryan is also the current Costa Bass n’ Fly Champion along with Brian Pultz.

Ryan now resides right next to Lake Oroville, allowing him to fish as much as he can possibly stand. He is about

as passionate about fly fishing as they come, and truly enjoys sharing his information.

www.flyfishcnv.com

Instagram: @_ryancwilliams

YouTube: R.W. Fly Videos

The meeting will be held at the John R. Williams School, 2450 Meadow Avenue, Stockton on Wednesday, February 12th. The doors open at 6:30 with the program starting at 7:00.

In addition to the presentation, the meeting will feature a raffle with an eight weight rod, reel and striper line as the grand prize and numerous other prizes and of course, Mike Dempewolf’s generous efforts at refreshments.

As is always the case, the doors are open to both members and non-members. Bring a friend.

Flyday Open Tying, February 14th

(It’s also Valentine’s Day)

Join us for a casual gathering at House of Coffees in Lodi on January 10th. Members meet from 5 to 7. Many bring tying

projects. Some bring an appetite for one of the yummy Paninis, craft brews, hard ciders, coffees or teas. Join us!

DFF Officers



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dffwebmaster@gmail.com

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Bob Sousa

209-368-2683

Property/Historian

John Keagy

Refreshments

Mike Dempewolf

Rod Building

Bob Fujimura

209-339-0683

Trout Bout (November)

Charlie Reames

Webmaster

Amy Terra

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Share some time with the new prez, Lunch on the Mok, February 8th!

And, maybe hook into one of the 800 plus steelhead that returned to the waterway this year

The Mok is one of our closest waters and is well known for big and plenty of fish. Let's frequent one of our home waters with some casual outings. Join me on February 8th for some fishing, food and fun!

Coffee and pastries will be out at 8. Lunch will be served around noon. Probably some hot soup and



grilled sandwiches! Van Assen day use area parking lot #1. Contact Amy for more information. See you there!

While the Moke has not been known for its steelhead returns in the past, Michelle Workman, EBMUD, reported that the returns for the last two years have exceeded over 800 fish each year.

The 43rd version of the DFF Installation Dinner, while smallest in recent years in attendance, rocked as far as the program, awards, raffle and silent auction were concerned.

Sixty seven DFFers and guests attended the 43rd annual club installation dinner, down from 76 in 2018 and 85 in 2017 and 16 but the smaller crowd made up for its size in a fun packed evening featuring a very short program, awards and one of the biggest raffles and silent auctions in club history with a total value exceeding \$7,200.

Following the no host bar and appetizers, prime rib, chicken picatta, eggplant parmesan dinner, the official portion of the meeting started with now past president Jerry Neuburger presenting his officers and directors, many of whom served the three years of his office, with a small thank you of fly boxes. Jerry, in turn was presented with a plaque with gavel and badge, honoring his three years of service as president as well as a beautiful shadow box of Leo's famous poppers by the master himself, Leo Gutterres.

The shadow, Grady Lee, was too ill to attend the meeting so Larry Schmidt took his place in presenting Charlie Reames with the Incomplete Angler Award. Charlie earned the award by driving his pick



Jerry receiving the past president's plaque from Dr. Terra. Photo by Bob Fujimura

up into a sand pit two days in a row while at the Pyramid outing.

Mike Dempewolf was awarded with the President's Club Service award for his quiet efforts in providing the refreshments at the club meetings and his stalwart support of the SJ Parks and Rec fishing derbies.

Incoming president Amy Terra was awarded the Fly Fisher of the Year award for her almost constant efforts to expand the sport to new members and passion for moving the club into new frontiers.

The club presented Chris Shutes, CSPA with a \$1,000 check to assist that great advocacy organization to continue their work in defense of fisheries and clean water.

Michelle Workman, representing EBMUD, was presented with a Continuing Good Stewardship Award for EBMUD's amazing work with the restoration of the Chinook salmon and steelhead fisheries on our home waters, the Mokelumne.

