

FLY LINES & FISH TALES



Current Activities (Tracy Fly Fishers)

Our next meeting of the Tracy Fly Fishers will be on Wednesday, November 16.

Bring a friend or neighbor!

Meeting location is the Transit Station at 50 E. Sixth St

John Squires will be presenting on planning your own affordable fishing trip to the Alaska wilderness.



John has been a fly fisher for 40 years, is a past president of a California fly fishing club. He has planned and participated in wilderness fishing trips in California, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Canada and Alaska.

In this presentation John will explain how to go about planning and carrying out your own affordable Alaska wilderness fishing

adventure. Topics covered will range from where to go, timing your trip to coincide with different fishing opportunities, gear, packing, meal planning, available fish species, appropriate fishing gear and fly patterns, photographic gear, how to deal with "the 3 Bs" (bears, bugs and the barometer), costs and how to keep them down, reliable service providers, a typical trip

schedule, and reference materials.

Most recently, John did a 200-mile float down the Chilikadrotna and Mulchatna Rivers. There will be photographs from some of John's prior trips to Alaska, a preview of his upcoming trips, and time for a question-and-answer session.

John has presented his program to numerous fly fishing clubs and outdoor organizations in California and Oregon.

The Prez Sez

The leaves are changing along with the weather and that can only mean one thing, the Steelhead and Striper seasons have begun. I hope many of you are taking the opportunity to get out on the water with your fishing buddies to chase these wily game fish. If you do, don't forget to fill in your Steelhead card at the end of the year and send it back to the CFG.

It has been a great year for the Tracy Fly Fishers as the club has grown by 20%, we are continuing the Trout in the Classroom project and many of our members are involved in working with the Veterans groups. I want to thank all of the volunteers in our Club for their efforts in these and other worthwhile activities that they participate in. It truly does set a great example of what we can do to help our fellowman live a better life by experiencing the outdoors in one form or another.

Ben Byng, our 2012 President has gotten a class together with the Tracy Parks and Rec department for 2012. This will be another avenue to introduce people not only to the sport of fly fishing but to the Tracy Fly Fishers. Hopefully that will add to the TFF so be ready to welcome more new members into our organization, further strengthening the Club.

Rick Clemens is also working up the schedule for Club

education and events for next year. Please contact Rick to let him know what you are interested in attending or if you would like to teach a class for next year. We are going to continue the Golden Trout Program and we are also looking at the Heritage Trout program issued by the CFG. Should be an exciting year!

We are fast approaching the Installation dinner so if you have items for the auction/raffle get them into Bob or Gary as soon as possible. We want to put a list together so everyone will know what treasures are available. Be sure to see Bonnie for your tickets and invite your friends out also. My hope is to sell 225 tickets this year and I think we can do it!!



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(408)674-4065



Tracy Fly Fishers Annual Crab Feed and Installation Dinner- January 7, 2012

Tickets are \$35

Contact Bonnie Small for tickets

(209) 239-5415

Members Picture Page!



Mark Mclean caught this beautiful Lahontan Cutthroat while on an outing to Heenan Lake



The beautiful fall colors at Heenan Lake during a recent outing by Mark Mclean and Jeff Fadden



