

11/28/2017

California Striped Bass Association, West Delta Chapter, The California Striped Bass



## West Delta Chapter

*Dedicated to the preservation, protection and enhancement of Striped Bass*

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### The California Striped Bass

For those of you just getting started in the thrill of striped fishing, here are a few facts from the Department of Fish and Game. Stripers were introduced to California from the East Coast in 1879. They were transported by rail and planted near Martinez, California. The following year another planting was introduced and the striped population exploded. Stripers became so plentiful that early in the 1900's a commercial fishery developed but was eventually discontinued in the 1930's.



They were so abundant that in the middle 1960's they were the thrill of all Delta Fishermen. They are migratory. Most adults, after spawning in the San Joaquin Delta and upper Sacramento River, move into brackish and salt water for summer and fall. Many feed from the San Francisco Bay to Tomales Bay. Food in the San Francisco Bay is mainly anchovies, shiner perch and herring. In the Delta area threadfin shad and smaller fish are the main food. In late fall/winter some fish move upstream to the fresh water in the Delta and lower Sacramento River. Stripers spawn in water 61-69 degrees from April through mid-June. About one third of the spawning takes place in the San Joaquin River between the Antioch Bridge and the mouth of Middle River. The other two thirds spawn in the Sacramento River between Sacramento and Colusa. These rivers are critical to the spawn.

#### The Last 40 Years

In the early 1960's the striped bass count was approximately 3 million adult fish. By the early 1990's the striped bass count was approximately 775 thousand adult fish. About 30% of these fish were hatchery reared

#### Problems Affecting Striped Bass Populations, Listed In General Order Of Importance:

- Delta Water Diversions: The State Water Project and the Federal Central Valley Project
- Reduced Delta Outflows
- Water Pollution, Toxic Chemicals and Trace Elements
- Dredging and Soil Disposal
- Illegal Take and Poaching
- Exotic Aquatic Organisms
- Bay Fill Projects
- Commercial Bay Shrimp Fishery
- Annual Summer Die-Off of Bass
- Disease and Parasites

#### Working Toward The Solution

CSBA was instrumental in obtaining legislation which authorized the STRIPED BASS STAMP. This stamp supported the striped hatchery program among other projects. Millions of hatchery-reared striped bass were released in the Sacramento/San Joaquin delta system. In 1992 the planting program was discontinued by order of the Director of the Department of Fish and Game due to possible effect on winter-run salmon. CSBA and many other experts did not agree with this order. CSBA's members got together with the "NO FISH - NO STAMP" petitions and the stamp was pulled. However, The California Department of Fish and Game implemented the Bay-Delta Sport Fishing Enhancement Stamp (Senate Bill 692). Beginning Jan. 1, 2004, all anglers fishing in specified waters in the Delta, the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers including major tributaries and the San Francisco Bay east of the Golden Gate Bridge were required to possess the \$5 (plus any applicable tax) stamp. The Bay-Delta Stamp superseded the Striped Bass Stamp. The Bay-Delta stamp was repealed Jan. 1, 2010.