The last award was one that was far overdue, a Lifetime Achievement Award to fonder member, Leo Gutterres for all he has done over the years for both the club and its new member.

Ceremonies over, the focus turned to the raffle and silent auction. The total of the prizes offered exceeded \$7,200, and while the total of tickets and bids did not approach that total, the income exceeded \$4,200, the largest amount in a number of years.

Those that attended had a ball, those that didn't really missed out on a great night of fun and profit.



Brad Pultz and Leo Gutterres with a handcrafted Lifetime Achievement Award. Photo by Bob Fujimura



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February's Outing, a fun two days at Clear Lake, Monday, the 24th & Tuesday, the 25th

Fishmiester Al Smatsky says: Since our February 12th program will be on fly fishing Clear Lake for crappie and bass, I have rented a cabin on the lake at Indian Beach Resort in Clearlake Oaks, CA. We will be going Monday February 24th and Tuesday February 25th, spending one night at the resort. Our cabin is already full but there are other cabins available. We have cabin #8 and the adjoining cabin would be #9. It sleeps 6 people as well, at a cost of \$60 per person.

Fishing for crappie in Clear Lake is a winter event, it is happening right now and will only get better as the weather stabilizes and warms up. Indian Beach Resort is perfectly located in one of the best coves where the crappie hang out in the winter. You do not need a boat, any floating craft will work since the cove is small and the fish are a short distance from the ramp.

Our monthly speaker Ryan Williams, will be giving you lots of good information about fishing for crappie and bass, equipment and flies to use.

The current plan is to leave the Stockton/Lodi area around 6am and head north with a stop at Granzella's in Williams for breakfast. Then on to the lake for two days fishing and fun.

As Al said, cabin 8 is already full but the

club has secured cabin 9 next door. The cabin will accommodate six people, the fee for the night, \$60.

Right now five beds are still available in this second cabin. If they are not taken by Thursday, February 13, the cabin will be cancelled and monies refunded.

Those wishing to attend can sign up online at our [Wave online charge account](#) or if slots are still available, drop a check off at the membership meeting on the 12th. To check availability, email or phone club treasurer, [Jerry Neuburger](#) 209-327-5993

If you have any questions about the outing itself, please do not hesitate to call or email [Al Smatsky](#) 200-368-9261

Check out the resort web site

www.indianbeachresort.us



google map view

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Indian+Beach+Resort/@39.0234987,-122.7234847,3411m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m8!3m7!1s0x80838d37bc3ff595:0x652574076fb88b1915m2!4m1!1i2!8m2!3d39.0236071!4d-122.7237422>

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Getting to know you, getting to know all about you...

With apologies to, "The King And I"



Club president, Amy Terra has started a new column in Rx Fly Fishing!, sort of an on paper meet and greet. This month's candidate, who also happens to be the club's current vice president, Dena Mason.

Amy: How long have you been fly fishing?

Dena: I saw my adopted dad fly fish when I was 9 or 10. I thought it was really cool. Fast forward twenty years later, I asked my dad to teach me how to fly fish. We went to a tiny stream below Strawberry at dusk with the entire family. He proceeded to show me how to throw dry flies in this water that was only 4 feet wide. He would tell me "You missed." Over and over as I missed set after set.

Amy: How long have you been a member of DFF?

Dena: I have been a member for seven years. About four years ago, I took a more active role on the board, on committees and just plain fishing more.

Amy: Tell me your favorite fly fishing experience.

Dena: I was fishing with my dad and brother up at Paradise Valley Lodge in Markleville. It was getting towards the end of the day. It had snowed in Arnold at mid-August. The day was a mix of clouds and sun. We fished small streams with big holes. We came upon some fish feeding. We could see this really large fish feeding. We tied on a small size 22 fly. We watched the fish as my fly came into his view, only to be surprised when an even larger fish came from the other side and swallowed my fly. Somehow, in my surprise I was able to set the hook and land this monster! What an experience!