Steve Perriera with a Feather River Sucker that took an egg pattern

Steve Perriera lands a Feather River Steelhead



Support your local Parks and Recreation District

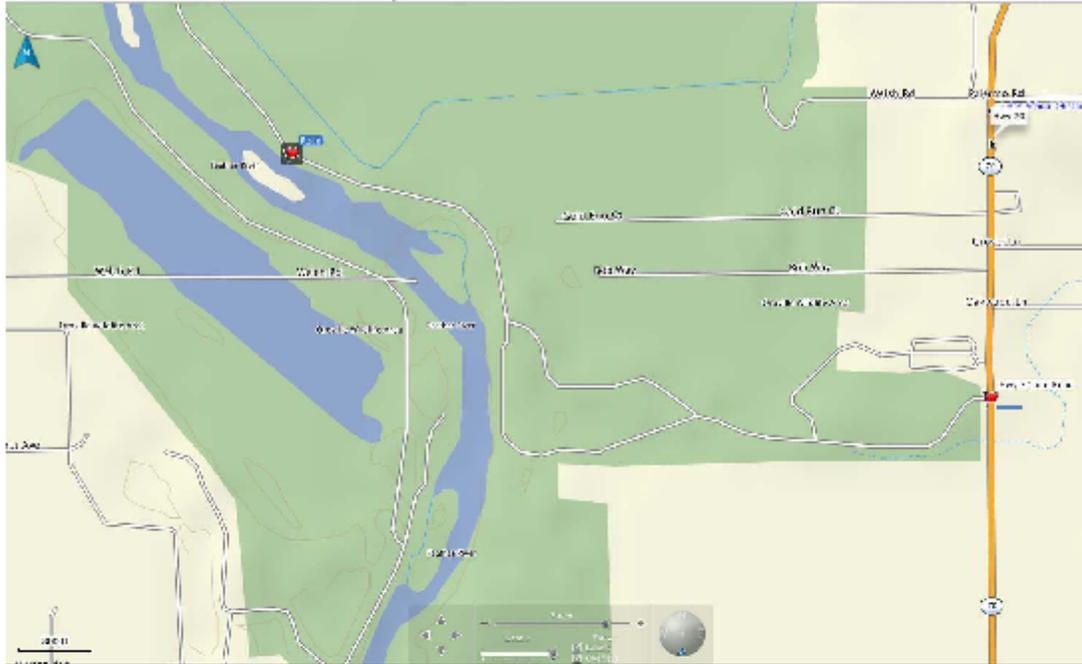
Parks Make Life Better! Parks and recreation make lives and communities better now and in the future by providing access to the serenity and inspiration of nature; outdoor space to play and exercise; facilities for self-directed and organized recreation; positive alternatives for youth which help lower crime and mischief; and activities that facilitate social connections, human development, therapy, the arts, and lifelong learning. Check out our Parks and Community

Services Video:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwFAe7V8pio&feature=channel_page

After a successful outing to the Feather River to fish for steelhead, Rick is once again organizing a trip to the Feather River on November 26. See below for details:

Tracy Fly Fishers November Outing
Saturday, November 26 - Feather River Steelhead



We will meet at **4:00am** in the WinCo parking lot, next to Home Depot in Tracy (off Naglee Road).

We will leave **PROMPTLY** at **4:30am** (or earlier if we all meet on time). We need to be on the water by daybreak to take advantage of the best fishing. Sunrise is about 7am.

For those who want to meet us there- the co ordinance to the Oroville Wildlife Area entrance off of HWY 70 are: **39.424328 N, 121.604858 W.**

Once you turn in (left turn) continue on road for 1.6 miles, until you come across steel beams on the left side of road. Park there, go down path and cross to 'Buck's Island'- or better yet, wait for us there...

Bring food/water

GEAR:

6, 7 weight rods (8 to 9 weight if you want to land Salmon as well)

2x or 3x leader/tippet system

Strike Indicators

Split Shot

Patterns: Nymphs in sizes 12/14 such as AP's, Hares Ear, Prince, PT's. Egg patterns as well

(plastic beads are popular)

Chest Waders

Wading Boots

Wading Staff - **HIGHLY** recommended

LARGE Net if you have one... don't bother bringing your trout net

Folding Camp Chair is optional, but it is nice to be able to sit down and take the load off

Hat & sunglasses

REGULATIONS: Be sure to have your Steelhead Report Card.

Wild Steelhead MUST be released (if it has an adipose fin it is wild), one Hatchery fish can be kept (adipose fin clipped off)

****If you have ANY questions, call Rick Clemens: 209-346-2765 after 5pm****

Casting in the Park -Chuck Robbins

Casting in the park is over for the season. Look for Chuck to start offering casting instruction on the second Wednesday of the month once Daylight Savings Time returns next Spring.



Club Outings-

Feather River Fish-Out with Rick Clemens

Eight members of the Tracy Fly Fishers met in the cold parking lot of the local Home Depot- commuting together was the best and most economical way to reach the Feather River for the first time this year on October 29th.

4 am came very quick on that Saturday morn- but the trip to 'Buck's Island' within the Oroville Wildlife Area seemed to take forever...

All nine members found their way through the dense fog and carefully waded through the water to reach "our spot". The water was perfectly clear, cold, and running well. Most of the TFF gang hooked-up and landed fish...even if all the fish landed were not "Steelies". Squaw fish, Suckers and Salmon were hooked and some landed.

New to the Feather River were: Mitchell "The Kid" Cooper, Dan Lord, and Jeff Nunes. The "Experts" were: Rick Clemens, Steve Holtzclaw, Mark Maraj, Stan Elijah and the infamous Steve Perriera- who landed the largest fish that morn- a 27" chrome Steelhead!

If you did not make the trip- DON'T WORRY! A new Fish-out to the Feather River will again happen on November 26th. Sign-ups will be at the November 16th meeting. This second trip should be even better- rain has made even more of the fish move into the system...so a joyful and loud "...Fish On!..." should ring along the water on a regular bases...hope to see you there!

