
From: Mary Keitelman

Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 1:04:58 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)

To: Satkowski, Rich@Waterboards

Cc: Wilcox, Carl@Wildlife; Rea, Maria@NOAA; Will.Stelle@noaa.gov; Ren.Lohoefener@fws.gov; Bonham, Chuck@Wildlife; Castleberry, Dan@fws

Subject: Restore flows to San Francisco Bay - Save our Salmon and other native fish from Extinction

Dear State Water Resources Control Board members,

I urge you, save our native fish in the Bay.

Please:

- Put water back into the bay today, enough for our native fish to survive. Reverse your decision to suspend the March requirements for inflows to San Francisco Bay, and to weaken limits on exports.
- Reject any request to suspend the flow requirements and export limits for April and May 2015, and give the endangered species of the Bay-Delta estuary their Last, Best Chance for Survival.

Every fish needs water, and our natives in the Bay are almost gone:

1. Delta Smelt - At an all-time record low: 1 fish was found
2. Longfin Smelt - at 2nd lowest levels ever recorded: virtually at zero in 2014
3. Starry Flounder - also at 2nd lowest levels ever recorded: virtually at zero in 2014
4. Winter-Run Chinook - it is estimated that most of the 2014 winter-run Chinook Salmon died before reaching the delta - virtually at zero in 2014

Everyone on the west coast is concerned about our native salmon and salmonid fishes. Yet here, in San Francisco Bay, we see another cause -- of the many -- for their extinction: restricted water flow to their habitat.

- 150 years ago countless salmon ran the Bay; today, it's a very different story, with sometimes runs so low there is no commercial fishing.
- The salmon of course is a "keystone" species, as a top predator it is fundamental to the health of its ecosystem.
- Surprisingly perhaps, we find their DNA in the trees of the great redwoods and firs in the Pacific Northwest.

Will we really treat the salmon and other native fishes the same as we have the cod?*

Cod, a fish so prolific a female has an average of approximately 7 million eggs in a breeding season, cannot -- in her lifetime -- reproduce herself plus one? Fished by many from various countries, each blames the other for the extinction of the cod -- yet it is their collective unstopped fishing that has reduced the most prolific fish to being fished out.**

Let's not repeat this mistake with the salmon on the west coast. Protect the Salmon in the Bay with enough water so it can survive these perilously dry seasons.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Keitelman
Pacifica, California

**Collapse of the Northwest Atlantic Cod Fisheries - data

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collapse_of_the_Atlantic_northwest_cod_fishery

* Cod, A Biography of the Fish that Changed the World, by Mark Kurlansky, 1997.

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/review-of-cod-a-biography-of-the-fish-that-changed-the-world-152948483/>