Amy: What is your current fly fishing goal?

Dena: I want to continue to fish more local waters. I want to be fishing more often and with the wonderful people I have met in the club.

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Some additional activities this month, Fly of the Month, The Fly Fishing Show and the Lodi Tokay Science Fair

Tim Costello or a guest tier will lead the FOM for February at Oak Grove Park on the fourth Wednesday of the month, February 26th. The sessions start at 6pm and wind up about 7:30pm. A \$5 fee is charged for materials. Beginner to advanced tiers are welcome. If new tiers do not have equipment, loaner tools are available.

The pattern for the month will be the balanced leech, a dynamite Pyramid Lake pattern.

PLEASANTON SHOW INFO

Dates: February 21, 22, & 23 2020

Time

Friday: 10am – 6pm

Saturday: 9am – 5:30pm

Sunday: 9am – 4:30pm

Location: Alameda County Fairgrounds
4501 Pleasanton Avenue
Pleasanton, CA, 94566

The Lodi Tokay HS Science Fair

A real treat for kids from five to fifty five, the exhibits vary from robotics to biology and everything in between. The DFF plans to be represented at the show with fisheries information. Volunteers should contact president Amy or VP Dena Mason.

The event takes place at Lodi Tokay High School on February 29th from 10:00 to 3:00

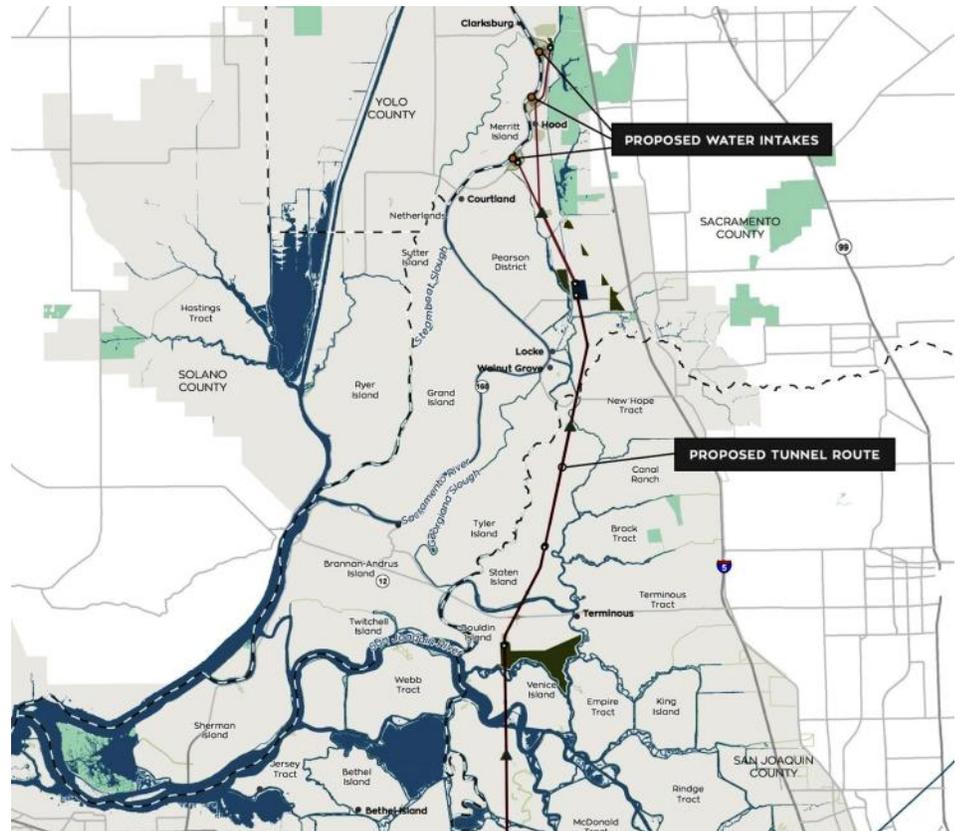
Ron Forbes corner AS A SURPRISE TO NO ONE: ANOTHER PROPOSED TUNNEL PROJECT HAS SURFACED

Trout fishing with a fly consists of manipulating an infinite variety of unknown variables. That's probably what brings us to worship at this altar. Don't pay any attention to anyone who tells you when to fish, friend. The best time to fish is when you are fishing.