Da



Rick Clemens shows off the Steelhead he caught.



Dan Lord readies to release a Sacramento Pikeminnow.

Conservation News

As you may have heard the CA DFG has proposed new regulations that aim at removing striped bass from the Bay and Delta.

Striped Bass Proposal Now Available, Workshop Moved to New Location

November 4, 2011 by CA DFG News

Media Contacts:

Marty Gingras, DFG Region 3, (209) 948-3702

Kirsten Macintyre, DFG Communications, (916) 322-8988

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has released a draft of proposed regulations changes related to anadromous striped bass. The draft language, which is now available at <https://nrmsecure.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=39586>, would authorize additional harvest of striped bass.

Due to extensive interest in the issue, the scheduled public workshop at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 8 has been moved to a larger venue. The new location is the Rio Vista & Isleton Club, 295 South 7th Street, Rio Vista, 94571.

The basic proposed changes are as follows:

- Raising the daily bag limit for striped bass from two to six fish.
- Raising the possession limit for striped bass from two to 12 fish.
- Lowering the minimum size for striped bass from 18 to 12 inches.
- Establishing a "hot spot" for striped bass fishing at Clifton Court Forebay and specified adjacent waterways at which the daily bag limit will be 20 fish, the possession limit will be 40 fish and there will be no size limit. Anglers fishing at the hot spot would be required to fill out a report card and deposit it in an iron ranger or similar receptacle.
- Changes to the sport fishing regulations for the Carmel, Pajaro and Salinas Rivers to allow harvest of striped bass when the fishery would otherwise be closed.

DFG is also recommending an adaptive management plan that will help assess how the new regulations influence the fishery.

The proposal and management plan will be presented to the Fish and Game Commission for consideration at its December meeting.

Another opinion from the experts as to possible implications of the striped bass proposal

"Striped bass control: the cure worse than the disease?"

Peter B. Moyle, UC Davis, Professor of Fish Biology

William A. Bennett, UC Davis, Fish Ecologist

UC Davis fish ecologist Carson Jeffres holding a striped bass: photo courtesy of Martin Koenig
Seven species of fish in the Delta are listed as threatened or endangered, including Delta smelt, salmon and steelhead. Although the ultimate cause of decline in these species is adverse water management throughout the Central Valley, there is a constant search for ways to increase their numbers without any water costs.

One such proposal is to kill as many striped bass as possible. Striped bass are an abundant non-native predator

on fish and other aquatic organisms. So it is presumed that reducing striped bass numbers will increase populations of threatened fishes.

Over the past two years, this issue has been the focus of litigation, proposed legislation, and most recently a request by the National Marine Fisheries Service to the California Fish and Game Commission to remove all restrictions on striped bass fishing. Although on the surface this action seems logical (less predation = more fish) it remains an open question whether it would work. Here are some assumptions that would need to be true before native fishes might benefit from reductions in striped bass numbers:

1. Striped bass predation regulates populations of salmon, steelhead, and smelt, with other predators (other fish, birds, marine mammals, etc.) playing a minor role.
2. Other predators will not increase their predation on threatened fish if striped bass are removed.
3. Other species on which striped bass prey, such as Mississippi silverside, will not increase in abundance, causing harm by competing and preying on threatened species.
4. Reducing striped bass numbers would measurably compensate for the massive changes to the estuary and watershed caused by water diversions, loss of habitat, and other factors, which also reduce fish populations.

The above assumptions are unlikely to be true for a number of reasons:

