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California State Water Resources Control Board

I am Capt. James Cox. I am a retired sport fishing charter Captain, and I am President of the California Striped Bass Assoc..

I have spent over 50 years fishing the ocean-bay-delta system. My fishing experience started at age 10 fishing the peninsula shoreline, and also included 22 years of taking people fishing on my charter boat. This is one of those rare times I can actually say that I am glad to be the age I am. I say that because my earliest fishing experiences were in the days before the water diversions had effected the fish populations. Imagine a 10 year old boy, not knowing much about fishing, and fishing off the bank, was still able to catch striped bass and perch in large numbers. That shows a large fish population in the early 60's..

Through the years the DWR project and the Federal project have pumped more and more fresh water out of the delta. Each time the pumping increased the fish population decreased. Every specie of fish in the delta bay system has suffered a decline in this time period. Each specie has it's own unique set of problems but the common thread here is a decline from lack of fresh water flows.

Fresh water from the delta flows down through S.F. bay. This water flow is essential to the species that inhabit the bay. The fresh water traditionally (pre-pumping) met the salt water and became brackish any where from the middle of San Pablo bay to the Susuin marshes. This brackish water became the nursery for many anadromous fish specie. Further down the bay the water flow from the delta helps to clean the bottom of the bay and help bay species reproduce.

This relation between water flows and fish survival has been acknowledged by both DWR and Cal Fish and Wildlife. The recent plan to attempt to save the delta smelt is to release more water to flow through the delta, and is proof of this fish survival water flows relationship.

Any additional pumping would increase the toxic effect of salinity, pesticides, methyl mercury, and selenium. The diluting effect of water flows on these substances would be lost, and their toxic possibilities increased. An increase in harmful algal blooms would also effect fish survival. The loss of water flows also decreases the spawn survival. So what would happen is those few fish that do manage to survive the low spawn rate, would then be poisoned.

There is an entire industry, the sport fishing charters industry that once flourished in the bay delta could be put out of business if this twin tunnel plan is allowed to go forward. There are hundreds of thousands of private citizens that use the bay delta for fishing recreation. This combination of private and commercial fisherman bring millions of dollars into the economies of the delta and bay cities.

In closing I would like to say that I have a 1 year old grandson. I hope that by the time he is 10 years old there will be fish for him to catch and start a lifetime of fishing memories like I have. **IT IS UP TO YOU TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN!**

Thank you for your time and allowing me to address you.