Stephen "Salty" Saltzman

Prior to his election, Gavin Newsom assured Californians that he would devise a comprehensive water policy and a possible series of water diversion projects for the state. The Twin Tunnel project is dead. To date, California still does not have a comprehensive water policy. Nor are we close to having one. However, Gov. Newsome's Department of Water Resources (DWR) has initiated steps to proceed with a single tunnel project. No other promised options are being considered. On January 15, 2020, the DWR announced the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for a Delta Conveyance Project in the Delta.

California state law requires a Notice of Preparation (NOP) must be filed before any attempts can be made for altering California's water infrastructure. Environmental organizations were hoping for a higher standard to be set by Gov. Newsome but few were surprised by his return to ground zero.



The current Director of the DWR, Karla Nemeth has commented, "Governor Newsome directed state agencies to pursue a single tunnel solution to modernize our water infrastructure, and when combined with a broader, statewide portfolio approach, this project would help safeguard a vital source of affordable water for millions of Californians. This water

supply is critical to the health of local communities for the future of the Delta ecosystem and the success of the state's economy." The single tunnel concept was designed to divert Delta water flows up to 6,000 cfs. The state also notes "that alternatives identified "could increase the ex-

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port flows to 7,500 cfs.

In her comments, Ms. Nemeth predictably failed to inform Californians of the overwhelming political and economic power Westlands Water District (WWD) has exerted on the governor. For example, initially, Gov. Newsome, along with most environmental organizations, supported SB-1. WWD disliked SB-1's environmental protections. The governor was told WWD would not support him and would "walk away from the table." Newsome vetoed SB-1. Once again we see the powerful water districts, corporate agribusiness, and water contractors have our elected officials. Our elected officials claim to represent the public interest but continue jumping through the hoops of the special interests.

In filing a NOP, the state is legally required to hold public meetings to discuss the proposed project. It is critical we attend these meetings and voice our disapproval of a flawed single tunnel project as we did with the flawed twin tunnels, the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, and the CalwaterFix. There will be seven Delta Conveyance Public Scoping Meetings scheduled with four to be held in our immediate area. They will be held at :

Sacramento Monday, February 3, 2020, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Ca EPA Building, 1001 I Street.

Walnut Grove Monday, February 10, 2020, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Jean Harvie Community Center. 14273 River Road

Stockton Thursday, February 13, 2020, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. San Joaquin Council of Governments, Board Room. 555 Weber Avenue

Brentwood Thursday, February 20, 2020, 6 p. - 8 p.m. Brentwood Community Ctr., Conference Room. 35 Oak Street

It is imperative that Delta Fly Fishers attend these meetings to prevent a continuing loss and possible extinction of the Deltas fisheries and further degradation of the Delta environment. Those of you who have not attended these or similar meetings may feel intimidated expressing your feelings. Don't be. Usually, you will be given 3 minutes to express your concerns. Many of us in the club have voiced our feelings concerning the fish loss, probable extinction of our fisheries, loss of businesses and recreation in the Delta. There are many areas of concern a tunnel

project generates. Pick one or more that bothers you and be heard.

Restore the Delta has suggested a multiplicity of concerns you may also like to address or question. Some of these are :

. The proposed tunnel will not solve drought problems that climate change will cause. There is only so much water available.

. The Delta still has no integrated water quality plan. One is desperately needed. The state's emphasis has been corporate water diversion.

. Gov. Newsom has yet to file his promised lawsuit against the Trump administration's corrupted biological opinions.

. The state has yet to address water quality issues of the Delta including toxic discharges from the San Joaquin River.