1. Striped bass tend to forage on whatever prey are most abundant, from invertebrates to their own young to juvenile salmon and shad. Curiously, Delta smelt were a minor item in striped bass diets when smelt were highly abundant in the early 1960s, as well as in recent years at record low numbers.
2. Striped bass feed heavily on juvenile salmon and steelhead in the rivers. However, most salmon eaten are likely to be fish from hatcheries that are poorly adapted to the wild. High predation on them has little bearing on the degree of predation encountered by more wary juveniles from natural spawning. Predation on hatchery-reared juveniles may even buffer wild fish from such predation, given that wild fish are warier and less conspicuous than the more abundant hatchery fish.
3. All predation losses of salmon tend to be blamed on striped bass with the effects of other predators usually being regarded as insignificant. In fact, there are a multitude of other predators on juvenile salmon in the system, from birds (e.g., mergansers, cormorants, terns) to other fish, both native and non-native, including juvenile steelhead. The most abundant fish predator in the Delta today is probably largemouth bass—popular subjects of major catch-and-release fishing tournaments. If a control program for striped bass can be justified, then presumably one should be instituted for other predators as well.
4. Much of the predation on juvenile salmon (from multiple predator species) seems to take place in conjunction with artificial structures and poor release practices. These include hatchery releases and those trucked to the estuary from export facilities in the south Delta. Opportunistic predators such as striped bass are extremely quick to cue on these predictable events. Thus, apparent high predation rates may be the result of simple-minded management practices that create bass feeding stations.
5. If the striped bass is indeed the dominant predator on other fishes (the reason for a control program), then their decrease should have the most impact on species that are most frequently consumed. The ‘release’ from predation by striped bass is highly likely to benefit many other alien fish that are also known predators and competitors on endangered fishes. For example, Mississippi silversides are important in the diets of 1-3 year old striped bass, so bass predation may be regulating the silverside population. Fewer striped bass could result in greater silverside numbers, which may have negative effects on delta smelt through predation on eggs and larvae.

Reducing the striped bass population is quite likely to have a negative, rather than positive, effect on the species a control program is supposed to protect. By messing with a dominant predator (if indeed it is), the

agencies are inadvertently playing roulette with basic ecosystem processes that can change in unexpected ways. Of course, if it is not a predator that is regulating native fish populations, this issue is moot.

The key to restoring populations of desirable species is to return the Delta to a more variable, estuarine environment. Reducing striped bass and other predator populations is unlikely to make a difference in saving endangered fishes, and will serve only to distract attention from the real problems. Any program to control striped bass should carefully consider the likely consequences. If initiated, it should involve an intensive study effort on the impacts of the program and an adaptive management plan (missing from all current proposals) to make sure the alleged cure is not worse than the supposed disease.

Further Reading:

Bennett, W.A., and P. B. Moyle. 1996. Where have all the fishes gone: interactive factors producing fish declines in the Sacramento-San Joaquin estuary. Pages 519-542 in J. T. Hollibaugh, ed. San Francisco Bay: the Ecosystem. San Francisco: AAAS, Pacific Division.

Lindley, S.T. and M.S. Mohr. 2003. Modeling the effect of striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) on the population viability of Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*). Fishery Bulletin 101:321-331

Lund, J., E. Hanak., W. Fleenor, W., R. Howitt, J. Mount, and P. Moyle. 2007. Envisioning futures for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. San Francisco: Public Policy Institute of California. 284 pp.

Lund, J., E. Hanak, W. Fleenor, W. Bennett, R. Howitt, J. Mount, and P. B. Moyle. 2010. Comparing futures for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Berkeley, University of California Press. 230 pp.

Moyle, P. B. 2002. Inland Fishes of California. Revised and expanded. Berkeley: University of California Press. 502 pp.

Moyle, P. B. and W. A. Bennett. 2008. The future of the Delta ecosystem and its fish. Technical Appendix D, Comparing Futures for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. San Francisco: Public Policy Institute of California. 38 pp.

Nobriga, M.L., and F. Feyrer. 2008. Diet composition in San Francisco Estuary striped bass: Does trophic adaptability have its limits? Environmental Biology Fish 83: 495-503.

Stevens, D. E. 1966. Food habits of striped bass (*Roccus saxatilis*) in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Pages 68-96 in J.L. Turner and D.W. Kelley, eds. Ecological studies of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Estuary, part II: fishes of the Delta. CDFG Fish. Bull. 136

The opinions expressed in the articles appearing within the Tracy Fly Fishers' monthly publication, "Fish Lines And Fish Tails" are those of the writer/author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions or view of the Tracy Fly Fishers and/or its official representatives. Permission is granted for parts of this newsletter to be reproduced. We only ask that credit be given to the author and the Tracy Fly Fishers as the source.

The [Tracy Fly Fishers'](#) Board of Directors meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the Safeway grocery store's Community Room at 1801 W. 11th Street. The next board meeting will be held on April 6, 2011. The Board meetings are open to all TFF members. Board Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Stop by and see what goes on "behind the scenes" of your club!

Summary of this past Board Meeting:

- Stan will get more information regarding selling of golf tournament tickets as a fund raiser
- Steve Potter will be looking for alternative venues for our meetings since the cost is increasing

Wish to make a difference locally? The Delta is our backyard. Check out the [CSPA](#) website and sign up for their action alerts at:

[CSPA, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance](#) or [www.calsport.org/](#)

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Next meeting is November 16, 2011
7 pm at the Transit Station in the
conference room