. The administration has yet to address increasing toxic algal blooms in the Delta.

. The administration continues it's myopic single tunnel vision while corporate agriculture continues overpumping groundwater causing the California Aqueduct to sink.

. The sinking California Aqueduct will cost billions of dollars to repair and maintain.

. The state, once again, plans a tunnel project with no clue of the project cost.

. The tunnel will not protect the Delta's 4 million people from potential massive floods caused by climate change.

Under Gov. Newsom, as with former Gov. Brown, the current administration is hell-bent on a poorly conceived tunnel project irrespective of the economic and environmental devastation the project will cause. Think about your concerns for the Delta. Pick a topic. Go to the meeting(s). Express your concerns. We can beat "city hall." "We beat Jerry Brown's Peripheral Canals in the 80's. After more than 12 years and millions of ill-spent taxpayer's dollars, we beat the Twin Tunnels Project in 2019. We can beat a single tunnel project. Show up and be heard!

AND THE BEAT GOES ON ...

December 11th, the Commissioners of California's Department Fish and Wildlife (CCDFW) called the meeting that was to finally determine the management of the Delta's fisheries and the striped bass.

While the stakeholders on both sides of the issue generally agreed on much of the Delta Fishery Management Policy (DFMP), they disagree on setting numbers for the striped bass recovery. On one side of the issue are the fisherman and those with an economic and environmental interest in the Delta. Their opposition includes the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), corporate agribusiness and water contractors. Once again, the water contractor's involvement is being headed by the Coalition for a Sustainable Delta (CSD). The title CSD is an oxymoron; it represents the interest of billionaire farmers Stewart and Lydia Resnick. The CSD is another of their continuing attempts at a Delta water-grab.

The current CCDFW has been attempting to lessen protections for the stripers for months and the December 11th meeting was to make the final determination of what the DFW's official position would be. The room was packed with fishermen, and many others, opposed to the CCDFW proposed policy change. There was standing room only. President Gerry Neuburger, Al Smatsky and I were present to represent the Delta Fly Fishers. The fishery advocate's organizations were well-represented by three well-know fisheries experts.

A noted scientist in the Delta, Dr. Peter Moyle, spoke on our behalf. Dr. Moyle is Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Center for Watershed Sciences, Department of Wildlife, Fish and Conservation Biology at the University of California Davis. He commented, "I encourage you to treat the striped bass as an important member of the San Francisco Estuary System including the Delta and avoid actions designed and to reduce its declining abundance in the future. In fact, I encourage you to take steps to increase striped bass numbers because it would reflect a general improvement in the Delta ecosystem. I write this as an academic researcher, professor, and author who has studied fisheries of the estuary for nearly 50 years, including establishing a Suisun Marsh Monitoring program that has sampled fish on a monthly basis since January 1979." He commented that his nearly 50-year experience has verified the importance of the striped bass to the Deltas ecosystem. "The upshot of all this background is that regulations aimed at managing striped bass should not be aimed at

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reducing its population but increasing it or at least stabilizing it. We especially need management actions that reduce the removal of large fish from the system."

The next speaker, Dr. Cynthia Le Doux-Bloom, has 25 years of extensive experience studying anadromous fish in 3 states and is an authority on the impacts of water exports. She commented the Fish and Game Commission was formed over 150 years ago in 1870. She then noted the Commission's first action was to protect the declining population of Sacramento River salmon. The declining salmon population was first noted 10 years prior to the introduction of striped bass to the West Coast.

The third advocate representing our position was Dr. David Ostrach. Dr. Ostrach has over 28 years of experience in fisheries research, aquatic pathology and toxicology, and ecosystem research. For over 10 years he was a professor on the faculty of UC-D. He is the current Science Advisor for the Allied Fishing Groups and Northern California Guides and Sportsmen's Association. He remarked those he represents do not believe there is a need for the proposed Delta Fisheries Management Policy (DFMP) nor does the CDFW have the resources available to implement the policy. He noted, "Currently the department has approximately 30% of the funding necessary to implement its current policies and resource obligations. How would this new policy be imple-



Dr. David Ostrach advocating for the striped bass fishery and a healthier delta.

mented with no funding or resources available?

He pointed out the reason fishermen and environmentalists adamantly oppose the proposed current version of the DFPM. "Those that proposed the initial version of the DFPM (the Coalition for a Sustainable Delta CSD) and their allies have no real interest in advocating for fair and responsible public trust fisheries resource policies. Rather they have made it clear in recent stakeholder meetings their purpose is to get more water for their clients. The original draft of the DFPM is completely unacceptable and would likely result in the further decline or destruction of the striped bass and other recreational fisheries."

Ostrach was correct when he identified the cause for the loss of the Delta fisheries. "Pitting one fishery against another as a cause of the fishery population collapse is a diversionary tactic that has gone on for decades and must end. There is no credible evidence that striped bass, Black Bass or any Delta species is responsible for the collapse of the estuary's once great fishery. The overwhelming majority of credible scientific evidence points to water-related issues (eg flows, diversions, temperature, water quality) loss of habitat and contaminants as being the major stressors driving the collapse of the estuaries ecosystem and fisheries. The focus of the Commission and state agencies should be on enacting responsible fisheries and environmental policies that ensure the restoration of the ecosystem of the Delta ecosystem which would benefit all the fisheries."

Almost 6 years ago Gerry Neuburger and I attended a meeting with the same agenda as the CCDFW's meeting on December 11th. Once again the CSD was trying to blame the stripers for the loss of the salmon populations. They had even gone so far as putting billboard ads throughout the San Joaquin Valley. The first meeting was also well attended by pro-fish organizations with standing room only available. A major difference was obvious in the Chairs of CCDFW at these two meetings. In the earlier meeting after the "experts" gave their testimony, the head of the Commission opened the meeting to public comment. Thirty-nine of us



DFF President Neuburger speaking in front of the California Fish and Game Commission

from the fishing community were given 3 minutes each to respond and make comments or observations. It was a long meeting. However, during the December 11th meeting, after the expert testimony was presented, the CCDFW head commissioner remarked that he did not want to hear the "same thing" over and over again" so he limited public response to group leaders for 3 minutes. The public was allowed only to say they agreed or disagreed with those comments and could not add their comments. This effectively wiped out the public's ability to respond.

During the current CCDFW meeting, President Gerry Neuburger gave an excellent presentation for the Delta Fly Fishers. Jerry was joined by other fishing groups and clubs making presentations. Roger Mammon from Restore the Delta, Jerry Cox, President of California Striped Bass Association, Jason Thatcher, Board Member of NCGASA gave outstanding presentations. Their comments well represented the several hundred attending from the fishing community. Four Delta Fly Fishers attended the meeting.

It is obvious why the CSD wants to proceed with the proposed DFMP. What concerns those of us in the fishing community is why the CDFW is advocating the proposal. They are charged with preserving the public trust of the state's fish and wildlife. During the meeting, it was noted the DFW has performed no surveys of the striped bass in 10 years and has no information on how many stripers exist. How can they advocate an action with no understanding of what they propose? Over 5 years ago the CCDFW voted unanimously to reject the proposed lower size limits of stripers and elimination fish caught restrictions. Then, to the surprise

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of all in attendance, the head of the CCFW proposed that stripers be declared a native fish since they have existed in California for well over 100 years. That motion passed unanimously also. Unfortunately, the current CCFW is more aligned with politics than science.

The next meeting of the Commissioners of the California Department of Fish and

Wildlife is to be held on February 21, 2020. I will keep you updated.

Ron Forbes

Conservation Chair

Rx Fly Fishing! Advertising Rates

2 column inches each newsletter issue for the year for \$400 or in-kind goods and services, six months \$200, quarter \$100, one month \$40. The ad may include artwork and will link to the advertiser's website.

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